TAMUCC SGA Senate Meeting: June 7, 2019

I. Call to Order 2:13pm

II. Roll Call - Breanna Cornell, Sarina Garcia, Stormie Gutierrez, Brittney Held, Morell Jenkins, Jacquelyn Lara, Leanna Leal, Mohit Mathew, Mason Myers, Clayton Swift, Dr. Lisa Perez

III. Islander Pledge

IV. Approval of Minutes

V. Speaker’s Report

VI. President’s Report
   i. FYC Director Appointment
      i. President Garcia presented her appointment for the First Year Council Director Executive Board position, Mason Myers. Myers was a member of the First Year Council and a Senator to the College of Science and Engineering. Senator Myers shared during an interview with President Garcia ideas related to improving the next First Year Council. This appointment requires Senate approval. Senators can log in to the Student Government Association Portal on I-Engage to vote for this appointment.
   ii. Chief Justice Appointment
      i. President Garcia presented her appointment for the Chief Justice Executive Board position, Stormie Gutierrez. Gutierrez was a member of the First Year Council and a Freshman Senator, as well as being an active member in other campus organizations. This appointment requires Senate approval. Senators can log in to the Student Government Association Portal on I-Engage to vote for this appointment. Gutierrez spoke on behalf of herself and expressed her ideas moving forward of what she would like to see with the next Chief Justice.
   iii. Treasurer Appointment
      i. President Garcia also presented her appointment for the Treasurer position, Clayton Swift. Swift was interviewed by President Garcia and was later confirmed for the position by the Student Government Association Advisor, Dr. Perez. Swift is a current Finance major with a minor in Accounting. President Garcia mentioned that Swift expressed interest in creating more transparency within the Student Government Association. Swift spoke on behalf of himself and mentioned that his primary goal is transparency.
   iv. Speaker of the Senate Election
      i. President Garcia announced that there were two candidates running for the Speaker of the Student Senate Election; Morell Jenkins and Jacquelyn Lara. Jenkins is a first time senator for Housing and has served as committee chair of the Academic Affairs and Diversity committees. Lara has maintained her role of disability senator for four years and has been very involved with the Student Government Association.
      ii. Senator Jenkins spoke on their qualifications including being a member of the Judicial Court, committee chair, and currently a senator. Jenkins expressed that transparency and recruitment are the primary goals that they would like to work on.
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within the Speaker position. They are interested in working with Stormie Gutierrez, branching out with other organizations, and working on community relations.

iii. Senator Myers asked what other involvement Jenkins has had on campus. Jenkins has been offered a position as a Resident Assistant, appointed to the Student Endowment Scholarship and Inclusive Excellence university-wide committees, and reflected that many of Jenkins commitments stem from the Student Government Association and personal projects.

iv. Dr. Perez asked how both candidates will balance the responsibilities of being Speaker of the Senate with what they are currently involved in. Senator Jenkins spoke that they enjoy being active and has the energy for it. Jenkins has been working on time-management and maintaining a work-life balance.

v. Senator Lara mentioned her qualifications including four years in the Disability Senator position. Their goal is to primarily focus on transparency. Lara also wants to ensure students feel like the Student Government Association is an open organization and wants everyone to feel welcome, whether they are in the Speaker position or not. Lara is also a volunteer coordinator for the Alpha Epsilon Delta organization and is employed part time.

vi. Dr. Perez asked how they would go about communicating to constituents of the position change and what their plan of action is for finding replacements for their current positions. Senator Lara mentioned that she maintains a good relationship with the Disability office and is interested in continuing being the liaison while the seat is vacant. Lara explained that she is interested in speaking to the constituents to see if anyone would like to fill the seat. Senator Jenkins mentioned that they have connections with the housing resident assistants and would reach out to them. Jenkins also stated that they would reach out to the student that was interested in serving as Housing Senator in the Spring election.

v. Dr. Quintanilla Meeting

i. President Garcia met with Dr. Quintanilla on May 16th to discuss resolutions that the previous administration had passed and goals for the 29th session.

ii. The Alcohol Sales on Campus Resolution is currently in the President’s Cabinet to discuss the details and feasibility of the resolution.

iii. President Garcia mentioned that the Rip Current Ready Islanders Resolution received support from Dr. Quintanilla. President Garcia is also awaiting responses from other administrators about the Rip Current Ready Islanders Resolution.

iv. The goals that President Garcia discussed with Dr. Quintanilla included the Islander Mural Project and environmental initiatives. Dr. Quintanilla encourages President Garcia to partake in a campus-wide recycling campaign and push for a plastic free campus. President Garcia spoke on details surrounding the Islander Mural Project and how it stemmed in the inaugural First Year Council.
i. Vice President Held stated that three Islander Launches have now passed and thanked Senators Myers, Lara, Leach, and Leal for their participation in Passport to the Island. The next two Islander Launches will be the College of Business and College of Education and Human Development on June 17th and the College of Liberal Arts on June 21st. The Executive Board asks for more volunteers to help reach as many First Year students that the Student Government Association can.

ii. Dr. Perez reminded that Senate that there are vacancies in the College of Business and the College of Education and Human Development that could be advertised to the students at Passport to the Island.

iii. Website Update
i. Vice President Held has been communicating with Ms. Julie Shuttlesworth and updating the website accordingly. All current senators should be displayed correctly within the “Legislative” tab on the Student Government Association website. Vice President Held asked if anyone sees a mistake on the website to inform her of it.

iii. I-Engage Updates
i. Vice President Held mentioned that the Google Drive will no longer be used to post bills, resolutions, and other relevant documents. Instead, they are available within the Student Government Association I-Engage Portal at the bottom of the page within the “Documents” section.

iv. Committee Consolidation Act
i. Vice President Held has been working with a few senators and committee chairs to combine some of the committees that the Student Government Association has. She mentions that there are currently ten standing committees that have had a low participation and involvement rate over the past several sessions. Vice President Held will be sending out the bill the following week and will be presenting the bill at the June 21st meeting.

VIII. Treasurer’s Report
IX. Chief Justice’s Report
X. First-Year Council Director’s Report
XI. Senator Reports
XII. Committee Reports
i. CSAC

ii. Senator Jenkins spoke about the first Chancellor’s Student Advisory Council (CSAC) meeting. Senator Jenkins explained that the Rellis Campus has their own Student Advisory Council that is similar to the Student Government Association, with representatives reporting to the Rellis administrators, but they do not currently have explicit representation within CSAC. It was discussed that the constitution may be revised. Each Student Government will be working on collaborating among each other.

ii. Senator Jenkins discussed the possibility of a “dead” week that CSAC will be making a resolution for all A&M System Campuses. This week would be a week
before finals where students would not be required to attend class so that they can study. Representatives are working with students to ensure that their voices are heard and that they have pride in their universities. Keeping in contact with other SGA’s.

iii. Senator Jenkins asked Senator Leach if she would be available to Webex into the next CSAC meeting to give a student’s perspective on open educational resources.

iv. Senator Jenkins also spoke about a campaign video that brings light the positive aspects of each A&M System campus. Senator Jenkins mentioned that two students were appointed to the A&M System committee.

v. Senator Jenkins explained what CSAC is, it is a collection of representatives from each Texas A&M System Student Government Associations that discusses concerns that were experienced system wide.

XIII. Advisor’s Report

i. Dr. Perez stated that Dr. Albrecht will be out of town starting next week.

ii. The Director of the University Center is now an independent position and Dr. Perez is looking for students to serve as a representative in various manners along the search process.

XIV. Old Business

XV. New Business

XVI. Open Forum

i. Senator Leach mentioned applications for the Director of University Services position will be analyzed the week of June 17th. Dr. Perez stated that when candidates are being brought to campus, the Student Government Association should ensure students are being represented there as well.

ii. Senator Cornell mentioned that the Student Veterans Organization will be hosting a Ruck March on September 17th for suicide awareness and will also be donating proceeds to Izzy’s Food Pantry.

XVII. Announcements

i. June 17th. College of Business and College of Education & Human Development Islander Launch

ii. June 21st. College of Liberal Arts Islander Launch

iii. June 21st. Next SGA Senate Meeting, Island Room 316

XVIII. Final Roll Call- Breanna Cornell, Sarina Garcia, Stormie Gutierrez, Brittney Held, Morell Jenkins, Jacquelyn Lara, Leanna Leal, Mohit Mathew, Mason Myers, Clayton Swift, Dr. Lisa Perez

XIX. Adjournment 2:58 pm