

Student Senate Minutes

October 19, 2005

I. Roll Call

II. Invocation – Speaker Hailey

III. Pledges of Allegiance – Speaker Hailey

IV. Open Forum

A. Speaker Hailey: **Any interested person (faculty or student) is welcome to make a presentation on current issues during the Open Forum—if you want to, simply contact Speaker Hailey prior to the meeting.**

B. Dean Bresciani- He spoke on current SSFAB (Student Service Fee Advisory Board) rules and fee increases:

1. Student service fees are relatively conservative compared to other Peer I institutions.
2. Texas A&M University's average fee increase is 1.07 % per year, which is a negative growth pattern when inflation is figured in.
3. We must recognize that due to this negative growth pattern, the 15 % cap on fee increases will inevitably be broken.
4. **SSFAB Committee is for reviewing new fee requests and increases *only*.**
5. The recommendations need to be deliberate and well thought and un-politicized for the administration to maintain faith in them.
6. Remember that the Vice Presidents of the respective services try their best to economize their spending.

V. Special Presentations

A. April Doxy was sworn in as Judge Advocate.

B. Cory Thurman and Zach Rathke were sworn in on the Operations Committee.

C. Sam Webb and the legislative relations team interviewed Student Regents. The four candidates who were introduced were Tice Parker, Ryan Bishop, Ryan Johnson, and Captain Tyson Bocal.

D. Brian Gibson – RHA Vice president – Policy Committee Forum next Tuesday (10/24/2005) is in Room 301 of Rudder Tower at 7 PM. Co-ed housing, 24 hour visitation, and the future of residential housing will be discussed.

VI. Special Election

A. Nominated candidates for Rules and Regulations Chair: Senator Foley (by Senator Templeton) and Senator Nichols (by Senator Hollimon).

B. Senator Foley's Candidacy Speech:

1. 3 Main goals: the election code (easily understood code that is based off of State of Texas Election Rules and education to candidates and encouraging openness and sitting down and talking to people), open debate (Enforcing Robert's Rules of Order, end debates with summations), and ReBar (Resolution and Bill Archival Register – record legislation and post on senate website).

2. Professor Rodney Hill spoke on behalf of Senator Foley. In his work on the Honors Scholar Committee, Senator Foley worked more than some of the faculty on the committee. He was a "stellar" student in class.
- C. Senator Nichols's Candidacy Speech:
1. Senator Nichols served as committee chair last year. He wants to open up the committee for everyone that is concerned to voice issues. Nichols has experience in resolving issues because he was the chair last year. He completely overhauled the Student Senate by-laws. Goals: last year he accomplished over 100 percent and he plans to do the same this year: starting with election rules next week, reapportionment rules should be done right away (year before), and get executive branch by-laws revised this year. He rewrote every single government document last year.
 2. Past Rules and Regulations Chair Will Dugat wrote a letter on behalf of Nichols and Pro Temp Lanning read the letter. Dugat said that last year, under Nichols, R&R completed the most it ever has. Nichols and Dugat respect each other deeply despite their deep dislike for each other. Nichols has a "passion and drive" to get things done.

D. Debate on Candidates:

- Senator Pontius - In favor of senator Nichols, and said he received the Buck Weirus Student Spirit Award
- Senator Simmons - Nichols is an all around good senator
- Senator Lawland - believes there is a true flaw in election rules that were created last year under Nichols
- Senator Ball - the man with the nicer PowerPoint does not necessarily do the best job and Nichols has experience...
- Senator Knezek - go with what worked in the past
- Senator Johnson - in favor of Nichols
- Senator Smith - did not have a "lick of experience" on Student Services before he became the Chair
- Senator Campbell - Nichols has great leadership, and experience is what matters in this position.

E. Vote: Senator Nichols won.

VII. Old Business - Student Services and External Affairs - attend these upcoming meetings on legislation for walking transportation if you have opinions that you want to voice. They are both on October 30, 2005 at 3:30 (S.S.) and 5:00 (E.A.), and they will be held on the SGA couches.

VIII. New Business

A. S.B. 05(F) 9

1. Introduction (Senator Ball): This bill is trying to take a step in order, as we have had controversial bills lately. The senator(s) that introduced the bill will have two minutes to summate after debate upon a bill. It will create clarity.
2. Questions on Bill (Senator Ball's answers are in bold):
 - Senator Lanning: If we move to previous question, will the introducer still have the two minutes to summate? **Yes.**
 - Senator Redwine: What if a bill gets a whole lot of minutes, will he be summarizing all the debate? **What is summated is left to the discretion of the introducers.**
 - Senator Griffin: Will all the officers have a chance to summate during the two minute period? **Yes, but only two minutes for all of them combined.**
 - Senator Barry: Did you consider time efficiency? **Question not answered due to end of question period.**
3. Speaker Hailey- The rest will be discussed in Rules and Regulations hearing.

B. S.B. 05(F)10

1. Introduction (Senator Scott and other representatives): This bill is wholeheartedly supported by Engineering students. This bill will allow students to drink within the undergraduate study lab of the Chemical Engineering Building. Sixty-five Chemical engineering students signed a petition for the bill. Dr. Hall from the Chemical Engineering Building will also have to approve this recommendation once the senate approves the bill. Drinks are now sitting at a table outside of the study room. Graduate study area allows food and drinks.
2. Questions (Senator Scott's and other representatives answers are in bold):
 - Senator Johnson: is there extra custodial cost? **The bill will create a lower density of spills, so it will be cheaper.**
 - Senator Haines: what is the current reason for having the rule in place? **We do not really know why. Carpet is very dark, so spills will not matter as much.**
 - Senator Knezek: Have you talked to Dr. Hall. Scott? **We have to pass bill first.**
 - Senator Frenzel: Does it really matter as far as custodial costs? **It should reduce the costs.**
3. Motion: Move to Previous Question. All ayes.
4. Debate:
 - Senator Gayle: Rules make me mad.
5. Motion: Move to Previous Question.
6. Vote: All ayes... resolution passes.

C. S.B. 05 (F) 10

1. Introduction (Senator Campbell): Internal affairs cannot meet without this. This is emergency legislation.
2. Vote: Resolution passed.

IX. Reports

A. Jim Carlson (Spoke on Northgate safety and discrimination issues):

1. Regarding the Northgate safety and discrimination issues, we are going to keep pushing it. We want to put in more lights and safety phones and more sidewalks. We have gotten verbal commitment for this. On October 25, the Northgate District Association will have a meeting to ensure that there is no discrimination.
2. SGA Convocation was an extreme success, as there were about 400 students that attended.
3. SBP Carlson will give his State of University Address two Wednesdays from now (November 2, 2005) at about 6:50.
4. We are working on the Texas A&M University Neo Email system.

B. Speaker Hailey: We have all been working on the discrimination issue and convocation was great. Get your picture taken for the senate website. This Friday at 5:15 PM, we will discuss senate issues with the corps at the Senate cube—everyone is invited to come. This Friday the Advisory Council will have a meeting about Differential Tuition, but the meeting is not open to the general public, so see Speaker Hailey for the results of meeting. Also, every member of SGA needs to fill out Member Information Form on the Senate website, and it's required. Issues that arose this summer are almost finished, so we must start creating new ideas, people will really judge you on what happens over the next two weeks (see your constituents).

- C. Senator Lanning: Take pictures tonight. There are five vacancies. Applications are due a week from today. If you attended academic convocation, you got half absence forgiveness.
- D. Jessica Humphreys: T-shirts and nametags: shirts are to promote senate on Wednesdays of meetings. Nametags are gold and will have black lettering. Shirts are maroon with white lettering. T-shirts are 7.50 and nametags are 4.50.
- E. Senator Barat: Regarding Q-Drop, we tabled a motion to vote on this issue. We welcome input on this issue. There are big things coming up this year...
- F. Senator Murray: presentation went fantastic to City Council. Next meeting is Oct 30.
- G. Senator Smith: Might have to remove boycott bill (Northgate boycott) depending on the decision of the Northgate District Association. Regarding the University Center Master-plan, please email me with concerns. Johnson created an agency to donate food from food services to give to food banks. There are no dorm closures scheduled until 2012.
- H. New member confirmed as SSFAB committee member.
- I. Campbell: Sign up for a time slot for voluntary Senate office hours — you will get absence forgiveness — sign-up on sign up sheet. There's a Caucus meeting- next week. October 31, we are having the Town Hall Forum. Please pick up some flyers for the Forum.
- J. SSFAB Final Presentations:
 - 1. Crystal Y'Barbo:
 - a. Office of Study Abroad: they do everything for students going overseas. Their current Total Budget is \$870,000. Increase request is for \$3,000. This is for the employees that are overworked — there's a problem with face to face communication — we can make a better website with the fees. Study Abroad will find half the money, and they want Senate to pay for the other half (all for the website). We will hire a student worker to maintain website. Students are getting fed up with website, and this is bad for eager students.
 - b. International Student Services — financial aid, insurance, US taxes, visa status, etc., and advocate for international student needs. Increase Request is \$2000. Help cover International Student mentor Program (like new student conference), and this will help buy bright colored t-shirts and office supplies. Last year, it was a great success. If request is denied, this program might be dropped.
 - c. Let us know what you think by emailing me at evp@stuact.tamu.edu.
 - 2. Lindsey Leissner:
 - a. Multi-Cultural Services: Student Service Fee increase request is \$23,250. This increase is for ExCel (a year long program that allows students to find their niche through tutor), Whoopstock (U-Act peer diversity program), ERASE (a joint program to educate organizations on being culturally aware), Dialogue Racism, CommUNITY Conversations, and Professional Development. If the fee request is not passed, Multi-Cultural Services might cut three of their organizations.

- b. Student Organization Finance Center: they are not asking for an increase. They will be taken care by the State Government, but, if there is a five percent cut, next day checks will not be offered.
- c. If you have questions, email Lindsey at aggie1106@tamu.edu.

3. Jack Hooper (FY 2007 increase requests are on the Student Services website):

- a. Student Organization Finance Center: They are not asking for an increase. They will be taken care by the State Government, but, if there is a five percent cut, next day checks will not be offered.
- b. Financial Aid: FY 2006 – N/A. FY 2007 – career ladders student financial aid, phone system upgrade, scholarship awareness and application assistant.
- c. Student Activities: FY 2006 - Graduate Assistant for Student involvement requested and granted. FY 2007 – Business associate II in accounting, Graduate student salary increase from 20 to 25 hours a week, and staff reclassifications wants two more positions.
- d. Disability Services (rated in the top five in the nation for disability services): FY 2006 – Accommodations Counselor. FY 2007 – Student assistant for employment accommodations, graduate student assistants for testing accommodations, testing administration assistant (testing center has to sometimes close down).
- e. Choral Activities: We need your input back (no Senator has responded). Over 350 students are involved. Listed as Bresciani's 7th highest initiative. FY 2007 request breakdown: Maintain travel schedule: \$20,000, Longevity Pay (for staff member): \$1,440, and Texas Collegiate Women's Chorus Festival: \$5,000. The Chorus Festival was here at Texas A&M last time, and it brought one thousand people to Texas A&M. If the request is denied, they will cut traveling concerts (10 each year), cut student worker hours, eliminate night and weekend practice times, additional travel may be cut (more than the 10).
- f. Please give Jack feedback at JackHooper@tamu.edu

4. Student Media: The Battalion internship program allows for interested students to learn journalism skills. No increase is requested. They have a lot in reserve, and that is for there upcoming move. The current \$22,000 budget allowance is for sending out the Battalion.

a. Questions (Representatives answers are in bold):

- Senator Stevens: why is the Battalion mailed? **They do it for former students and other interested individuals.**
- Stevens: Students will not be hired until 2007? **Yes.**

K. Swear in the new Rules and Regulation Chair Senator Nichols.

X. Open Session: None

XI. Announcements

- A. Speaker Hailey: On November 6th, there will be a concert on Handel's Messiah at Rudder. See Speaker Hailey for details.
- B. Senator Nichols: See him after the meeting if you are on R&R, as there is another upcoming meeting.
- C. Senator Faulkner: In regard to Dodge-ball, Kara will email participants for more information.
- D. Senator Scott: "Cut" is the 2nd Saturday of November.