UT Dallas Student Government

Senate Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, January 28th, 2020

Call to Order
- Called to Order at 5:16

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes
- Daniel Moves to Approve the Minutes
  o Anna Seconds
  o Motion Passed

Approval of the Agenda
- Majd Moves to Approve the Agenda
  o Paulina Seconds
  o Motion Passed

Announcements
- Genna: Sustainability committee – UTD was recognized as Tree campus USA for 2019
- Danni: Wellness committee – Want SG help on the bus schedule and serving students to see what they want (UTD buses)
  o Want us to survey students regarding bus route timings
  o Some students are fainting at 7am classes due to lack of food
    - Perhaps run a survey
  o Comet cruiser to testing center no longer exists
  o Health fair march 5th from 11am – 2pm in the atrium
    - Austin Rupert
  o New Title IX policy – Please review for understanding
- Ayoub: Food advisory committee – Dining hall will be opening at 6:30 am
- Hope: Board of Regents passed resolution to increase tuition by 2.6% across all system schools – this is to match cost of living increases

Visitors:
Dr. Amanda Smith, Dean of Students, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Associate Dean for Jindal School of Management
Kim Winkler, Associate Dean of Students

Officer reports:
President: Ayoub Mohammed (ayoub@utdallas.edu) (501-218-5619)
- Appointment of School Representatives
  o I have asked people to be the representatives to certain schools, so ask me about this if interested
- Student Government Election
  o Filing will begin tomorrow
Vice President: Hope Cory (Hope.Cory@utdallas.edu)
- One-on-one Meetings
  o Wrapping up this week
    - Please sign up ASAP or contact Ayoub or myself to set it up at a different time
- Student Engagement Board
  o Group of students and faculty who are working on increasing student engagement
  o Treated similar to a university wide committee
  o Looking for students interested
  o Want to create additional channels between administration and students to garner understanding on developments for both sides
  o This will likely be co-chaired between a student and a faculty member
  o Hopeing to get this up and running within the next couple of months
- OER testimonial
  o UT System has a task force looking on implementing OER more on campus
    - They are currently looking for testimonials regarding this matter
    - Due by Friday
• Attendance
  o Please reach out to Ayoub or I if you did not hear your name called

Treasurer: Eric Chen (Eric.Chen8@utdallas.edu)
• Budget Report
  o January total ~ $20k
  o To put this number in perspective, the incumbent administration should typically be left $5-8k for the summer. So subtract that total from our budget

Committee reports:
Academic Affairs Committee: Anna Straughan (ams170008@utdallas.edu)
• Transfer Equivalency Tool
  o Looked at various rankings and comments from students
    ▪ UTD’s ranked the worst out of all the systems analyzed
  o Will be giving more attention to the tools that performed the best and that students like the most so that we can give a full presentation to OIT to improve our tool

Communications Committee: Carla Ramazan (Carla.Ramazan@utdallas.edu)
• Presidents Lunch
  o SG typically puts this on once a year for student leaders on campus to talk to senators and voice their thoughts and opinion
  o Looking at End of March and beginning of April

• Student Government Boothing
  o We want one final push to get people registered to vote for the general primaries
  o The email from Kyle was regarding general Student government boothing to increase SG visibility and presence

Graduate & International Affairs Committee: Tiancheng Hu (Tiancheng.Hu@utdallas.edu)
• Comet Classroom Update
  o Donation boxes in all the Res Halls, UV office, Canyon Creek, and SU for school supplies to go in the Comet Cupboard
  o Our box on top of the TOLO bookshelf went missing - had items in it
    ▪ We’ve replaced the box, but we did not have the items restored
  o Have not yet received many supplies

Legislative Affairs Committee: Thomas Hobohm (tsh180000@utdallas.edu)
• Voter Registration Tabling
  o Fill out the Doodle form and help get people registered to vote

• Town Hall Boothing
  o On 2/4 from 2-4 pm, Leg will be boothing for an upcoming town hall with city of Richardson and the mayor
  o Come participate if you get the chance,

• VDR Registry
  o Student organizations and events in SG will encourage you to register people to vote to use the VDR credentials that the Senators received

• Class Raps
  o Texas Rising needs additional VDRs to speak in front of classes about registering to vote. If you are a VDR, look in the Slack to fill it out

• Genna: Do you have any plans to carpool to the county clerk’s office for slips?
  o Thomas: Texas Rising has that under control, so you can hand your voter registration slips to one of their members
    ▪ There will be a box in the SG office to put those slips in as well

• Paulina: Where can I get additional voter registration papers?
  o Thomas: Student Government headquarters

Residential Student Affairs Committee: Mathi Siva (Mathivarshini.Sivachidambaram@utdallas.edu)
• UEMR Event Recap
  o Reached our goal of 50 students showing up
  o Participating organizations enjoyed the event
    ▪ Will hopefully encourage the continuation of it

Student Affairs Committee: Neha Khan (neha.khan@utdallas.edu)
• New Project Ideas
  o Great feedback from visitors last committee meeting
Jared (visitor) brought up Alumni Relations, in that we want to create a sense of community with the Alumni as well so they feel comfortable on campus even after graduation.

Nadia suggested the creation of a map of printing places on campus.

The question about bidets on campus was brought up, but we will talk to Facilities management to see if that is at all feasible.

Want to ensure that restaurants participating in the CDC are representing UTD in their restaurants if they are participating.
  - Will perhaps put out an allocation for flags to give these restaurants.

Student Diversity Advisory Council
  - President would like 1 or 2 Senators to sit at the meeting.
  - Next meeting will be Feb 7 (Friday) from 1-2pm.
  - Only once a month.

Technology Committee: Alexander Quach (Alexander.Quach@utdallas.edu)
  - OIT Meeting
    - The technology bar will be built near the microwaves in the SU.
    - Comet Print stations will be moving forward.
      - Either Green or new Science building.
  - Reddit Thread
    - Updated the thread, gave out goal, and a.
    - Want to create a schedule for monitoring the Reddit thread.
      - Willie: Alternating schedule of soliciting project ideas and awarding gold/replying to comments.

Green Initiative Ad hoc: Genna Campain (Genna.Campain@utdallas.edu)
  - Comet Composting Dates
    - Trainings on 2/6 at 10 am in SSA 14.245 and 2/12 at 10 am in SSA 14.265.
  - Solar Powered Chargers Location
    - Would hope to give students more seating options to work and charge their devices.
    - Evaluating locations right now, so reach out with location ideas.
      - Will get pricing afterwards.

Old Business:
New Business:
  - Appointment of:
    - Katherine Alvarez:
      - Polisci major, junior, transfer students.
      - Live on campus, want to join RSA.
      - Noticed problems specific to Canyon Creek.
      - Perspective as transfer student.
    - Nadia Bhatti:
      - Freshman polisci major.
      - In SG in HS.
        - On SA and discipline committee.
      - Would like to connect with students and work to fix campus issues.
    - Shadi Hiwiadi:
      - ITSS student with data science major.
        - Want to join Tech.
      - As a commuter transfer student, there is a large amount of student nihilism.
        - Students don’t feel that orgs on campus represent them.
      - SG is predicated on the idea of.
        - Would like to increase the conversation between Senators and students.
          - Forum on UTD app to increase interaction between Senators and students.
    - Audheya Mannepalli:
      - Sophomore ITS student.
      - Passionate about bringing academic, social, and professional change.
        - Academic Affairs.
      - Was able to see cool things like academic cohort classes through my org experience.
      - Would like to address lack of student engagement.
      - Would like to have more Comet Closets for the Res Halls and other residential housing.
        - Particularly with regard business casual wear on a check out basis.
- Was able to build leadership and technical skills through a Hack-a-thon led during internship with Macy’s
  - Thomas: I feel like everyone can identify problems, and think of a way to fix them. For some reasons, however, some solutions aren’t valid. So what would be your first step?
    - Katherine: Biggest problem would be Comet Cab situation. First step would be to email who is in charge of the Comet Cab service and begin a discussion with this admin
    - Nadia: Find it really hard to get internships heading into sophomore year. Would first speak to EPPS majors to find internships they are interested in, and then either update Handshake or create a database
    - Shadi: Set up a meeting between Tech and Communications to brainstorm feasible ways to solve this problem
    - Audheya: First step would be to work with Career Management center and JSOM to set up small campus interview sessions to facilitate getting UTD students jobs and interviews
  - Bradley to Katherine: Want to know how you would represent transfer students?
    - Katherine: Want to investigate the problems regarding the social aspect of being a transfer student
  - Viggy to Shadi: Have any other ideas for promoting student engagement?
    - Shadi: Don’t want to divert my focus too much
  - Lance to Nadia: What experiences can you carry from HS to college?
    - Nadia: Joined student government when we had a school shooter, so many people felt unsafe, so I began an initiative to focus on helping the mental health of students
      - Took this mentality to other organizations I was in such as Student Ambassadors. Helped me develop the skills to communicate with people directly
  - Viggy to Audheya: Elaborate on how you would like to impact school spirit?
    - Audheya: We don’t need to have the things that make a ‘traditional’ college. We can somewhat follow in the steps of MIT as an academic and professional development institution, so focus on branding it away from the memes and more towards a serious focus

- Danni moves to appoint in order listed
  - Majd seconds
  - Motion passes
- Approval of Bylaws Amendments
  - Kyle: Does anyone have any directed questions or objections
    - Thomas: get rid of the dress code section
      - Ayoub: EC would decide dress code
      - Thomas: We need to get rid of it altogether
      - Sara: Instead of getting rid of dress code together, we could minimize the point value deduction.
      - Kyle: (Briana) it is believed that dress code needs to remain important and we can do that through the point system.
      - Thomas: This is our decision (not Briana’s). We should allow everyone to dress as they want. There is no consistency with “business casual” and the line is undefined. It will always be up to the secretary. Would anyone have issues in me showing up in basketball shorts? (Some say yes) Well then y’all have problems.
      - Kyle: Our job is to presenting a professionalism to those who attend our meetings, whether administrators, etc.
      - Eric: Point of order: Can we have a motion on the floor?
      - Kyle: New change
    - Danni: Advocating for self in GroupMe during elections
      - Kyle: lots of complaining last year and students were bothered by it and were complaining to professors
      - Ms. Winkler: is this regarding classroom GroupMe or student organization GroupMe?
      - Kyle: It’s mass messaging to those you don’t know or would have an issue reaching to them. Think of it as online solicitation.
      - Danni: It’s understandable, but will there be specific guidelines.
      - Kyle: It’s their responsibility to know the rules.
• Danni: This makes it even harder to reach people.
• Antonio: What are all the apps?
• Kyle: This applies to online mediums. There are the major ones listed.
• Ian: You are just banning mass media for elections purposes only?
• Kyle: That’s correct.
• Angel: Can we individually message people?
• Kyle: If it’s solicitation, it is not allowed.

  ▪ Vignesh: Question about moving of social media operation from secretary to communications. Would it better for technology to have social media?
  ▪ Kyle: Communication is in charge of communicating.

• Hope: moves to approve the bylaws barring any grammatical and/or formatting
• Thomas: moves to amend changes the section about dress code and to strike

  ▪ Vignesh: seconds the motion

    • Amaan: What if we have the Senate meetings were business casual and committee meetings were more casual.
    • Danni: We have never sent anyone to review because of dress code and everyone gets a free polo.
    • Jared (visitor): You are the face of the students, and when asked to dress professionally, it’s not about how you perceive the dress code, but how the institution and the people you represent.
    • Thomas: I don’t understand what happens at jobs should be reproduced here. If someone comes in and doesn’t like the way we dressed, then that’s not someone I want to work with them. I work with administrators and they really don’t care. Why in this space is it required? By voting of getting rid of dress code, we are taking a stand of more inclusivity and not judge people.
    • Paulina: To support Thomas, a professor told me to dress like a student, because we are students and not an elite stone-cold body.
    • Tianchong: Do you have faith in the EC? You elected them.
    • Thomas: This does not apply to just this EC.
    • Vignesh: I understand all perspectives, we represent the students and administrators. No one is wearing suits here.
    • Samee: We are expected to conform to a specific type, but this is about the power dynamic behind the dress code. This gives us an opportunity.
    • Mohammed: We have these beautiful shirts that we can only really wear once a week. And throwing basketball shorts then you shouldn’t be in SG. This is only once a week.
    • Bradley: If we’re supposed to represent students to the administrators, we aren’t supposed to represent the admin to the students.
    • 16 for yay, 21 nay, 1 abstentions: amendment failed, we will maintaining the current clause for the bylaws

  ▪ Bylaws are now in effect

• Election Board Chair Appointment
• Pizza and Politics
  o Thomas move to allocate $275 for Pizza and Politics
  ▪ Carla Seconds
  o Continuation of Coffee and Conversation
  o 1 confirmed professor, reaching out to other professors right now
  o Exact nature of thank you gifts is to be determined, but will be a show of appreciate for participation
  o Have margin of error so we can
  o Motion passes
• Richardson City Council Town Hall
  o Thomas moves to allocate $843.86 for Richardson City Council Town Hall
  ▪ Carla Seconds
  o Galaxy Rooms will be the location
  o Motion Passes

Closing Announcements
Adjourn