

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Student Senate Meeting

September 22, 2015

Madison Kahl, Vice President

Diana Howell, Senate Chair

- Call to order: 6:02
- Read the Mission Statement.
- Attendance
- Guest Speaker
 - Serena Matsunaga: Vol Vision. The goal is to become a top 25 university. Improved 10 percentage points. We are at a lower point than other peers like Texas and Georgia. How can we make ourselves more successful? We made a committee. There was data review over the past 5 years of Tennessee's performance. The committee's direction is student success and an increase graduation and retention rates. We are proposing 6 aspects with diversity and inclusion. The next five years what is different about the University of Tennessee. Share the information. Google Vol Vision 20/20 for more information and a working draft about the process.
 - How are you measuring diversity: Hard to do because you do not have statistics. We are looking at socioeconomic status, race, and gender but looking at something different now. Looking at a campus strategy measurements. We are meeting tomorrow for more specific discussion on how to measure it.
 - Why did you pick UT: It was bigger/wanted a bigger campus experience. Financial reasons. Good nursing program. Other programs. Location of Oak Ridge. Alumni connections. Transfer because of major. False stereotypes were not true. University bigger than your town. Size. To get away from home. Scholarships. Bridge connections to graduate schools. Positive attitudes.
 - What makes it special: People/community. Opportunities. Smaller community feel. Feel valued for exactly who you are and you being able

to value others. Disability accommodations. Inclusivity. Getting involved gives you a sense of pride in the university. Want to make the university proud. Tennessee culture. Faculty are excellent. Honors college.

- Why you stayed: Connections with organizations like First-Year Council and SGA.
- Leaving: Too expensive. Specific program. Homesick. Left a program it did not make sense for him to stay as an out of state student. Programs need updating. Classes were too hard. Did not feel he had support from the university. Failing out academically. UT is underrated on academics. Lost the HOPE scholarship. Did not take the initiative to get involved. On a path to admission to another school. Students get overwhelmed. Did not seek health. Lack of faculty diversity.
- What makes a difference: Ignite Programs. Living Learning Communities. Good orientation leaders. Pride Center. UT Vol Scholarship. Atmosphere and inclusiveness. Undergrad research (still working on it). Riser program. Baker Center. Having a student mentor. Counseling center. Faculty. Football. Connection with campus. Traditions. Listserv. Academic opportunities.
- What needs to be fixed: Honors and access to honors. Active learning cohorts. Transfer students. Stigma on Greek life needs to be changed. Setting a higher standard for Greek life. More inclusivity and community within Greek life and the rest of campus. Making study abroad more accessible and known. Plan B help. Creation of the public policy major. More visibility for undergraduate research. Making College Scholars more public.
- Advising: College of arts and sciences problems. There are some positive experiences. Advisors are just going through the motions. Advisors kind of clueless. Faculty advisors. Not knowledgeable sometimes. Business advising appointments are not available. Architecture there is one advisor for 600 students. Not knowing about AP credits and what falls within the

college or not. Advisors fail to mention things. Unaware of what you are supposed to take care of on your own.

- Looking for the vision for the next 5 years: Advertising on where we are currently listed on the scale. As a freshman we were told that we would be top 25 but we are not there. We are doing the right things, but it is going to take a while to get there. Perceptions: UT has been driving policy based off of information from politicians but student do not support that. Some teachers are better at research than at getting in front of the class. Want to create a UT reputation as an academic college. Promoting the University as something that is improving. Spotlight on students after they graduate and the different jobs they have.
- Open Town Hall
 - Orientation Leader Recruitment: Being an orientation leader means you are an official face of the University. You are the first people they see when they step on campus. You can build yourself as a leader. The new department is called the Office of Orientation and Transition. Orientation is a two day session, and they all occur during the summer. Transfer students and adult student orientation is April 22. Need to be in good academic and judicial standing. Needs to have positive energy. Orientation leader retreat is February 12-14. There is a conference/workshop in March. This is a paid position. Applications are available. If you apply, have to be coming back in the fall. If you have any questions please contact: newvols@utk.edu
 - STEM Committee Co-Chairs: This is a new committee under the Commission for Women. Part of the top 25. Representation of women in STEM fields. There is a national problem that women are not a large part of it. Targeting students from all STEM fields also department liaisons. Planning the next conference. Creating mentorship program pairing an undergraduate with a graduate student. Not looking to shine for just a couple of years but rather to make a lasting impact. Looking to increase support women of color in STEM fields. Support women across campus in STEM fields. Information sessions. If you have any questions please contact: cfwstem@utk.edu

- Approval of the Minutes.
- Officer Reports
 - Will Freeman: Sending aid to those in South Carolina. We need SGA members and students to help. You can either donate funds or specific items that are on a list. Please spread the word. Jalen Blue wanted to give updates from Board of Trustees. Legislators want to know why diversity is important. They are making a video. Please sign up on the interest form. The SGA survey up is for 2 weeks. A campus email will be sent out. The survey is also on Blackboard and on social media. Some students have already participated. We are trying to show students we are doing our job to hold SGA responsible. The Election Commission is a group of students that write the election packet and make sure the SGA elections run smoothly. Approval of the Election Commission.
 - Madison Kahl: Thanks for coming out to development day for some good conversation. Please share the survey. Greg has sent out the links to purchase the SGA apparel. Pictures for the website will be taken after the meeting if you have not had your picture taken. The bill template will go on the VoLink website. Also still having difficulties with the Facebook page so we may create a new one. New Member-at-Large seat appointed oath of office with Madeline Stanbridge.
 - Madison Beane: New Student Life and Volunteer Involvement Week for transfer students. Government Affairs will have Pizza and Politics at 7pm on Wednesday. Cheek Speak will be November 10. Diversity Affairs will have a diversity dialogue symposium. Some students took a trip to speak the Senate Higher Education Legislators to voice student concerns. Please check the Tennesseean more information. Email sga3 or SGA Exec for more information.
 - Ovi Kabir, FYC chair: New chair. Just had elections. Get names and committees. There were 45 members last year now there are 60 members. Would like to create a mentoring program with the Senate to pair up a member of First-Year Council and a member of the Senate. More goals and ideas will be created and discussed at the meeting on Thursday.

- Abigail Brumfield: The SGA Potluck is 11-2pm on Monday. Email Abigail if you did not get the invitation. Please bring food. Stop by after class. Would like to meet everyone.
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Resolution 2-16
 - The resolution was read in its entirety.
 - Slides 24-29 were read.
 - Technical Questions:
 1. Have you spoken to anyone who like the privatization better?
-No
 2. Has anyone spoken to DiPetro about this?
-Yes
 3. Do you know for certain that UT has the option to opt out of privatizations?
-Yes
 4. Did you reach out from anyone from the Haslam Administration?
-No
 5. Are the services that are being provided adequate?
-Yes
 - Motion to suspend the rules and vote on first consideration.
 - Motion failed.
 - Bill tabled.
- Announcements: Please learn more about resolution presented tonight. Discussion of funds in regards to student environmental committees. Money goes to: rain guard, sustainable technology, and dorm power challenge. Opt in. CPC week is next week. Tomorrow night at 7pm College Democrats/ College Republican debate. Have your say with SGA from 11-2pm, tabling. Share SGA stuff on social media. From 6-7pm on October 22nd in HSS amphitheater for transfer students. Transfer students want to be

involved in SGA so be kind to them. Please buy SGA t-shirts. Physics students pumpkin drop. STEM student help. Arab Fest on Ped 12-9.

- Adjourn: 7:48