



Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Student Senate

TAMUCC SGA Meeting Minutes 1/29/18

- I. Call to Order 5:15 PM**
- II. Roll Call** Justin Bustos, Friederike Davis, Connor Allen, Sara Elharoun, Joyce Paez, Cassandra Scheick, Kayla Weeks, Richard Torres, Alexandra Phongsavone, Clayton Swift, Arturo Burgueno, Haylee Haire, Olumide Adeoye, Maria Beauford, Antonio Sanchez, Katie Seabolt, Garrett Ransom and Dr. Don Albrecht.
- III. Islander Pledge**
- IV. Guest Introductions - None**
- V. Approval of Minutes**
 - i. January 22nd
 - Vice President Davis passed out to the Senate an updated copy of the last page of the meeting minutes containing one correction from Dr. Albrecht under the Advisor's report.
 - The Senators voted and the January 22nd meeting minutes were approved.
- VI. President's Report**
 - i. New Room
 - President Bustos was able to switch the room location of the meeting from the University Center to the Engineering Building.
 - ii. Appointment of Garrett Ransom to College of Business Senator
 - President Bustos presented his appointment of Garrett Ransom as a Senator for the College of Business.
 - Garrett introduced himself explaining his prior experience with SGA.
 - Both Vice President Davis and Speaker Allen spoke about their knowledge of Garrett from working with him as a prior Senator and President.
 - The senators discussed the appointment.
 - Senator Scheick motioned to approve the Senator appointment, which was seconded by Senator Weeks.
 - The Senators voted and 2/3 majority approval was met resulting in the appointment being approved.
 - iii. Spring Town Hall
 - The event will be held on February 21st and 22nd from 12:30-2:30 PM. Two sessions for each day, one session will start at 12:30 PM and the other at 1:30 PM.
 - The focus topic will be on Open Education Resources (OER).
 - SGA's role will be educating students about OER.
 - At each session a presentation regarding OER will be given followed by a Q & A session. There will be a segment after the Q & A portion allowing students to voice any other concerns or issues they may have.
 - President Bustos will need additional presenters to help give the OER presentation. Those interested are asked to contact President Bustos.
 - President Bustos printed out excerpts from OER textbooks from Openstax which is overseen by Rice University. The website has over twenty books available covering a variety of subjects. The excerpts were passed out to the Senate.



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- SGA may potentially buy a few of these textbooks to have during tabling and the Town Hall so students can get a feel for them.
- Senator Scheick mentioned this topic is on the agenda for the Texas Student Government Coalition and offered to provide additional resources.
 - iv. E-Board Shadowing
- Applications to run for an elected position: President, Vice President, or any Senator position are due early March. Campaigning will begin the week we return from Spring Break.
- Anyone interested in running for either President or Vice President and would like to shadow to learn more about what the position entails are asked to contact either President Bustos or Vice President Davis.
- The election deadlines have been pushed up to help make the transition process smoother.

VII. Vice President's Report

- i. SGA Homecoming Events
 - Vice President Davis sent out an email containing the links to various doodles to sign up to volunteer to help with either Penny Wars or Friday Fiesta and/or to help table to promote both events.
 - There has been responses to help with Friday Fiesta. Vice President David encouraged to also sign up to help with Penny Wars because hardly anyone has.
 - The dates to table to help promote the events will be from 11AM-1PM on January 31st, February 1st and 8th in the Breezeway.
 - The dates for Penny Wars are February 6th and 7th from 11AM-2PM. Friday Fiesta is on February 9th from 3:30-6:30PM.
- ii. Homecoming Spirit Competition
 - Vice President Davis sent out an email explaining what the Spirit Competition is and attached a schedule of the events team members can participate in to help SGA earn points.
 - Anyone interested in being on the team representing SGA are asked to contact Vice President Davis by Tuesday, January 30th.
- iii. Committee Chair Update
 - This past week Vice president Davis met with three candidates who are interested in the Environmental Affairs Chair position.
 - Two of the three candidates submitted the Committee Chair application while the third candidate decided not to apply for the position.
 - Vice President Davis has scheduled interviews with the two candidates who applied.

VIII. Chief Justice's Report

- i. **No appeals**
- ii. **Associate Justice Vacancy**
 - There is currently an associate justice vacancy. One person has applied for the position.
 - Chief Justice Elharoun and Vice President Davis interviewed the applicant.
 - Speaker Allen asked if Chief Justice Elharoun plans to appoint the applicant at next week's Senate meeting and Chief Justice Elhaourn plans to do so.

IX. Speaker's Report



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- Speaker Allen is trying to compile the bills and resolutions SGA has written and passed onto OrgSync so it is easier to keep track of the documents.

X. Senator Reports

- i. College of Science & Engineering*
- ii. Freshman Senators*
- iii. College of Liberal Arts*
- iv. College of Graduate Studies*
- v. College of Nursing and Health Sciences*
- vi. College of Business*
- vii. Athletics Senator*
- viii. Disabilities Senator*
- ix. Veterans Senator*
- x. International Senator*

XI. Committee Reports

XII. Old Business

XIII. New Business

- i. S.B. 3 Judicial Board Act*
 - Speaker Allen introduced his bill which is co-sponsored by Senator Scheick.
 - Speaker Allen read his bill aloud to the Senate.
 - Senator Ransom motioned to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Senator Scheick.
 - Discussion was held regarding the resolution.
 - Senator Torres brought up a grammatical error on the last page changing “amendments” to “amends”.
 - Senator Scheick motioned to amend the bill by changing the word amending to amends on the ninth enactment.
 - The Senators voted and the motion passed resulting in the amendment being approved.
- Speaker Allen explained his points for changing SGA’s current process of judicial review and how the Chief Justice is selected.
- Senator Weeks brought up another grammatical error in the “Where As 4 section”. On the fifth line, Senator Weeks asked if the word President was supposed to be possessive or plural. Speaker Allen said it is plural.
- Senator Weeks motioned to amend the bill by changing the word President to have no apostrophe located on the fifth line of “Where As Section 4”.
- The Senators voted and the motion passed resulting in the amendment being approved.
- Senator Seabolt asked for clarification regarding how the bill will demolish the current Constitution & Elections committee so it is no longer, and the responsibilities will be transferred over to the Judicial Board. The selection process for associate justices is being changed as well through the bill by switching the appointment power from the Chief justice to the President.
- Dr. Albrecht explained how transferring the elections to the Judicial Branch is a common thing to occur in SGA. He also mentioned how it is common with the presiding President and Chief



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Justice being involved with the incoming President in the selection process for the incoming Chief Justice The incoming President has the final say with appointing the applicant and it is taken to the Senate to be voted on.

- Speaker Allen explained how the current Constitution and By-laws states the incoming Chief Justice is jointly appointed by all three.
- Dr. Albrecht advised allowing the incoming President to make the appointment but not to eliminate the presiding Chief Justice and President from the selection process.
- Dr. Albrecht also commented on the format on the bill suggesting it could have been made shorter by taking out the arguments portion since it is not necessary. The arguments should be stated when the bill is being discussed on the bill.
- Speaker Allen asked where the reasoning for the bill could be stored if the argument portion was to be taken out so future readers would be aware of the justification for the bill.
- Dr. Albrecht suggested it can be stored somewhere else such as in the meeting minutes.
- Vice President Davis voiced her issues with the bill regarding the value of keeping the presiding Chief Justice and President involved in the selection process for the incoming Chief Justice. Vice President Davis also felt the appointment power of the associate justices should remain with the Chief Justice.
- Senator Scheick mentioned there seemed to be a consensus regarding abolishing the Constitution & Elections Committee and transferring the responsibilities to the Judicial Board. She suggested splitting the bill in half and amending it so the Senate could move forward with voting on the matter and tabling the remaining portion of the bill regarding the selection process for the Chief Justice and appointment procedure of associate justices.
- Speaker Allen advised against the idea and suggested to continue discussions since time remained.
- Senator Ransom shared his experience as presiding President when picking the Chief Justice. He supports keeping both the presiding President and Chief Justice as part of the selection process, but the incoming President has the final say.
- Dr. Albrecht agreed with Vice President Davis regarding her argument of keeping the appointment of associate justices with the Chief Justice and explained how they are in charge of running the Judicial branch and are responsible for the associate justices.
- Senator Haire asked about the impeachment process and addressed one of Speaker Allen's arguments.
- Senator Seabolt motioned to table the bill which was seconded by Senator Ransom.
- The Senators voted and the motion passed resulting in the amendment being approved.

XIV. Advisor's Report

- The Academic Affairs office is looking into changing the policy regarding cords and stoles at Commencement to only let cords be used for Academic Honors awarded by the University.
- Currently students can wear cords and stoles at Commencement representing academic honors and various organizations.
- Tommy Reyna mentioned the Veteran cord is a nationally recognized cord.
- Dr. Albrecht informed us so it can be on SGA's radar and potentially something to look into.

XV. Treasurer's Report



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- The only transaction to hit the account was \$1,055.00 for the inflatables and Mechanical Bull for Friday Fiesta.

XVI. Open Forum

- Senator Reyna mentioned Islander Picasso is coming up. The cost is \$10 pre-sale or \$15 at the door. The event will last only 30 minutes. He will provide more information at next weeks meeting.
- President Bustos asked for opinions regarding the room, consensus was in favor of the room change.
- Senator Scheick suggested moving the Treasurer's report towards the top of the agenda.

XVII. Announcements (General)

- i. Islander Leadership Conference: Be an Inclusive Islander on Saturday, February 17th from 9:30-4 PM

XVIII. Final Roll Call Justin Bustos, Friederike Davis, Connar Allen, Sara Elharoun, Cassandra Scheick, Kayla Weeks, Richard Torres, Alexandra Phongsavone, Clayton Swift, Arturo Burgueno, Haylee Haire, Olumide Adeoye, Maria Beauford, Antonio Sanchez, Katie Seabolt, Jacquelyn Lara, Tommie Reyna, Garrett Ransom, and Dr. Don Albrecht.

XIX. Adjournment 6:30 PM