

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## Student Senate Meeting

September 22, 2015

**Madison Kahl**, Vice President

**Diana Howell**, Senate Chair

- Call to order: 6:03
- Open Town Hall
- Approval of the minutes.
- Officer Reports
  - Will Freeman, President of the Student Body: Mitch Baker who is the SGA Executive Secretary. He will talk about the results. We will figure out what other schools do. Then we will form a committee. We have received emails about campus, and some of the topics include: meal plans and some of the language with Vol Card, issues with buying a meal plan before learning that the Flex Plan exists and is cheaper, sorority village parking does not have campus parking, priority registration in that athletes have it but the band does not or others involved in the athletic program, campus beautification and the statues on campus, and light pattern on Neyland Stadium Drive.
  - Jalen Blue, Student Trustee: There was a Senate Higher Education meeting on the subject of diversity. Legislators are asking about diversity, why it is important, and what students are getting out of diversity. SGA and other organizations are creating a video on why diversity is important to you or the whole campus. We want students to do this because it is part of SGA's message and mission. Sign the sign in sheet if you want to be involved.
  - Madison Kahl: I reached out to individuals about the Facebook page if he or she was not on there. West Area and East Area senators have required constituency hours that can be completed with office hours and other residence hall meetings. Stressed the importance of reading legislation and dressing in business casual. Dean Shivers has given a legislation update on Veterans Space on Campus Bill: Provost Martin that there is a renovation in the library near One Stop for their services. If you want more updates please reach out to the Senate Executive Committee. More appointments to Members-At-Large seats: Thomas Tran and Will Gableman. Oath of office.

- Mariah Beane: Traditions is hosting Big Orange Friday this Friday to raise money for South Carolina. Last Big Orange Friday is next Friday before the Texas game, and that is homecoming. There will be a bonfire at Fiji Island for the homecoming game. Hot Chocolate and Chill from Academic Affairs on the study day. Health and Wellness will have an Active Shooter Emergency Event to talk about UT's protocol during events like these. Then there will be a candle light vigil for those who have been in those situations. Cheek Speak is next Tuesday.
- Mitch Baker: SGA survey was closed last night. SGA Survey results part 1: Drafting began in early September. OIT worked with us to get the link on Blackboard. 5537 out of 27500 or 20% response rate. Top three campus issues: parking, dining, and construction. Second question asked about the feelings toward the alcohol policy. Students were very dissatisfied, and about 40% felt dissatisfied. There were comment boxes on the survey and 24,184 comments. We are starting to run programs to sort through the data. Part 2 of the results will come soon.
- Kenan Smith: Have spent \$852.49 and have \$1647.51 left for Fixed Costs. Have spent \$802.12 and have \$197.88 left for Office Supplies. Have spent \$731.33 and have \$2268.67 left for Senate. Have spent \$110.00 and have \$390.00 left for Exec Committee. Have spent \$450.27 and have \$3049.73 left for FYC. Have spent \$1018.93 and have \$8481.07 left for Student Services. Have spent \$451.12 and have \$3548.88 left for Graduate Student Senate. Have spent \$954.25 and have \$1045.75 left for Communications. Have spent \$1018.01 and have overdrawn for Gear and Assets. Have spent \$7190.07 and have \$7809.93 left for Events/ Initiatives. Have spent \$408.00 and have \$1092.00 left for Partnerships. Have spent \$2673.71 and have \$1326.29 left for Travel. Have spent \$0.00 and have \$3000 left for Elections/Transitions. Have spent \$16660.30 and have \$34839.70 left in the Net Total. Reminder about the funding request form. Contact [sgatreasurer@utk.edu](mailto:sgatreasurer@utk.edu) with questions.
- Ovi Kabir: Update on the committees. Hot topics: Find and implement diversity in the bylaws. Sustainability: Focus on campus beautification. Social morale: Focusing on a retreat for FYS and creating events for the freshmen body. Public Relations will create an FYC video. New Students: Focus on future ways to be involved in

orientation and focus on transfer students. Student Outreach: Meet your FYC could happen. Have tables in dorms for students to reach out with concerns. Two pieces of legislation will hopefully be at the next meeting. FYS would like to help with other parts of Senate or Student Services. Contact information at: [okabir@vols.utk.edu](mailto:okabir@vols.utk.edu) if you want any information.

- Old Business:

- RES 02-16

- New Amendments:
      - Deletion of redundant perambulatory clauses
      - Title change to reflect the focus of the resolution
      - Addition of a third operative clause expressing thanks to campus facility workers
      - Reiteration throughout that this is opposing a policy point and not directly Governor Haslam
    - Why is this resolution important?
      - We are choosing to put people over profit by voting for this resolution
      - We are sending a message that we will support our facility workers like they support us everyday.
      - We want to save money—the data so far shows that privatizing would actually cost the University more money in the long-run.
        - Spoke with Senator Briggs who spoke with Governor Haslam and they are looking at numbers before making a final decision, but this process has started. They are looking at the bids and the economic level. WE should look at it on a social level.s
      - We value quality service and that is what we receive from our facility workers right now.
    - Presentation from Ben Bergman and Hayley Brundidge, Roosevelt Institute
      - Wanted to highlight a few things from the past. In 2011, they attempted this again. In 2013, they had a trial run. Workers received letters that they might lose their jobs and they could apply for their jobs under the private company. Only a little over 30 workers got their jobs back. TTU implemented a plan like this

already. People that were already working lost their benefits that they received from the State.

○ Discussion questions

- You were talking about how it was outsourced and then re-insourced, in 2012 why did they decided to do a trial run again in 2013?

-2013 it was outsourcing for offices in Haslam's office and in 2012 it was UT.

- Grammatical changes made.
- Is there any quantitative data to measure the quality of service that Governor Haslam wants the workers to be at?

-Governor Haslam's proposal is not completely public so there is not a lot of exact numbers. It is more qualitative. There is not a defined number of costs out there but just estimates. Look at the history to see what percentage would be cleaner because there are not any defined numbers out there.

- Why does Governor Haslam want to outsource?

-Possibly to save money. Looking at it statewide not by just campus's. Might not be cheaper for UT, but it would be cheaper for the state. But possible not true. Projections are showing different things.

- Grammar changes.
- Is this bill for UT Systems or just for UT?

-It is really just for UT and not for the UT Systems.

- Changing the clauses throughout the bill to be more consistent with UT Systems and not just UT.

○ Pro-Con-Pro

- Pro: Tristan's bill
- Con: There is a possibility with outsourcing that productivity would go up.
- Pro: It shows the public that the students know what is going on.
- Con: Do not have final project costs.
- Pro: There is qualitative data.

○ Passed 47, 4, 1

- New Business:

RES 03-16

-Read it in its entirety. (Slide 64-66).

- Technical questions:

- Are there cheap alternatives to plastic bags?

-Yes

- Have you encountered any administrative support in researching this bill?

-Yes

- Do you have a plan for practical ways to implement this?

-Yes

- Would it be possible to come up with the plan and then put that in a revision of this resolution?

-Yes

- Tabled

SEN 02-16

-Read in its entirety.

- Technical Questions:

- Are professors required to put this information in the syllabus?

-Yes

- Are you aware that Blackboard can already send an email to the instructor?

-No

- Would you be open to incorporating a professor's office hours as well?

-Yes

- Would you also be open to having the professor's email listed next to the class when students are registering for classes?

-Yes

- Is there any cost associated with this?

-No

- How many of your constituents have reached out to you about this issue? More than 10?

-No

- Tabled

#### SEN 03-16

-Read in its entirety.

-Then a PowerPoint presentation was given about the fee (Slides 83-91).

- Technical Questions:
  - Wouldn't the funds be skewed based on major?
    - No
  - Is there a plan to determine what department receives the funds for the study abroad programs?
    - No
  - Would the summer internships be only for UT students?
    - Yes
  - Have you considered raising the requested fee?
    - Yes, considered it but will not
  - Is there a percentage of students that do research that are interested in staying to do research?
    - I don't know.
  - Is this fee only going to apply to summer undergraduate research projects?
    - No
  - What percentage of students do undergraduate research?
    - I don't know.
- Tabled

#### SEN 04-16

-Read in its entirety.

-Then a PowerPoint presentation on the workshops (Slides 100-103).

- Technical questions:
  - Would all student organization officers be required to attend this mandatory questions?

-No

- Would you consider making this training available and not mandatory?

-No

- Would you be opposed to having Safe-Zone Training at the training sessions?

-Not opposed.

- Have you looked at the financial aspects of the training?

-No.

- Would there be punishments for those who do not attend the training?

-Yes

- Have you considered that everyone who attends these training session will not want to hear this information?

-Left unanswered

- Would you agree that student leaders are the busiest students on campus?

-No

- Have you chosen a specific timeframe to have these workshops?

-No

- Will there be multiple workshops for students who have busy schedules?

-Yes

- How many hours will the training be?

-2

- Would students lead these workshops for other students?

-Better addressed on discussion questions

- Do you have a plan to enforce the mandatory aspect?

-Yes

- Are there people who are willing to help you lead this?

-Yes

- Will the punishments be enforced by SGA?

-No

- Would sport clubs be required as well?

-No

- One student leader from each organization would be required to attend?

-Yes

- If clubs already have this in place, would they have to attend?

-Yes

- What about student academic organizations that have a student coordinator and not a president would they be required to attend?

-Yes

- How many student organizations have you discussed this with?

-Two dozen

- Do you foresee backlash from organizations with the “mandatory” clause?

-No

- Is this enforced at other institutions?

-Yes

- Are you aware that some student organizations have advisors that they are required to discuss these topics with?

-Yes

- Discussion questions

- If an organization refuses to go to the training what are the consequences?

-In order to reregister as an organization, students need to attend a training session. If a leader from the organization does not attend the training session, then the organization will not be reregistered.

- Members won't have a full year to do the training?

-Yes, they will. It won't be enforced in the spring. There is work being done to make the registration process faster so students have the opportunity to attend the training sessions.

- Have you considered the detrimental affects this will have if students refuse to attend this? Meaning that it won't be as diverse if students are forced to attend these training sessions?

-If you are a student leader why wouldn't you want to attend a training session to make your organization better? It is a two hour session, just like a Senate meeting.



- We decided to go forward with this as a step towards being a Top 25 University. Many other Top 25 Organizations have these types of training sessions. This would create common ground for all organizations to be using the same sort of language when talking about the topics included in the training sessions.
- We wanted to include Safe Zone Training, but it is a three hour training on top of another two hour training.
  - Do you think this is SGA job to enforce this for all organizations?
    - Yes. It is part of our mission statement.
  - If a president cannot attend the training session, can someone attend the training session for them?
    - Yes, I do not see that would not work.
  - This means you are forcing someone to change their organizations constitution by changing the roles of officers. Do you understand that?
    - I do not think student organizational constitutions would need to be changed because it should fall under the president's job description. Under the Center for Student Engagement a student organizations constitution can be changed under a clause directly from the office.
  - Have you considered the effort it would take to do this?
    - Yes, the Center for Student Engagement will help.
  - What will happened to organizations that have Executive Boards that change very often?
    - Have not discussed it yet. We will speak to Jordan Smith about it.
  - Tie in attending the training session with funding?
    - No, many organizations do not know about the funding.
  - What members do you want to attend these training sessions?
    - We would like presidents there.
  - How many times would you require organizations to attend the training sessions?
    - Once a year.
  - Have you considered that some groups feel that they are targeted by this?
    - Not sure why student groups would feel like they are target. Every student organization faces most of the same issues.

- What about newly created organizations?
      - These workshops would help the organization and create less confusion about dates and other things.
    - What about UHRC and RA?
      - I imagine that Center for Student Engagement would work with them and others that are paid like Orientation leaders.
- Amendment to the bill to change mandatory to available in the title and the “be it hereby resolved clause.”
  - Not a friendly amendment.
  - Presentation on the amendment: We have no problem with the bill except that we are punishing student organizations that are not creating any problems. A lot of organizations already have trainings for their own organizations. Their training and resources are already available. I think it is a good idea, but I think we should make them more available and not mandatory. More information should be available and not mandate it on top of other things. SGA should not mandate this on the student body.
  - Response from the bill writers: This is supposed to make student organizations better. We do have training workshops, but they are on specific topics like Safe Zone Training. This is supposed to be a general workshop that will give all student the same tools and language to talk about things on campus. This has been implemented in other Top 25 Organizations, and we should implement it. This would be a more effective way to address these topics on campus.
    - Con: It defeats the purpose for the bill.
    - Pro: The change makes it more student friendly.
    - Con: More language could be changed to make it better.
    - Pro: This bill does not reflect the ideals of every student organization just a few so the change includes everyone.
    - Con: I see a problem with the ability to absorb the information and forgetting it after the two-hour training session.
    - Pro: Making it less mandatory will have people attend that want to be there.

-A hand vote occurred.

-Motion for a roll call vote: 14 no and 37 yes.

-Bill was withdrawn.

- Announcements: Remember you are on Periscope so please be respectful because students are watching. Sign Jalen's sheet for the diversity video. Cheek Speak is next Tuesday tell your constituents about it if they have any questions for the chancellor. Polling location is coming back to UT's campus at the Baker Center for only specific precincts. Car Bash for URHC Thursday is Pres Court for the Make A Wish Foundation. Over 76 viewers tonight on Periscope so make sure to watch how you acted. Thanks to everyone for a spirited Senate session.
- Adjourn: 8:00