

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Student Senate Meeting

September 22, 2015

Madison Kahl, Vice President

Diana Howell, Senate Chair

- Call to order: 6:01
- Open Town Hall
 - Bylaws of the Judicial Branch: Some members of the Judicial Branch presented their bylaws. Chief Justice Rachel Cross presented most of the bylaws. The articles of the bylaws are: Article 1, Preamble; Article 2: Membership; Article 3: Internal Procedures; Article 4: Hearings and Procedures; Article 5: Election Ethics (which gets rid of the Ethics Committee); and Article 6: Terms and Definitions.
 - Question: If there are 6 justices there will be an even vote? Will you still meet?
 - Yes.
 - Question: Can students submit a complaint?
 - Yes, anyone can. The form is online. Submit it to Chief Justice Rachel Cross.
- Approval of Minutes
- Officer Report
 - Will Freeman, President: Wants to catch up everyone on what is going on. Networking weekend was this past weekend, and all of the UT's came up to this location for conversation. We have also had the All Vol Tailgate. The SGA retreat is this weekend. The Fort Sander Task Force is meeting. It is a group of 14 individuals. If you are not getting the SGA newsletter or the All Vol Newsletter please sign up on the SGA website. There is a President's Roundtable next week. There will be a total of 8 sessions. There is a conversation about the Code of Conduct, but it takes a lot of time. The topic will go before the Board of Trustees. SGA would be determined through two meetings but there is not enough time to meet twice before the next Board of Trustee meeting. We are

trying to show that SGA is responding to the student's concerns. Please talk to Madison Kahl if you have any questions about the Student Code of Conduct. There are several issues the SGA Executive Committee would love the Senate to address: allocation of student football tickets, gender neutral pronouns, parking on campus, parking on the Ag Campus (there are non-commuter and commuter spots; possibly remove the non-commuter spots), bike racks on campus, and cell service in the Student Union and in the business building.

-How many organizations will attend?

-Hopefully over 80, have sent out 60.

-Over all goal is communication and cooperation, are there any specific goals?

-Having the communication and creating a community.

-Bike Racks: Dr. Cherry funding from some fees to put bike racks on campus. Min Kao and Haslam getting new ones. The process is in the second phase.

- Madison Kahl, President of the Senate: Regarding the student Code on Conduct, if you have any questions please reach out soon. The SGA retreat is this Saturday. Please RSVP as soon as possible. Meet Your Senator Week was great. Thank you to everyone for their work. I hope you got ideas to produce relevant legislation. We will have Meet Your Senator Week again in the spring. Dean of Students presentation about legislation after the Senate passes will happen later. We have new Senate members. Our at At-Large seats are used to achieve a wider representation.
 - Appointment of Louis Varriano to Undergraduate Research Seat
 - Approved
 - Open seats have been filled now. Don Black and Laura Beth Hirt are the new Senators for the East Area. Hayes Westlake is the new Senator for Off Campus,
 - Took Oath of Office
- Carson Hollingsworth, Assistant Student Services Director: Student Services filled all the committees over the past two weeks. Government Affairs held a

voter registration drive for National Voter Registration Day and the day after. September 24 is Smokey's birthday. Come celebrate with us on Pedestrian. Environment and Sustainability had the Food Pantry Drive. All Vol Tailgate. Big Orange Friday. November 10 is a Cheek Speak event.

- Tristan Smith, First-Year Council Chair: The reception for the new members is Thursday. The interviews for FYC wrapped up last week. Dean Shivers will talk about past FYC legislation.
- Abigail Brumfield, SGA Advisor: I am looking forward to SGA retreat. Please come visit our new office.
- Kenan Smith, Executive Treasurer: Presentation of the proposed budget. There has been an implementation of check and balances. The Senate now approves the budget. There was a budget increase to \$51,500. What can we spend the money on? We can spend money on anything in line with the vision or mission of SGA. I consulted with each executive head to talk about allocation of funds. The fixed costs within the budget are: Telephone costs within the office: \$2500. Office supplies: \$1000. SGA Executive Committee: \$500. Senate: \$3000. FYC: \$3500. Student Services: \$95,000. Communications: \$2000. Gear and Assets: \$1000. Events and Initiatives: \$15,000. Partnerships: \$1500. Travel: \$4500. Elections/Transitions: \$3000. Reminders: Filling out funding request form if money is needed for a project. Please have a receipt, invoice, etc. in paper copy. Please have it in within a week to the basket on top of the fridge. Funding requests are online on the SGA page on go.utk.edu. If you have any questions, please email sgatreasurer@vols.utk.edu.

-Question: FYC Reception funds come from what part of the budget?

-FYC Budget

-Question: What happens to roll over money?

-There is never any roll over money.

-Budget approved.

- Guest Speaker, Dean Shivers, Dean of Students: Thank you all for your commitment to Senate. We want student voices to be heard. Thank you for holding us accountable. I

am here to give an update on past Senate bills. The process of writing a bill is different from writing a resolution. A resolution presents SGA's stance on an issue. A bill suggests that an action needs to be taken. Note, when a bill is passed it goes to Dean Shivers and then to other administrators. The bill might not be feasible. For example, gender-neutral bathrooms will go into new buildings, but it is too difficult to put them in already existing buildings. How to write a bill: Specify something you want write about and do your research. Think a little before presenting a bill. Think if the issue can be handled without a bill. Reach out to administrators for help. Make sure to title your bill. Put your name and constituency on the bill. Also include the date of presentation. Please include a footnote with potential costs the bill could create. States the facts with the preexisting conditions. Include what you want changed with "be it hereby resolved." Bills must be submitted by 5pm the Tuesday before the next Senate meeting. Then once the bill is passed, Dean Shivers shares the bills with the appropriate vice chancellor from the Chancellor's cabinet. Then that vice chancellor will make contact with Dean Shivers once they have received a response. Then the person who wrote the bill will be contacted with questions if there are any. If the bill cannot be fulfilled, then it can be rewritten or fixed. After changed are made, the bill can be represented. There is not a definitive timeline for the bill process.

- SGA Bills 2014-15

1. Preferred Name Policy: Provost Martin stated that Betsy Adams is working with a data team to determine what process and timeframe would be necessary to complete the request. Got this in the summer. As of right now BA has said nothing.
2. 974-HELP Line: 974-HELP was specifically designed as a 24/7 referral line not a 24/7 hotline/crisis number. The concerns around UTPD answering the calls are specific to needs typically addressed by hotlines or crisis numbers where an individual can speak to a licensed mental health provider. This is a different and separate type of service. To address any possible confusion about the purpose of 974-HELP, its website and voicemail were revised and updated to provide greater clarity. If there is a community need for

a crisis hotline, there are alternative options the campus could consider. Designated Space for Veterans: waiting for a response

- Graduate Senate
 1. Fully Independent Office of Student Ombudspersons: University administration believes establishing this type of office would duplicate the efforts and initiatives already found within the Office of the Dean of Students. The bill also asks that the staff within the proposed Ombuds office be certified. This is certification is something our current staff does not have, but we are willing to financially support so that the certifications can be obtained in the interest of better serving all of our students.
- Freshman Council
 1. Litter Free Campus Initiative: Bills forwarded to Vice Chancellor Cimino on 9/21/15; awaiting a response
 2. Shuttle Initiative: Bills forwarded to Vice Chancellor Cimino on 9/21/15; awaiting a response
- Old Business
 - Bill 01-16: A Bill to Recommend the Adoption of Student Senate Bylaw Revisions of Articles I, II, and III
 - The bill was supported was the Senate Exec.
 - The bill was read in its entirety (slide 71).
 - Major changes slide was read in its entirety (slide 72).
 - The Senate Lobbyist slide was read in its entirety (slide 85).
 - The Senate Executive committee is now appointed by the President of the Senate and approved by the Senate rather than nominations from the floor.
 - Impeachment process now goes to the Judicial Branch.
 - Senate minutes sent to the SGA Executive Committee, Senate Executive Committee, and the SGA Coordinator.
 - Discussion Questions:

- What is the deal about not being able to nominate from the floor for the Executive Committees position?
 - We did that to make sure the Bylaws matched up with the Constitution. The Bylaws were updated after the Constitution review last spring. We were updating the Bylaws to match the Constitution.
 - Pro-Con-Pro
 - Pro: It creates less confusion between the Bylaws and the Constitution.
 - Con: Not being able to nominate from the floor for Senate Executive positions.
 - Pro: This bill provides a lot of clarity about the Bylaws like what the role the Senate Lobbyist actually has.
 - Con: The read text was not aesthetically pleasing.
 - Pro: It has a better flow.
 - Final remarks: We worked really hard on this bill with Madison and other people who joined us for our meetings. I hope that you all read through it so you understand what we are changing. We wanted to make it more concise for everyone so it made sense so people know what is going on and know what everyone's job is just to make it flow with the Constitution.
 - Results: 46: For, 0: Against, 2: Abstain.
- New Business:
 - Please submit bills by 5pm the Tuesday a week before the next Senate session to sgasenate@utk.edu or to the SGA Office.
- Announcements
 - Government Affairs and the Baker Center Ambassadors are continuing voter registration through tomorrow. Come see us on Pedestrian from 9-2 or 3 to register to vote.
 - Periscope: We are on Periscope right now, so please let your constituents know so they can follow us.
- Adjourned: 7:25