Minutes to the SGA meeting on August 3rd 2017

05:32 PM Meeting Called to Order
- Motion made by Austin Sweat
- Seconded by Bryan Sheffield

05:33 PM Motion to Pass Last Meeting’s Minutes
- Motion made by Rep. Mitchell Katona
- Seconded by Rep. Collin Dowling
Motion passed unanimously.

05:35 PM Bringing Mayor Ron Nirenberg to UT Health

Jaswanth Raj Kintada, MS2 and Vincent, president of AMA/TMA/BCMS Student Chapter

- AMA is the American Medical Association they collaborate with the Bexar Medical Society and the Texas Medical Association. AMA is for students that are interested in health policy and want to advocate for it.
- An upcoming preliminary event will be bringing the newly elected mayor to talk about his vision for San Antonio health equity, diversity and education. They want the event to be an interdisciplinary effort and are asking the student government to be involved.
  o Question from Rep. Colin Dowling: Is this going to be more like a town hall or a presentation?
  o Answer from Jaswanth: We were planning on having a one hour presentation-style meeting and students will have time to ask questions. Since we wanted to have this as a lunch event, we will only have one hour for him to talk.
  o Comment from Vincent: the idea is that mayor Nirenberg recently restructured council committee and formed a community health and equity committee which is the first time San Antonio has done so. The chair Ms. Ana Sandoval, has a long background in public health and health equity. We recently contacted his administration to set up this meeting and get ideas of what he would want to talk about.
  o Question from president Evan Lucas: You mentioned that you wanted to apply for SGA funding, have you done that yet?
  o Answer from Jaswanth: We are currently creating the proposal and will apply by the end of the week
  o Question from Rep. Jaylon Fane: do you have a proposed date for the event?
  o Answer from Jaswanth: We have a few dates ranging from September all the way to November. We are working around exam times and trying to give a few options to his office. It hasn’t been solidified yet, once we get those details will be sure to let the SGA know.
  o Comment from Vincent: The date of which we are thinking about is mid-October, roughly around October 18th, 2017. If this date is not suitable then it will be most likely moved to November.

05:40 PM Quality Enhancement Program & Accreditation

Dr. Mok, Vice President for Academic, Faculty, & Student Affairs
Some of you may recall the process of Institutional accreditations, it goes in line with the other types of programmatic accreditation that we have in all of the different schools. Each of the professional programs in our school is accredited. In order for these programs to have validity, the university has to be accredited.

Our big university accreditation takes place March 27th to 29th, 2018. Our large accreditation body is called the Southern Association of Colleges And Schools, the Commission On Colleges (SACSCOC). It takes everything from Texas all the way up to Virginia. There are 800 different schools ranging from community colleges, for profits, all the way up to special needs colleges and universities like ours.

Nursing has its accreditation for all of its programs in April of 2018. The Occupational therapy program has its accreditation in February 2018. PA studies has their accreditation this coming fall and respiratory car has their accreditation at the end of the month. PT has their accreditation in 2020 while dentistry is in 2019. So we are constantly in this program of demonstrating that we have quality programs in each of our different schools and different programs. At the graduate level, we do this as well in terms of the graduate program review.

What happens is that visitors from other universities come and ask questions about the quality of our programs and we can expect that with SACSCOC.

Another component of the institutional accreditation is that the accrediting body asks for a university-wide initiative to advance student learning in a particular area. In undergraduate campuses, in general academics you’ll find initiatives to enhance critical thinking skills, analysis or writing skills. If you’ve ever been a part of that you might have seen a QEP.

The last time we did a QEP was in 2014 (2008-2014). We did one on using a teaching methodology of evidence based learning or case studies. Some of you might have been at a tail-end where all of the faculty started to adopt what now is considered a common practice to introduce a topic in your field but didn’t use to be. That is an example of how do you take - over a 5-year period of time - a way of changing how you teach in order to improve student learning.

We are currently in the process of developing our next QEP. During the last 3 years there has been a lot of conversations that have talked about some type of inter-professionalism and inter-professional education and collaboration. The specific competency that our faculty leaders are looking at now is how to imbed a strong sense of team work in an inter-professional setting.

Next month you’ll get an invitation from the faculty champions who will tell you a little bit more about their ideas. They’re at a place where as they formulate their ideas they want to get feedback from the students and faculty. This is a ground-level-up endeavor.

They are looking at the competency of team based communications in an inter-professional setting. And the current suggested topic is health literacy and how do the different disciplines talk about health literacy for the patients and family they serve.

5:47 Exec Updates

Secretary Nourhan Abdelfattah: Next meeting will be my last, so we will have to choose another secretary to finish the year.

Vice president Daniel Chitty: We have Burger Burn and Chili cock-off coming up and we need lots of volunteers. So if you can start soliciting your respective constituents for help that would be amazing. Burger Burn sept 28th and Chili cock-off is October 26th.

President Evan Lucas: We will have a google doc for volunteers to sign up before the next meeting.
President Evan Lucas: I will try to address some of your concerns from last meeting’s state of affairs:

- Jaylon, you mentioned the concern about student insurance and students having to constantly decline it. LeKiesha expressed that if students have this issue, they can talk to her especially ones that have military insurance.
- Windy, you mentioned the AC vents in the library and how some of the rooms do not have them. I talked to Mr. Ellard and every room on the third floor does have a vent but the sun heats up the walls so it feels hotter. They can however, control the temperatures and will do that in the future. If you have any problem, just go to the front desk.
- Jiye, you were talking about the microwaves in the new dental building. As far as the SGA goes, we only work with the microwaves in the common areas, so you might want to contact the office of the dental dean. You also mentioned water filters in the dental school. As far as I know all the filters have been replaced.
- We also talked about crossing the traffic on Louis Pasteur Dr. To install a light there, it’s going to cost an excessive amount of money. There were a few local votes in April and may but funding for traffic light on Louis Pasteur was not included because so many more things in San Antonio also need funding. We, however, met with some administrators in UTHSCSA and they know our concerns. The process is really cost-prohibitive. The lights that were recently installed across the new dental building cost somewhere around a million dollars.
  - Comment from Austin Sweat: If you want to take that further, a year ago we talked to mayor Nirenberg before he became the mayor and he was on board.
  - Response from President Evan Lucas: We will reach out to him.
- Roma mentioned that the lines near Golds Gym were faded. They repainted most of them in July.
- Roma also brought up the food options at the Greehey campus. There is no space to insert a new restaurant. They do know that we want more food options over there and what they currently recommend is for you to go to the RAB’s Cafeteria.

Whenever you guys present an idea or a concern to us, please get a feeling for how many students are interested in that idea so we would know if it is a large scale problem or just an individual’s issue.

We are trying to make sending an email to the SGA reps easier so we set up a google doc with a complete roster you can use that to email the other current reps.

We are planning the SGA Retreat early this semester. Do you guys have any ideas?
- Suggestions: Escape Room, Top Golf, hiking at Friedrich Wilderness Park, Paint ball, Bowl & Barrel and roller-skate rings.

6:03 State of Affairs

- Rep. Jaylon Fane: did we follow-up with Lancer and did they consider opening early this semester
  - President Evan Lucas: I have been talking to Chef Steve and they currently have a few renovation items on their agenda. However, a kiosk/pod will be open early but it might take some time – just be patient.
  - Comment from Rep. Laura Grota: Since no one else (other than first year nursing) has classes that early and it’s only one semester, it might not happen. Vending machines could be a better alternative.
President Evan Lucas: We suggested adding fancy vending machines with fresh food. This also might take time.

Rep. Mitchel Katona: About installing an artificial turf outside Golds Gym. We talked to Ben Rivers and he was clearly frustrated with the way student recreation is handled on campus. The contract with Golds Gym is till 2025 so not much can be done. 1.3 million is how much the student body pays to Golds Gym for their membership. So we talked about the feasibility of installing an artificial turf field which will cost around ($70,000-100,000). He also mentioned that we might have to include a fence since the community uses the fields outside Golds Gym.

Secretary Alexander Oderhowho: A quick poll how many of you play intramural sports and what are your comments on injuries using those fields. (a couple of people mention they have gotten injuries using the fields for intramural sports.)

Rep. Colin Dowling: I think the issue here is that we are not the only ones using that field. Also, several research studies deduced that artificial turf increases injuries by 40%.

Secretary Alexander Oderhowho: The studies are comparing natural grass to artificial turf. We are proposing artificial turf because it is cheaper. What we have now is nothing. With the way the field is right now it is cost prohibitive to update it. I have to drive to UTSA to play soccer.

Austin Sweat: A few years ago the field was replaced with natural grass but it wasn’t feasible due to excessive use and lack of maintenance. I don’t argue for artificial turf because we live in Texas and it will be unbearably hot during the summer.

Rep. Mitchel Katona: I’ve played on artificial and grass fields in Texas and they are both hot but bearable. Last year the grass fields at the beginning of the season were at a pretty good condition but within 2 months and after 100s and 100s of students using one single small field it was worn out. It definitely needs to be improved.

Secretary Alexander Oderhowho: The whole surface is uneven.

Rep. Laura Grota: If the field is university property, why is it open to the public?

Secretary Alexander Oderhowho: We don’t have an exclusive contract with Golds Gym. And the field is open from all directions so even non-members can use it.

President Evan Lucas: we will try to invite someone from Golds Gym to come and address some of these questions

Rep. Latosha Kelly: I also have some concerns about access to the gym during the summer since the one on campus doesn’t have childcare.

Emily Henkel on behalf of Rep. Mitchel Faulkner: We will send an email soon asking for translators to help with the communication between refugees and the doctors (med students from our school).

Austin Sweat: I was the SGA president a couple of years ago and I will be coming back in an advisory role.

Rep. Sandy Montelongo: On the long campus, we have beds at Golds gym and some at the big bathrooms which are great to use for people who live far away. Next year we have classes at the RAB on the Greehey campus. Is it possible to get beds there too?

President Evan Lucas: We will talk to them, but it might not happen quickly. We also need to know how many people need these beds because if it’s only a few people it might not be feasible.

Rep. Sandy Montelongo: Starbucks here on campus doesn’t honor rewards or promotions.

The Starbucks on campus is run by another corporation not Starbucks themselves.

There’s another Starbucks at University Hospital.
6:30 PM Break Into Committees

6:45 PM Motion To Close Meeting

- Motion made by Collin Dowling
- Seconded by Austin Sweat