

Student Senate Minutes

November 2, 2005

I. Roll Call

II. Invocation

III. Pledges of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum

A. Jerad McNeeley

1. Founder of student coalition for Northgate business – senate is overstepping their power.
2. The Student Senate does not have power to police anything that is outside of the campus or any other direct Texas A&M business.

B. Fred Woods

1. He is deeply disturbed by McNeeley's comments, as the Student Senate concerns extend beyond fees and other such things. The Senate's duty is to better the environment for the Texas A&M students, which would include the Northgate discrimination issue.
2. Fred Woods would like to applaud SGA and the Student Senate for their work this year.

V. Special Presentations

A. Caitlin Cashion (Judicial Court, Chief Justice)

1. Danny Charla – new Senator
2. Josh Rizzo – Director of Information Systems
3. Casey Kinser – Off Campus Senator
4. Jake Batham – switched from Engineering to Liberal Arts Senator
5. Steven Longbottom – Business Senator

B. Joel Wixson – Student Advocate for Student Services

1. Spoke on Council on Built Environment (CBE): This group materializes building improvements for Vision 20/20. There are students now on the panel. CBE is working in the light of the charge to hire 447 new professors by 2009... we need more space. There is an explosion of student population. There were three phases for CBE: First, they relocated 150,000 sq. feet of office space. Phase II: budgeted over 94 million for new construction and renovation and new roads. There's about ten new buildings. Phase III: Build new roads, most notably, around Wellborn and Ross Street. Other responsibilities for CBE: deferred maintenance planning, campus policies, classroom utilization, and interaction with TexDot, B/CS, and etc. Advertisement: we must advertise only for companies that will highlight Texas A&M. For more information, contact Joel Wixson at joelwixson@tamu.edu.

VI. Old Business

A. S.B. 05(F) 2 – SSFAB Liaison Bill

1. Introduced by Chair Smith: Allows for any student, not just a senator, to work as a SSFAB Student Liaison Committee.
2. Chair Nichols- it is more consistent with our by-laws to allow any student to work on the committee.
3. Questions: Senator Hill: What brought on this bill? We've not had this position in the past and we need to expand the base of applicants and enthusiastic members.
4. Vote: Bill Passes

B. S.B. 05(F) 8 – Roll Call Accountability

1. Introduced by Senator Frenzel: He wants to table the bill, as Senator Frenzel did not attend the previous Rules & Regulations meeting.
2. Tabled until next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. S.R. 05(F) 11 – Medical Excused Absences Resolution

1. Introduced by Senator Berry and Chair Frank: This makes changes in the rules on student absences. This allows for professors to have the option for students to fill out a form on the internet for absences less than three days.

Questions:

- Chair Murray: Where do get these forms from? We will create a website
- Chair Nichols: What are the big differences? It separates absences into two categories: less than three days or more than three days. The new change is that the professor has an option to allow students to either use the new form that the student senate created (which doesn't require a doctor's visit) or get a doctor's excuse (even for less than three days).
- Senator Koranek: Do other universities have this form? Many universities don't even deal with absences.
- Senator Frenzel: Does this cover all exams and other such projects? Yes.
- Senator Clayton: Are professors required to use this? No, it is their choice.
- Senator: How do they investigate cases where students are abusing the forms? The Honors Code Office has a separate committee that deals with such cases.
- Senator Foley: When was it that somebody brought this up as a problem? A couple of years ago.
- Senator Frenzel: Has there been an occurrence where the doctors at Beutel did not give out a doctor's excuse for somebody that came? I don't know.
- Senator Lawler: moved to debate.

Debate:

- Chair Barat: changed wording from SGA to Student Senate.
- Senator Knezek: Against: It's an easier loophole to get out of an exam or a project.
- Senator Curry: For: It makes it a lot easier for students that are sick, even though a few might misuse it. Also, missing a test or missing a lecture hurts the students, so, people who abuse the form are abusing themselves when they miss without a proper purpose.
- Senator Hill: Against: This will simply increase abused absences. Beutel serves as a blocker to people who just want to simply miss, so we need to keep it.

- Chair Nichols: It's not here to decrease abuse. It's here to better Beutel and free them up time. Students are still required to make up a test even if they miss. If you go see a doctor in Beutel, you'll probably get a doctor's note anyway.
- Senator Foley: It is a horrible resolution, but a great bill. It does make it easier to cheat, but any professor that is worried about it can opt not to accept the forms. Making it a bill will give it more weight. Moves to table it for two meetings.
- Point of Information (Senator Faulkner): Why is it a resolution? It is just a recommendation that the faculty senate accepts it.
- Senator Berry: It would not make any difference if it was a bill or not, because we don't have any jurisdiction in these matters.
- Motion denied.
- Senator Bathman: People that will cheat on a test, will cheat on these forms. People will get away with cheating no matter what.
- Senator Gayle: Personal experience: it's a lot of work to go to Beutel and I was totally sick but I could not make it to Beutel. The forms will make it easier and will truly clear up the excess in Beutel.
- Senator Simmons: This might teach students to be lazy.
- Senator Lawler: We all know when we are sick, we don't need Beutel for the small things. If less people go to Beutel, then we will spend less with Student Service fees.
- Senator Butler: When I am in class and somebody else is coughing and sneezing in class and bothering me, I would rather them to fill out an easy form than come to class because they do not want to spend the time and effort in going to Beutel.

Roll Call Vote: Passed; will be posted on SGA window for one week

C. S.R. 05(F)12 – Introduced by Smith. This thanks the employees for their hard work in renovating Hullabaloo.

Debate:

- Senator Foley: I love Scott, so we should pass it.
- Vote: bill passed.

VIII. Reports

A. Jim Carlson (Student Body President)

1. Look at his address on the Internet. We are making progress on the Northgate issue. A boycott is probably not necessary. Question by a Senator: What notion did you get to bring up the boycott? I wanted to dispel rumors, especially ones from the papers. Another Question: Are there proven acts of discrimination? Yes.

B. Will Hailey (Speaker of the Senate)

1. Two ad hoc meetings on corps issues (come talk to Will if you want to help with this). Come to the meeting at 1 PM on Friday; however, the athletic director will not be there.

C. Amanda Lanning (Speaker Pro Tempore)

1. She created the Legislation Database and put it on the internet.
2. Operations Committee: The Student Senate will be giving out free hot chocolate and possibly selling breakfast items on the mornings of Nov. 30 and Dec. 2.
3. Student Senate Formal: it is in the making.
4. Take a picture for the website.

5. Absent forgiveness: please email Amanda if you're doing this.
 6. If you miss a Student Senate meeting, you have 48 hours to notify Amanda.
 7. T-Shirt sign-ups are tonight.
- D. Frank Barat (Academic Affairs Committee Chairman)
1. Collegiate Readership Committee: recently brought back. If you have interest, approach Pontius or Barat.
 2. Resolution is coming up for Q-Drop Policy.
 3. Sunday November 13, 7:00PM
- E. Scott Smith (Student Services Committee Chairman)
1. Everyone should have a question for SSFAB... so ask them. See **SSFAB.TAMU.EDU**, and you can see the budget requests or find out contacts.
 2. Chris Kran sworn in as a SSFAB liaison
 3. Extended hours for the Common Denominator (8AM-8PM on Sunday).
 4. PA 42 parkers are being moved to the resident lot next door.
 5. Next Committee meeting is next Sunday at 3:00 on the SGA couches.
- F. Corey Nichols (Rules and Regulations Committee Chairman)
1. Next meeting is this Sunday at 5 PM on the SGA couches. The Election Commissioner will be there, so if you have an interest in this, you should be there.
- G. Jeff Murray (External Affairs Committee Chairman)
1. Bryan living situation: they are trying to get fact and statistics.
 2. Their meeting is Sunday Nov. 13 at 5 PM on SGA couches.

SSFAB Presentations

Josh Peschel – Moderator

- A. VPSA Office and Informational Technology (Pei Zhang)
1. Increase request for the VP of Student Affairs: 3% (\$146,000).
 2. Division IT: They want to consolidate their employees and their tasks, which should save about \$87,000. However, they want a new employee that will cost \$75,000.
- B. Terry Dike
1. Student Life: They are asking for no increases, but they are asking for a graduate assistant in the future.
- If you have any questions, email TA120585@tamu.edu
 2. Greek Life: It needs help to get it off its feet.
- C. Jessica Pott
1. MSC Increase request: \$183,000. This will involve seven changes (Accounting (new employee), Computer Replacements, General Insurance Policy Increase (Medical Insurance), Reclassifications, Student Development employee, Hispanic Heritage Month (Hispanic speaker), Aggies Are We (Transportation for MSC Fish to setup a program transporting international students to the grocery store), and Aggie Nights).

D. Josh Peschel

1. University Art Collections Request: Funds are for new programs in the Stark galleries. They are asking for a \$5,000 increase. If this is denied, the new activities will not be passed. If you have any questions email j-peschel@tamu.edu
 2. Child Care Center: There are 170 children on the waiting list. They want a special tuition rate for all children with student-headed families. Their increase request is \$61,200. We are the second most expensive as far as rates for the child care. If we add in the tuition rate scholarship, it will move our rate up greatly. How many Aggies use the child care services? 37% that go to the child care center are from student parents.
- E. Speaker Hailey: If you want to get more information, see the SSFAB website.

IX. Open Session

- A. Senator Weizel – The 12th Man is the best tradition in Aggie Football. Daniel introduced a bill (S.R. 05(F)13) that states that the Student Senate still stands behind the Aggie Football team. Resolution passed. He also introduced S.R. 05(F)14 that commends the Women's Soccer team for being the best in the Big 12th. This resolution also passed.
- B. S.R. 05(F)15 – Introduced by Frank Barat, Rich Pontius, and others – Q Drop Policy – states that the Academic Operation Committee (AOC) should maintain their current policy. Resolution passed.

X. Announcements

- A. Speaker Hailey – this Sunday at 4 pm in rudder auditorium, there will be Handel's Messiah. It will be \$8.
- B. Operations Committee and Kristina Campbell – thank you for working at the Town Hall Forum.
- C. ¼ hour for every hour you spend in the cube. Constituency Affairs meeting is on Nov. 14. We are also working on a Greek Life survey; contact Christina if you want to help with this.

XI. Adjournment