



General Assembly

Second Summer Session

Wednesday, July 29th, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting Recording: <https://bit.ly/31liFMm>

***Minutes recorded by Executive Secretary Sheila Ortega-Calvillo**

I. Call to Order by Pro-Tem Speaker of the House Torres

- a. Roll Call by Secretary Ortega-Calvillo

PRESENT: President Modrow, Vice President Chavez, Chief Justice Rasheed, Senator Del Toro, Senator Ware, Senator Karra, Pro-tem Speaker of the House Torres.

- b. Quorum Check from Chief Justice Rasheed
- c. Approval of Previous General Assembly Minutes presented by Pro-tem Speaker of the House Torres
- i. **Motion to approve:** Senator Karra
 - ii. **Second:** Senator Del Toro
 - iii. **Passes**
- d. Approval of General Assembly's Agenda
- i. Point of Inquiry by President Modrow:
 1. Section C of New business mentions nomination of Gerri Valle as a Director of Health and Wellness. Minutes for name change and restructuring of that position have been completed with a By-Law amendment. Per constitution, this change would require a constitutional amendment and signatures from the student body, can I get clarification from Chief Justice?
 - ii. Inquiry response by Chief Justice Rasheed:
 1. Request for Senators to Motion to Table out position because currently finalizing, can have an answer by the end of this week. Still needing clarification.
 2. **Motion to approve:** Senator Ware
 3. **Second:** Senator Karra
 4. **Passes.**
 - iii. Senator Karra: Mistake on today's GA agenda. Samantha Mosley is on the agenda twice, request to rectify name mentioned under legislative board.
 1. **Motion to approve:** Senator Ware
 2. **Second:** Senator Del Toro
 3. **Passes.**
- e. Explanation of General Assembly Structure
- i. Add your questions to ZOOM chat, at Open Forum, secretary Ortega will address.

II. Unfinished Business by Pro-tem Speaker of the House Torres

Senators will not vote for Prospective Members of the Executive Board

- a. Executive Board –Confirmation of New Executive Board members
- i. Shay Tatum – Chief of Staff
 1. Introduction.

- 2. **Motion to approve by consensus.** Motion approved and seconded. No objections.
- ii. Kassandra Aparicio – Director of Community Outreach
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. **Motion to approve by consensus.** Motion approved and seconded. No objections.
- iii. Xiomara Herrera – Director of Student Engagement
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. **Motion to approve by consensus.** Motion approved and seconded. No objections.
- iv. Sheila Ortega-Calvillo – Executive Secretary
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. **Motion to approve by consensus.** Motion approved and seconded. No objections.
- v. Camila Sandoval – Director of External Affairs
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. **Motion to approve by consensus.** Motion approved and seconded. No objections.
- b. Swearing of New Officers by Chief Justice Rasheed
- c. Recapitulation of SGA Training – Part 1 by President Modrow
 - i. Tremaine lead the training that occurred on Friday, July 24th, 2020;
 - ii. Most people were in attendance, others communicated absence; and
 - iii. Email sent out regarding resources regarding Roberts Rules of Order.

iii. New Business by Pro-tem Speaker of the House Torres

Senators will be allowed to ask any questions, but will not be able to vote for Prospective Senators at this time

- a. Legislative Board – Nomination of New Senators
 - i. Devona Toney – Senior Senator for the Marilyn Davies College of Business
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. Questions:
 - a. **Senator Ware – What made you decide that you want to be a part of SGA?**

Help develop practical plans, extend resources for internships and mitigate process, help students find competitive internships.
 - b. **Senator Del Toro – Considering current events and pandemic, what do you hope and what do you think is the most important thing to bring to SGA?**

Communication, it is now all virtual and we need to meet students current COVID-19 related needs and be better prepared for next time when this happens.
 - c. **Senator Karra – Would you have time, with the current climate, to devote to SGA and would BSA need more focus? How will you be able to balance the time between different organizations, will BSA need more time?**

I believe that people make time for what we want, check-ins, any organization. I am using tools like group chats, calendars, planners, time management, reminders, and make sure I am not missing a beat. I make

any organization am involved in a priority. I would also not apply for a position I cannot give 110% to.

~~ii. Samantha Mosley – Senior Senator for the College of Public Service~~

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iii. Taiya Youngs – Senior Senator for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

1. Introduction.

2. Questions:

a. Senator Ware – NO QUESTIONS

b. Senator Del Torro: What type of achievements have you had in past that you can bring to SGA?

Heavily involved on campus: in sports, multiple leadership roles in at least 5 organizations on campus, supplemental instruction leader for 4 semesters, peer mentor. I want to show students that you can have the full college experience.

c. Senator Karra: SGA can be very demanding, BSA Vice President, Active Minds President, how can you plan to balance out responsibilities?

Being involved in many things keeps me going. Diamonds are made under pressure, I can handle.

iv. Edwin Mendez – Senior Senator for the College of Science and Technology

1. Introduction.

2. Questions:

a. Senator Karra: What do you plan to do if elected?

I don't have any specific plans at the moment, I still need to learn more about the responsibilities. I would like to bring resources to campus and bring more fun activities to our college because our college and building is new.

b. Senator Bebe: Are you involved in any other things on the campus, other than SGA that you're going for now?

CAB VP and Co-director of Culture and in Student Eagle Mentorship program and Ambassador at HCC.

c. Senator Del Toro: Do you have any plans as to how you will get to the student body, have some activities that have happened previously?

Our college is new and so are the organizations, like dental orgs, chemistry clubs, and other. Bring them more to public knowledge and provide support. Get ahold of their agendas, push them for students to see their activities.

v. Robert Gonzalez – Senior Senator for the College of Science and Technology

1. Introduction.

2. Questions:

a. Senator Bebe: You have a lot on your plate, how do you plan to keep up?

Prioritizing, keeping organized, scheduling, communication in advance, I'm big on communication in order to have an effective team. I practice time management as a personal trainer and with my team members.

b. Senator Del Toro: How will you actually prioritize and execute those things; can you provide some examples?

Go with what is of most importance, SGA is all about the student body, having a job, but I will keep my job at UHD Gym as much as possible, I would place SGA as a high priority.

c. Senator Karra: Can you share a time you were placed in a difficult situation and how you addressed it?

There was a miscommunication with a co-worker. Hence why communication is very important, we did not handle the issue the best way but when we came back and communicated better, we were able to run smoothly from there.

vi. Zizi Kanyabire – Senator at Large

1. Introduction

2. Questions:

a. Senator Del toro: What did you plant to bring to SGA?

Perspective, I have a various background. I am born in Congo, raised in Uganda, came at 8years old. I am bringing a different view on things, not viewing things as balck and white.

b. Senator Karra: You worked last year with SGA; we really appreciate your service. Can you tell us what you did previously?

I was a team player; I had never been a part of something. I was only working and coming to school, always been busy. Last semester was the first semester I was able to be of SGA and participate in events. Walk to Vote helped me open my eyes and made me more interested in SGA.

c. Senator Ware: I appreciate your past efforts with SGA, you were honest about saying you never really cared to be involved before and you learned a lot, you seemed like you really cared and learned persistence.

vii. Chalsey Nelson – Senator at Large

1. Introduction.

2. Questions:

- a. **Senator del Toro: NO QUESTIONS**
- b. **Senator Karra: Thank you for facing different challenges, you worked last year and we appreciate your service. Can you tell us what you did and share your story?**

I worked with Mario doing a by-law constitution for time management of members, helped with “Meet the Candidates”, was part of “Know your Status”, and “Walk to Vote”. I had a great experience and looking forward to another great experience.

viii. Aneeka Khan – Senator at Large

- 1. Introduction.
- 2. Questions:
 - a. **Senator Karra: SGA can be very demanding, a lot of team building and rigorous work. With all leadership positions you have currently, how do you plan on balancing your time and take on extra position to what you have?**

This summer I have been taking summer classes and develop time management routine, in the Fall, I’ll be taking other classes and still be involved with other organizations. I think I’ll have time and routine; I am ready to learn and do my best. It is my senior year and I want to be prepared for the real world.

- b. **Senator Ware: You keep saying you THINK you can handle it, are you using the wrong word? Or are you telling me that you can MAKE this work?**

I tend to second guess myself; I am going to cancel that out of my vocabulary and instead say I AM going to do that.

ix. Aamir Merchant – Senator at Large

- 1. Introduction.
- 2. Questions:
 - a. **Senator Karra: I really appreciate your service; can you tell us a little bit about your experience in SGA?**

Walk to vote showed me a different side. Volunteering with Shay helped me see a different side of things.

- b. **Senator Del Toro: NO QUESTIONS.**
- c. **Senator Ware: Thank you for your service.**

x. Joseline Cruz – Senator at Large

- 1. Not Present

xi. Kelsi Rios – Senator at Large

- 1. Introduction:
- 2. Questions:

- a. **Senator Karra: Thank you for facing all the challenges and still be involved in SGA and the Art club. We worked alongside and I really appreciate what you have done. Can you please share what you have done in the past?**

I have been to every single event, except for ones I was hosting for Art club at the same time. Senators, if you ever ask me to do something, I can help and make it happen. I also help plan events.

- b. **Senator Del Toro: What are some things you have done for that Art club in order to help that organization to move forward.**

A group of friends and I from different majors, had a love for art, decided to start the art club. I help set up everything, planned events, held VP position last semester for a full year. I stepped down due to all that is currently going on. We start out very first art market, we had Houston artists, traveling artists and we believe it was a success.

- c. **Senator Ware: NO QUESTIONS**

b. Judicial Branch – Nomination of New Judicial Branch Officers

i. Samantha Mosley – Attorney General

1. Introduction:

2. Questions:

- a. **Senator Karra: Knowing you, I know you have several positions. How do you plan to manage yourself and be able to hold responsibilities in SGA?**

Time managements, I have been great with the Outlook calendar. I use my planner, and I have at least two reminders for my events. Also, being in SGA once already, I understand the time commitment. I think I work well with Chief Justice Rasheed and think I'll be able to do my part.

- b. **Senator Ware: Being a president of 2 organizations, when you are brought up in SGA for something, do you think you really really can handle and you don't want to take too much? Are you really confident in yourself?**

I am confident in my abilities; I feel like I got it. I know what is expected of me. Anything I put myself in, I try to put in my all. I wouldn't have interviewed for it if I was doubtful.

- c. **Senator Del Toro: Can you have worked to improve something?**

Last year, Mario was requesting signatures. Shay was president and was adamant to get things done, within a few hours I took the initiative and got what you needed to be complete. Ill delegate the responsibility if it is within my authority or I'll just do it myself.

c. Executive Branch – Nomination of New Executive Branch Officers

- ~~i. Gerri Valle – Director of Health and Wellness~~
- d. SGA Training – Part 2 by President Modrow and Speaker of the House Torres
 - i. SGA Interbranch Training for a more wholistic view of SGA
 - 1. Date TBD
 - ii. Mario will be training current and new officers
 - iii. Training August 11, 2020
 - 1. Facilitated by Dr. Tamez and Tremaine
 - 2. Open to everyone, not just SGA members
 - iv. Senate Training Wednesday Aug 8th
 - 1. Times TBD

IV. Open Forum

a. Questions/Comments:

- i. **Kwasikpui:** Congratulations to everyone joining SGA, stay tuned to UHD news and social media, register for fall semester, register for job fair coming up and share, stay healthy, Welcome Week Aug. 24-28 (Magic show, DYI baking session, drawing caricatures, and more), First week of school same week, I appreciate you all!
- ii. **President Modrow:** Shoutout to Sam for being appointed to Texas Civic Ambassadors
- iii. **Dr. Tamez:** Congratulations to Sam and President Modrow for all recent memberships, to everyone today, thank you for letting me join you, I want to get to know you, tonight at “News you can use” will be out 07/29 tonight at 6pm, Sheila will be part of the News you can use” team.
- iv. **Chief Justice Rasheed:** Q for Dr. Tamez: What is happening Aug. 7th?
- v. **Dr. Tamez response:** Plan will be published for returning to school.
- vi. **Pro-tem speaker of the House Torres:** Next GA will be Aug. 19th (week before classes begins)
- vii. **Senator Karra:** Event tomorrow 07/30 CHSS: Coffee chat with an industry Expert 3PM tomorrow.

V. Legislative Report Time

a. Marilyn Davies College of Business – Senator Carlos del Toro

- i. Currently getting to know the student body; statistics/demographics
- ii. I want to communicate, what social media do I use
- iii. Create a Hashtag and re-share items specific to COB
- iv. Chief Justice Rasheed Response: You are not on your own, there are senator at large candidates in COB, make it a group project. There are other officers who are also I the college of business who have experience in engaging students. E-board is ready to help as well. Reach out for help.

b. College of Public Service – VACANT

c. College of Humanities and Social Sciences – Senator Meghana Karra

- i. No report

d. College of Science and Technology – VACANT

e. University College – Senator Beth Ware

- i. Spoke to Dean Marzelli, working on what we can bring to college this semester

f. Senators at Large – VACANT

VI. Judicial Report Time

- a. Chief Justice Ameena Rasheed

- i. Constitution will be ready this week
- ii. My next position to fill is (unpaid position) Associate Justices. If anyone knows potential candidates, please send my way. (criminal justice majors, any law school students)

VII. President Report Time by President Modrow

- a. CHSS holding a law school talk at 7pm (2 alumni leading) <https://uhd.zoom.us/j/95678810858>
- b. I nominated Sam, there was another candidate, but it was a very tough decision
- c. Chance to meet with Senator Karra and Del Toro: discussed my expectations, any support I can provide,
- d. Met with President Tillis 2X: Discussed wellness and success center, check out our weekly newsletter for details.
- e. Meeting with David Bradley, discussing in next E-board meeting (open to all)
- f. Projection: building ready by Spring 2023
- g. Met with Veteran Affairs, Career Development Center, Disability Services for collaborations
- h. Met with Dr. Lawrence, discuss how meet the candidates will go this semester online.
- i. Continuing to work with BSA: few initiatives coming down the pipeline, you will receive information soon
- j. COVID Taskforce: several subgroups: I will be access subgroup and continuity and communication subgroup. Dr. Tamez is also part of other working groups. Our sister Universities have looked at terminating and furloughing a good chunk of their employees, UHD is not looking to do so anytime soon. UHS suggested FISCAL year 21, UHD reduce budget 20%
- k. Summer class enrollment projections went up by 25%
- l. Enroll, take advantage of FASFA and any other resources UHD provides

VIII. Executive Report Time by Vice President Leboriah Chavez

- a. Congratulations to all new officers
- b. Emailed organizations to see where their agendas are at
 - i. Only several responded
- c. Organizations are wanting SGA to attend their events and support
- d. Taking on Social Media workshops to improve in the Fall 2020
- e. Thank you, Alan, for the weekly newsletter information as well as including me
- f. Director of External Affairs meeting:

IX. Open Forum

- a. **Executive secretary:** answer questions or mention any comments made
 - i. Reminder to copy link for CHSS holding a law school talk at 7pm (led by to UHD Alumni) <https://uhd.zoom.us/j/95678810858>

X. Exiting Role Call

- a. President Modrow, Vice President Chavez, Chief of Staff Tatum, Executive Secretary Ortega-Calvillo, Pro-Tem Speaker of the House Torres, Chief Justice Rasheed, Senator Karra, Senator Del Toro, Senator Ware, Director of Student Engagement Herrera, Director of Community Outreach Aparicio, Director of External Affairs Sandoval.

XI. Adjournment