Minutes to the SGA meeting on September 7th 2017

05:32 PM Meeting Called to Order

- Motion made by Rep. Roma Kaul
- Seconded by Rep. Jaylon Fane

05:33 PM Motion to Pass Last Meeting’s Minutes

- Motion made by Rep. Mitchel Katona
- Seconded by Rep. Claire Adian

Motion passed unanimously.

05:34 PM Secretary Elections

- Motion made by Rep. Windy Arellano
- Seconded by Rep. Jyie Moon

Rep. Roma Kaul was nominated by Alexander Oderhowho.

Rep. Roma Kaul accepted the nomination.

Rep. Roma Kaul was elected unanimously.

05:38 PM Intramural Fields

*Dave Brahm, Grounds management - Ben Rivers, Student Recreation and Mitchel Katona, SGA rep.*

The floor was opened for questions and concerns about the status of the intramural fields.

- Mitchel Katona: Last fall the team lost the captain to an injury due to the conditions of the fields. Even though it’s not uncommon to sustain injuries while playing football, his injury was not unique, there is a pattern of similar injuries amongst the students caused by the deteriorating conditions of the fields. As a result, the students were surveyed about the status of the intramural fields.
  - Survey results:
    - 108 students use the fields regularly, 12 had injuries that include ACL tears … etc. (not just minor sprains).
    - A common complaint was that the community has virtually unlimited access to the fields which impedes the students’ use of the facilities.
      - For example the volleyball courts are overused by the community and the sand gets so thin that the concrete gives our students bad blisters afterwards.
    - Golds Gym is not adequately equipped. Several students mentioned that there are missing dumbbells for several weeks. At certain times of the day, the machines are in full use. There are no punching bags or climbing walls.
  - Before we talk about our contract with Gold’s Gym here are some information from two other medical schools in Texas:
    - At UT Health Houston, the medical students pay a mandatory fee of $194/year which gives them access to a private recreation center that’s open only to Texas medical center personnel.
▪ At UT Southwestern. The students also have access to a private rec center that’s only open to students and staff of UT Southwestern. The fees are optional $480/year and it is monthly prorated.
  o Here at UTHSCSA we are at our 9 out of 15 year contract with Golds gym. We pay $180 annually except for nursing students. This sums up to about $1.5 Million in guaranteed membership fees to Gold’s Gym every year. This was agreed to by the students in 2007 by referendum.
    ▪ The contract states that the tenants will replace the equipment when worn, broken or obsolete. The tenant should replace the equipment with the latest exercise equipment and make sure it’s sufficient in quantity, variety or mix.
      • The students have complained that the equipment is not being replaced. That it’s lacking in quantity, quality, variety and mix.
    ▪ The contract also states that the tenant will make sure that all the facilities are reasonably accessible to the students first and should restrict membership to people other than the student body to avoid overcrowding of the club.
  o Suggestions on how the student recreation at UTHSCSA can be improved:
    1. To install an artificial turf field that’s fenced in and accessed by the students and staff only.
    2. To install signs, fences and employ UT Police to ensure that the community uses our facilities appropriately without interfering with student use.
    3. To get some reassurance from Golds gym to hold up their end of the contract.
  o To end on a positive note, 90% of the students in the survey said that recreation is important to their health, 74% said it was important to their stress relief and 45% said it was important to their social life.

▪ President Evan Lucas: Dave, can you please talk about the possibility of installing an artificial turf field?
▪ Mr. Dave Brahm: The cost for artificial turf is high and we will have run-off in the parking lot. With all new construction in San Antonio you have to have a away to slow down the run off before it goes into the drainage system of San Antonio. So it has to be approved by the city of san antonio. Crumb rubber fields also require a lot of maintenance. The crumb rubber gets dispersed and you cannot have debris like leaves or twigs. It has a life time of 10-12 years so we will have to allocate more money then to replace it. It’s a large investment and it requires a lot of labor intensive maintenance.
  o Rep. Mitchel Katona:
    ▪ First the cost: one option is for it to be funded by the student service fee fund which has $300,000 that can possibly be used for both the field and the drainage.
    ▪ Second the maintenance: the current fields require a lot of maintenance, but even with adequate maintenance, the material deteriorates quickly.
    ▪ Many surrounding universities are replacing their grass fields with artificial fields.
    ▪ While the artificial turf has a 12 year replacement time, our grass field was replaced 2 years ago.
  o President Evan Lucas: In case you are wondering why we are talking about this, we are discussing the alternatives so that we can eventually give a formal recommendation. We are trying to educate you guys (the representatives) so you can go and educate your classmates and get their opinions.
Treasurer Alexander Oderhowho: For the current field, how much do you think it costs and how labor intensive is it to maintain it?

Mr. Dave Brahm: we don’t have a budget or a person that is dedicated to the fields.

Treasurer Alexander Oderhowho: if you were to give an estimate, how much do you think it runs/year.

Mr. Dave Brahm: probably less than $10,000 a year. Another option is what UTSA does. They use natural turf and they play on a full-size soccer fields (100 x 50 meters) 3 nights a week between the soccer and football. The field is not accessible to the community. Once the season is done, the shut the fields down and no one plays on them until the next season. You’re playing on a softball field that is 100 yards long and 35 yards wide, so it gets a lot of wear and tear in a small area. The other option is getting light and opening the lower field, have multiple lower fields and leave the upper fields for nothing but softball. You can also have a full-sized natural turf soccer field that is also irrigated. If you start using the lower fields, the community will quit using it because they won’t be able to get on it.

Mr. Ben Rivers: We had to involve UTPD to close the lower fields when the students are using them.

We recover the field by watering it after the games but when the community uses it on Saturdays and Sundays its worn again.

Mr. Dave Brahm: another big problem is compaction. These are not professional fields and they need rest. Another option we used in the past is we oversee with rye grass in between the fall and spring season. Ideally though, the turf should be overseen in October when you still have some warm temperatures. The season ends in November and the grass might not germinate in colder temperature.

Rep. Cody Smith: do the fields belong to us or Golds Gym?

Mr. Dave Brahm: Ours

Rep. Cody Smith: Does it have to be open to public 24/7?

volley ball courtS?

Rep. Mitchel Katona: I know that the volleyball courts have signage that says “only for UTHSCSA personnel”

Mr. Ben Rivers: I think the signs only say that UT students have the priority.

Rep. Mitchel Katona: I know that some of UTHSCSA students will show up with their team and then find a high-school volleyball team using the court. What should they do?

Rep. Cody Smith: like our library discussion, since this is private university property, does it have to be openly accessed by the community?

Mr. Dave Brahm: That was addressed years ago by the committee for wellness.

Mr. Ben Rivers: We just don’t have a way to keep people off.

Mr. Dave Brahm: it’s been that way for so long, that people feel that it is public properties. And they will argue that they paid their taxes. But tax money doesn’t pay for these fields.

Rep. Cody Smith: UTHSCSA is a closed campus for the most part.

Rep. Mitchel Katona: To your point, at UTSA it is strictly enforced that the fields are only for the students and personnel. Correct me if I am wrong but we can have UTPD enforce them and ask for IDs.

Mr. John Kaulfus: A lot of what we’ve been talking about is what I call inherited knowledge. I have been here for two years and we haven’t had a discussion with the health science center personnel about what it would take to limit access to certain areas of
the fields so you can use it safely. As SGA you can start the conversation again with UTPD and facilities. If the most cost effective solution is to limit access to the fields that we do have, then I think we at least have to have that conversation. Is it fencing? Or is it more patrols by UTPD? We need to bring everyone around the table and we need to make sure that all of these things we’ve been saying are still true.

- President Evan Lucas: We have been talking about this for 50 minutes and we want your (other SGA Reps) opinions before we move on to other issues.
- Rep. Brenda Guzman: Will the new fields cost us more money?
- Rep. Mitchel Katona: Right now, the primary theory is that it will be funded by the SSF.
- Rep. Brenda Guzman: This funding, if not used for the fields, what is it used for?
- Mr. John Kaulfus: That’s an excellent question, so right now you also pay your student service fee. It’s being used to fund parts of the registrar’s office, student life, financial aid and other things. Over time, this money hasn’t all been spent. It’s currently in a fund. We have a reserve amount that we always keep. Right now there’s about $300,000 above the reserve for one-time funding opportunities. For those of you who’ve been here for the last year and half you’ve seen notices for one time funding opportunities. Over the last two years, we’ve approved roughly $320,000 worth of activities through one-time funding. We are anticipating to begin another process this fall and another $300,000 will be available. Only programs that will truly benefit students are approved. The field replacement/maintenance is possibly one of these programs but it’s not a guarantee. It has to be in the form of a proposal. We are looking for students to serve on the committee. If you’re interested, I would love to hear from you.

- Rep. Brenda Guzman: I understand that a lot of people use the fields, but a lot of students also don’t use it as much. The question is do the students have to add more money to tuition and fees?
- Rep. Claire Adian: I was a student athlete at Texas A&M. We used artificial fields and they were not that great to work on. They’re still uneven and they still require a lot of maintenance. If you have trouble keeping the community off the fields now, how are you going to keep them off of the fields after you install artificial turf? I think it might cause more problems that it would help.

- Rep. Mitchel Katona: To your first comment about the artificial turf not being the best surface, you’re completely right. We had someone bring up a study about how artificial turf cause more injuries. That is compared to natural turf in pristine conditions and that is well maintained. The fields that we have are not good and they are even in worse shape by the end of the season. For keeping the community off it. We can the SSF funding install a fence.

- President Evan Lucas: If you have more concerns or questions, please write them down and send them to us.
- Mr. Dave Brahm: If you see a problem, please report it to the facilities management website, it will come directly to me.

06:15 PM Consumer Credit Seminar

Gloria Salinas, office of financial aid

- We have asked a director from Experian, one of the major credit reporting bureaus, to come to our campus and talk to you about improving and managing your credit and how is it reported. The
presentation will be around 25 minutes and then she will be available for questions. They are not here to sell a product, they’re here to inform and educate you.

- We need our help informing your classmates so we have good attendance.
- They’re coming in for free. We are paying for their lodging and your student service fee is paying for the food that we will provide you. So you’ve already pay for this. Come and get a free meal and we encourage you to bring your significant others.
- The second part of session is from the securities and exchange commission and he will be talking about Investment and savings opportunities for students. You’re a target and at higher risk for financial fraud so they are going to educate us about these issues.
- Rep. Cody Smith: what time?
- Ms. Gloria Salinas: It’s at 4:30 pm on October 10th 2017.

6:25 Exec Updates

- Treasurer Alexander Oderhow: Before the referendum for the counseling center, we had concerns about the student health clinic. The head of the clinic is available to come to our meeting to talk about how the fees are used and how the clinic is run. If you have any questions send them to me so we can forward it to him.
- Danial chitty: I have a few things to talk about:
  - Burger burn is coming up in September! Please sign up! We will send the sign up sheet via email and on facebook.
  - Chili cook-off is in October. We need more teams to sign up (only 4 signed up so far).
  - TABC cert.
  - We will be incorporating more leadership types of activities to build more value to your experience as SGA reps. Tonight will be the first of these activities. We will separate into groups and participate in a team building activity. If you have anything to add to the conversation or any questions please feel free to approach us.
- President Evan Lucas: I will be sending feedbacks and updates on the state of affairs. If you have questions or concerns please let me know. I sent one earlier about last meetings concerns.
  - I sent a survey earlier for our SGA retreat. Please vote on your preferred venue.
  - We will break into 4 discussion groups that will answer these two questions:
    - Question 1: What does being an SGA rep mean to you
    - Question 2: What inspires/motivates you to be an SGA rep

  Group 1: Represented by Mitchel Katona
  - Question 1 :
    - Advocate for students
    - Inter-professionalism
    - Impact and unify the entire campus
    - Leadership opportunities
    - Extension of healthcare “helping people”
  - Question 2 :
    - Find a sense of campus community
    - Learn more about campus activities
    - Provide solutions to students
    - Become point of contact for students
    - Get involved
Group 2: Represented by Destiny Chavez-Levey

- Question 1:
  - Taking initiative
  - Being responsible
- Question 2: taking initiative being responsible
  - Being part of something bigger
  - Having a voice

Group 3: Represented by Isaac Maldonado

- Question 1:
  - Communicate student concerns
  - Initiate involvement with student cohort through SGA events
  - Facilitate student-directed change on campus
- Question 2:
  - Professional development and Leadership opportunities
  - Getting involved and meeting other people

Group 4: Represented by Chandler Kuhlman

- Question 1:
  - Voice the similar goals of class
  - Inter-professional collaborations
  - Bridge between students and faculty
- Question 2:
  - Leadership opportunities
  - Making a difference/see results
  - Administrative experience
  - Student body unification

- President Evan Lucas: We are doing these activities to break the ice with the new reps, facilitate discussion, get engaged, be comfortable talking in the meetings and expressing opinions. I appreciate your cooperation.

6:41 State of Affairs

- Rep. Destiny chavez-levey: Is there a way to add more fridges, microwaves and lockers in the ALTC?
  - President Evan Lucas: I will talk to Chef Steve and see what we can add.
  - The dental building second and fourth floor student lounge areas have refrigerators
  - Rep. Latosha Kelly: Can we add lockers and a lounge to the ALTC.
  - Ms. LeKiesha Johnson: Ben Rivers in our office manages lockers on campus, talk to him and see what he thinks.
- Rep. Claire Adian: I second Destiny about the ALTC microwaves and fridges. Another issue in the ALTC is that the toilet paper in the third floor bathrooms are hardly ever stocked because of heavy use.
- Rep. Isaac Maldonado: Our love run last year was pretty successful and we were able to raise donations to the American heart association. This year we would like to incorporate other schools
and make a bigger donation. If you’re interested to join in on the 5 K love run. Email: MaldonadoI3@livemail.uthscsa.edu

- Rep. Sandy Montelongo: The University Hospital needs more help with events and support. Since our school requires us to clock in volunteer hours I am surprised that more students are not volunteering there. Is our campus associated with the University Hospital?
  - President Evan Lucas: they are two separate entities.
  - Dr. Mok: They are our partners. The state paid for the university and Bexar county paid for the hospital. Sharing the information through your own network is the best way to go about it.

- Rep. Dioscar Delgado: The students are also concerned about the microwave at ALTC. Besides that, a few people are concerned about the lighting when they walk from to the library or ALTC at night.
  - Vice President Daniel Chitty: have they tried utilizing the safe walk program?
  - President Evan Lucas: I will try to see the contact information for that and will send it out to you.

- Rep. Jyie Moon: There are 2 mini refrigerators that are shared between dental students. Can we get one full refrigerator? Also, it’s hard to find recycling bins in the dental building.
  - President Evan Lucas: It depends on where the space is. A SGA, we only work with public spaces not lounges or specific school areas. If it is, then bring it up with your class president or the dean’s office.

- Rep. Eric Andrade: Water filters. Is there any type of childcare programs that the school provides?
  - Dr. Mok: There has been a lot of discussion about childcare, but it hasn’t been financially feasible at a price point that is affordable.
  - Evan: If its high in demand we will try to go forward with it.

- Rep. Chandler Kuhlman: I have had a few run ins with wild animals (skunks and racoons). Is there any kind of animal safety programs in place?
  - President Evan Lucas: I will talk to chief parks and see if he has any suggestions.

7:00 Break into committees

7:15 PM Motion To Close Meeting

- Motion made by Rep. Bryan Sheffield
- Seconded by Rep. Cody Smith