



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

DATE: Thursday, July 21st, 2016

TIME: 2:30pm-4:30pm

LOCATION: N1099

TYPE OF MEETING: General Assembly

MINUTE TAKER: Elizabeth Bosquez

SGA MEMBERS ROLL CALL:

Elizabeth Bosquez	X/X	Peter Akinola	A/X
Ruben Ruiz	X/X	Nghia Nguyen	X/X
William Paul	A/A	Leonor Servillas	A/A
Elias Santibanez	X/X	Kourtney Chacherre	A/A
Jessica Jaimes	A/A	John Locke	X/X
Mykal Peterson	A/X	Mustapha Nyallay	X/A
Hatziri Rancano	X/X	Yufei Geng	X/X
Mukarram Syedshah	X/X	Matthew Garcia	X/X
Richard Jones	X/X	Jovan Freeman	X/X
Esperanza Martinez	X/X	Evan Howell	A/A
Mobeen Azhar	X/X	Faryal Gul	X/X
Kimberly Weber	X/X	Itunu Daramola	X/X
Jessica Delgado	X/X	Kelly Roberts	X/X
Irene Nunez	X/X	Aaron Burgess	A/X
Baltazar Pacheco	A/A	Kayley Bolden	X/X
Patricia Sepulveda	A/A	Miguel Bustamante	A/A
Osama Akrabi	A/A	Rachel Gravlee	X/X
Raymundo Reyes	X/X	Christiana Tegethoff	X/X

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

- Nitzia Berlanga
- Nancy Santibanez
- Tremaine Kwasiokui (Student Activities Director)

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call

TAKEN BY: Elizabeth Bosquez

c. Approval of minutes from previous General Assembly

PRESENTED BY: Esperanza Martinez

Discussion:

Esperanza Martinez

- i. Approval of minutes from previous General Assembly could not be done because the minutes were not sent out to everyone for review.

ACTIONS

The General Assembly minutes will be sent to everyone. Esperanza Martinez

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY

d. Approval of the Agenda

PRESENTED BY: Esperanza Martinez

Discussion:

Esperanza Martinez

- i. This is where we make changes to the agenda. We can add or suggest things for the agenda.

Faryal Gul

- i. I want to add two new things. Under the bills, I want to add Speaker of the House. Under committees, I want to add a constitution committee.

John Locke

- i. Point of information: During what line item are we moving the vote for Speaker of the House?

Esperanza Martinez

- i. Number one, under letter d, under Approval of the Agenda.
- ii. I propose we move The President Report Time to before number 2, Open Forum.
- iii. The Assistant Student Director will swear in Jovan Freeman.
- iv. Under New Business, I want to switch c and b.
- v. We have 13 Senators present and we need 7 for vote to pass.

Motion to approve changes to the agenda.

Motion passes.

e. Vote for Speaker of the House

PRESENTED BY: Faryal Gul (Temporary Speaker of the House)

Discussion:

Motion to open debate for Speaker of the House.

Motion passes.

Candidates for Speaker of the House: Irene Nunez and Esperanza Martinez.

Irene Nunez

- i. I'm currently a Senator-At-Large. I'm running for Speaker of the House position. I am a corporate communications major. I'm currently a junior. I have been studying the Robert's Rules of Order. I want everything to go as smooth as possible. If I work now I will be able to reap the rewards later. We as an association and part of the student body will be able to reap those rewards together.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. I am a senior here at UHD. I am studying Criminal Justice. I am a pre-law student so I am applying for law school in December. I am doing the LSAT test the first week of December. I joined SGA back in April. I went through the campaign process to do the petition, talk to students, and walk around campus. I've had a chance to talk to teachers to get an idea of what the students think SGA is and what they want us to do for them. My background is in litigation. I am a paralegal. I work at law firms. I worked with several different attorneys. I have an idea of how local and federal law works. When I saw the opportunity to join SGA I thought it would be something good to add to my resume when I apply to law school. This is my first time with SGA. I've enjoyed being temporary Speaker of the House.

John Locke

- i. Point of Inquiry: How familiarized are you with Robert's Rules of Order and how would you get familiarized with Robert's Rules of Order?

Irene Nunez

- i. There is an official website and I have taken the time to separate the sections. If it mentions it I've put it in there. That is how I've been teaching myself and getting myself up to date with them. When it comes time if someone has a question I'm able to answer that.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. I found the Robert's Rules of Order online and copied and detailed through each article and I highlighted anything that pertains to SGA. I will reread the sections to get familiar with it.

Elias Santibanez

- i. What is your vision for SGA?

Irene Nunez

- i. As an organization, we don't have the best relationship ties with some people and students don't know who we are. I really want us to be known and I want us to hit the interests that the students have. We want to get to know people and have better access to things. I want us to help the student body with their needs.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. My vision for SGA is to be more visible to the student body. I want to work on marketing and want the student body to be familiar with our goals. I want to get more of the student body engaged with student government. I want to work on the rebranding of SGA.

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. You mentioned connecting SGA back with the students, how do intend to do that?

Esperanza Martinez

- i. Speaking directly face to face with the students. Inviting students to our office. Having a face to face conversation with someone in SGA. Instead of surveys, I prefer more of a direct person to person way of gathering information.

John Locke

- i. What organizations have you been involved with?

Irene Nunez

- i. I transferred from UH. I was an international business major. I was part of the marketing club and the business. Then I was part of the Bio Tech Club. In high school I was Parliamentarian Historian of National Arts Honor Society.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. At UHD I am a cheerleader. I spent a year working with Financial Aid. I got to see a lot of the need for students for financial aid. It was rewarding to help people find money for their financial needs. I felt that I could reach more students through SGA so I left Financial Aid to free up my schedule for SGA. High school for me was about ten years ago. I did the dance drill team. I did city council and band. I joined the Pre Law Association Club here.

John Locke

- i. What motion do you use to request for the air to be turned down?

Irene Nunez

- i. You have to state your name and say what you are requesting. Someone seconds that.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. A motion would have to be brought up and the person bringing the motion up.

John Locke

- i. It is motion of privilege.

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. Do you have the time to be present at all General Assemblies or can you put aside your personal commitments for SGA?

Irene Nunez

- i. I will have the time and I will be available any time. I'm reachable through text, email, GroupMe, Slack, Microsoft and Facebook messenger. I work in an office. I am the substitute coordinator for Aldine Independent School District. I am

answering phone calls all day and calling people all day. I have learned to be on top of everything I have to do. After 2:30pm I am free.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. For me, SGA is a priority. I have more availability for SGA. I set office hours to be physically in the SGA office. I am really good with tie management. I am always moving and I always have my laptop with me. I'm always available.

Christiana Tegethoff

- i. Have you read the Constitution and are you familiar with the Speaker of the House duties according to the Constitution?

Irene Nunez

- i. Yes, I have read the Constitution and the Speaker of the House position.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. I have two different version of the Constitution and Bylaws. I have an older version and I received an updated version. I have read each one. I understand the duties and responsibilities of the Speaker of the House.

Elias Santibanez

- i. Why do you feel you deserve this position?

Irene Nunez

- i. I feel that I deserve this position because I have a love for people. I have a love for the student body. Now that I'm a gator, I have a love for every single student on this campus. I want to be that person that helps the organization get bills passed so that we can help people. I feel that I had the experience not only in high school but on the university level.

Esperanza Martinez

- i. I'm proud to be a Gator. This is a wonderful university. The location is so convenient. I wanted to do more than just be a student. I want to give back to the UHD community. First, it was Financial Aid and then it was the cheerleaders. I felt like I needed to find something else that I can give my time and skills to. When I heard about SGA, I filled out the application and then I read the Constitution. As soon as I had the opportunity I started asking questions about the duties and responsibilities. I believe that I am qualified for the position. I have the time available to commit to the committee and SGA organization.

Ruben Martinez

- i. Thank you for putting the time and thank you for taking the time to go about. Whoever gets it I'm excited for you. The other person just keep trying. Don't lose the motivation and thank you for your time.

John Lock

- i. If Speaker's vote would make a tie or if there is already a tie than she can vote.

Motion to end debate.

Motion passes.

Motion to open voting procedures.

Motion passes.

Motion to roll call.

Motion passes.

Candidates step outside for voting.

6 for Irene Nunez.

5 for Esperanza Martinez.

Irene Nunez wins Speaker of the House.

f. President to appoint pro tem Chief of Justice

Discussion:

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. It was brought to my attention that we cannot appoint a temporary Chief Justice.

John Locke

- i. Can you explain what law says you cannot do this?

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. The Constitution does not say the President can appoint the Chief Justice. It says you can appoint a Speaker of the House.

Christiana Tegethoff

- i. Under Bylaw 1, Parliamentary Authority: In any case that the Constitution or Bylaws may be in conflict with itself, the most recently passed Legislation shall take priority.
- ii. Last fall this legislation passed a referendum election to appoint a Chief Justice to that position because the President hadn't. It was supposed to go before the Senate for 2/3 vote of the Senate to put that referendum election before the student body for election. It does not state hold new elections or anything else. In the previous Constitution, there were some things that were accidentally not included. One was the Presidential right to appoint vacant positions. Under the Judicial Branch, the positions of the Student Defender and Attorney General it is reserved by the right for the President to appoint those positions in the event of a vacancy. No one anticipated the Chief Justice resigning. Given this is the first General Assembly since her resignation I think that it needs to be stated that she resigned.

John Locke

- i. The reason why there was an election was because there was not an appointment of the Chief Justice by the President, myself. But we had a pro temp until we did the elections. There is a branch of governance that has checks and balances and runs off that.

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. The Constitution says if there is a vacancy in the Speaker of the House position the President can appoint a pro temp position. But it does not say the same thing for the Chief Justice position.

Rachel Gravlee

- i. Point of Interest- The last legislative that was passed takes priority. That last legislative a pro temp was elected. You can elect a pro temp. A pro temp can be elected until the election is stated. Anyone who says otherwise it is unconstitutional.

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. With regards to swearing in the Speaker of the House, that is why we have the Student Activities here.

Christiana Tegethoff

- i. Point of Information- Article 3, Section 3: The term of an Associate Justice is the remainder of the term of the Chief Justice who appointed him or her.
- ii. According to the Constitution, when she resigned my position became null.

Rachel Gravlee

- i. That means, if me or the Student Defender have a case we have no court.

Motion to let the President point a temporary Chief Justice.

Motion passes.

Mustapha appoints Christiana Tegethoff as temporary Chief Justice.

Motion to confirm Christiana Tegethoff as temporary Chief Justice.

Motion passes.

Tremaine Kwasikpui (Student Activities Director)

- i. In the Constitution, I couldn't find a piece where the president has that power to appoint. I understand there has been some changes. I wanted to make sure to advise him that that was not to happen today because it is not in there.

John Locke

- i. I think to empower students we have to deal with things internally and come up with solutions. They just highlighted in the Constitution the process in which to solve that problem which is to go to the most recent passes legislation that is associated with that and that is where she got the justification for us to proceed with this matter.

g. Irene Nunez sworn in.

Discussion:

Christiana Tegethoff (Pro Tem Chief Justice) swears in Irene Nunez as Speaker of the House.

2. PRESIDENT REPORT TIME

PRESENTED BY: Mustapha Nyallay

Discussion:

Mustapha Nyallay

- i. I've been working on issues that are affecting students and how we can solve those problems.
- ii. We have a food problem on this campus. We started a discussion on that and how we can find a way to amend that situation.
- iii. I've tried to reach out to the Director of Finance and Administration, Dr. David Brown. He is in charge of anything that have to do with contracts.
- iv. We have analyzed the survey on food action. We have it on paper and we will be having a meeting with him probably next week.
- v. I am working for more internship opportunities for students. I will probably have a discussion with Harris County DA Department to see if we can have internship opportunities for students.
- vi. I'm working with managing director of Lone Star Legal to make sure students can have internship opportunities.
- vii. The goal is to make sure students have experience and have connections.
- viii. I'm currently working with Director of Work Study program to make sure students can get paid for internships.

Motion to skip over Old Business but give description of elections and move forward to New Business.

Motion passes.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Chief Justice and Associate Justices

i. Elections during first week of September

PRESENTED BY: Irene Nunez

Discussion:

Irene Nunez

- i. Elections will be held the first week of September for the Chief Justice position.
- ii. Currently, we have our Pro Tem which is Christiana.
- iii. There is an application online that is open to all students of this university.

4. New Business

a. Jovan Freeman sworn in.

Discussion:

Christiana Tegethoff (Pro Tem Chief Justice) swears in Jovan Freeman as Senior Senator of College of Public Service.

Motion to have president call another session to continue this business.

Motion passes.

Irene Nunez

- i. Meeting next Thursday at 2:30pm.

5. Meeting Adjourned