Minutes to the SGA meeting – January 11

05:32 PM Meeting Called to Order

- Motion made by Rep. Bryan Sheffield
- Seconded by Rep. Daryl

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

- Motion made by Rep. Claire Adian
- Seconded by Rep. Isaac Maldonado

Motion passed unanimously.

05:34 PM State of the University Address

*President William Henrich*

- We begin on a sad note, we lost one of our medical students on Sunday (January 7th) in a car accident in northern California, Ryan Folsom. He was 29yrs old, he had 2 small children under the age of 4 and his wife is expecting their third child. He was looking for internships on the west coast. To say that this is a difficult moment for us would be a colossal understatement. Even though I didn’t know him well personally, we are all connected. Everything we do in this university, is designed to make the outcomes for our students better. But when something like this happens, it is loss for us all. When I was a senior medical student, this happened in my class. One of my classmates was killed in a car accident while looking for an internship. At graduation, we posthumously gave his family his medical degree. A plan like that is underway at this institution. It is an incredibly sad moment for us. I spoke to his parents yesterday, and that was one of the most difficult moments I have had in my life. I relayed our collective condolences to his family. So, this is a particularly rough moment for everyone here. There will be a funeral for him a week from Saturday, in Oregon. There is a website where donations are being accepted for the funeral arrangements. I hope we can continue as a collective body to reach out to them. They need to feel our concern in tangible ways, and we care deeply about his family.

- The SGA needs to know a couple of things: A lot of you wonder what do I do? What’s my job? In essence, the job is to continue to advance the university, to lift it up and by doing that we depend on the foundation of the very best people we can find. There is a gradient in everything in life. And what we are aiming to do here, is to recruit the very best and lift us up. I spend a great deal of my time on that task. I am happy to report that 2017 was a banner year in that regard. We completely established a brand-new Alzheimer’s institute. The person we have recruited is Dr. Sudha Seshadri, from Boston university. Dr. Seshadri has 9 NIH funded RO1s. We have recruited Dr. Ruben Mesa to be our cancer center director, he joined us at the beginning of the fall. We have recruited Dr. Kumar Sharma from UCSD, an expert in precision medicine. Just recently, we recruited the new dean for the school of medicine, Dr. Robert Hromas. He is an NIH funded researcher, a brilliant clinician and an expert in
bone marrow disorders, an oncologist. In addition to being a terrific doctor, he understands the business of medicine as well.

- Politics is the art of possible. What you do today that will put you in a brighter spotlight tomorrow. The political winds in the state are blowing away from supporting higher education. This means, that we can’t depend on the state, and not the national political system either. So, we have to depend on ourselves. I spend a lot of time recruiting. We are trying to increase revenue through our medical and dental practices etc. to allow us to move the ball.

- We are very proud of the nursing school. Now the leading pass rate on the certifying exam in the entire UT system is UT Health San Antonio Nursing.

- The dental school dean is about to step down, after 40 yrs of service.

- Tuition and fee increases: We need this mainly for faculty salary. To be competitive with other universities, you have to be within a certain mean and median range (75th %) of salaries to recruit faculty. Salaries account for 70% of our budget. There is also a staff salary budget. The cost of recruiting someone far outweighs the cost of retaining someone.

- The dental school and the medical school are very modestly priced. There are 147 allopathic medical schools in the US and the UT institutions ranks in the bottom 12 in cost, i.e. 135 others are more expensive. The dental school, the nursing school and the school of health professions are similarly poised. I have been told by Jon and jacqueline that the SGA has seen the proposed fee increase.

- For the medical school: The proposed increase is 5% in tuition and fees for incoming students per year through 2021 and then 3% in academic years in 2021-2013.

- In the dental school, the proposed increase is 2% in the clinical utilization fee for all dental students beginning in 2019-2020. The revenue is mainly for replacing instruments.

- For nursing school, the proposed increase ranges from 2.4% - 4.2% beginning in academic year 2019, and then 5% beginning in academic year 2021.

- In the school of health professions, the average increase is 1.7-3.4% in academic years 2018-2019 and then either 0-5% in the years beyond that depending upon the program.

- In the graduate school, there will be a 4% in tuition in 2018 and 3% for years beyond that, but those tuition stipends are covered by as you know by investigator grants.

- I also have a lot of philanthropic responsibilities. I spend a lot of time with people with means to tell us about what is here, so that they will support us. It is a highly contested crucible because there are many other organization vying for money.

- Open to questions:
  - Rep. Farhan Ahmad: I have a question about understanding your vision for the medical school.
  - President Henrich: In short, it is to be recognized as being in the elite medical schools in the country. In general, what that means, is to be ranked in the top third in the country. To explain that, if you can compete in an unbiased contest, with your ideas against the people from Boston, LA, Ann Arbour and win, you’re considered to be a leader in the field. The NIH funding is a surrogate for faculty excellence. We
currently rank in the 50s or 60s among 147 schools, but if we continue to support the faculty that is here and recruit better faculty, we will actually move up.

- SGA President Evan: For the school of health professions, we are adding on average 2 new degrees every year, do you think that is diluting the degrees that we already have?
- President Henrich: I don’t know if that’s true. In order to get a new degree through the Texas board, you have to make a case that there is a need for these programs. There is a regulatory body, that won’t allow you to add programs if they are not necessary.
- Rep Mitchell Katona: how has the public biotech collaboration with UT Health SA developed?
- President Henrich: UTSA and UT Health SA invested in the biotech venture a few years ago, but it hasn’t turned out as promising as we’d hoped. But new ideas are always being tested, and investigators are always bringing to market new ideas.
- Rep La Tosha Kelly: Our population has grown but our parking has not. Are there plans to increase that.
- President Henrich: My short answer is that I don’t know, but I have ideas that I am working on.
- Rep Farhan Ahmad: I was reading an article by judge Nelson Wolfe, about probably merging together UTSA and UT Health SA together.
- President Henrich: In the past, when this was evaluated, it turns out that the cost to combine the two schools would be $30 million dollars. In order to merge, but parties must benefit and in this case, it was decided that UTSA would benefit from the merger but we would not. So, we decided at that time not to do it. Fast forward, would it still be the same? I think the answer is, this isn’t a front burner issue for us, we have other pressing issues at hand.

06:26 PM Gold’s Gym

*Kirk Robinson, General Manager of Gold’s Gym*

- I have been having some dialogue with Evan. I wanted to give you an idea about where we’re at and what we’re thinking about. You all own the building and its your space, and we’re just there to support you all.
- I wanted to come here to address your concerns so that I can take that back to our corporate office.
- Last year, we made this gym a black level gym, so that we make this place as student friendly as possible. Another thing about this gym is that, unless you are a student, faculty or staff, you cannot bring a guest to the gym.
- When suggestions come from the student body, it has more weight with my superiors rather than it just coming from me.
- Another thing I wanted to make known, is that we are getting ready for the PTOlympics. I think this year there are 15 schools coming from all over Texas. But the gym is available for all of our schools and their students, all you have to do is come and reserve a space with us.
I will be happy to answer any questions you have:

- Rep Samantha Yee: For people who want to long board, or skateboard, are there any areas?
- Kirk: I don’t know the answer to that. I am responsible for the inside of the building,
- Rep Emily Henkel: I came to a cycling class and it was cancelled. The instructor has been out for a while, has that been resolved.
- Kirk: We’re aware of it and I apologize for the inconvenience. Another thing we are working on is to update our webpage about any cancellations.
- Guest: Are golds gym memberships transferable?
- Kirk: In the franchise locations, you can use the gym 14 times in a year. The franchises are separate from the corporate locations. But you can come to us and ask for a travel pass.
- Rep Daryl: Can I get some kind of confirmation on bringing a guest. I tried to bring a friend and he wasn’t let in.
- Kirk: I apologize, they must have just not known that you were a student. We have a very lenient guest policy. You can let them know that Kirk has told you that you can bring a guest.
- Rep Laura Grota: I haven’t been coming here as much. But whenever I come here, I notice that some of the equipment isn’t well kept, and that’s frustrating.
- Kirk: We are looking at replacing a lot of equipment. One of the concern we have, is that we have so many pieces of equipment. But once we know that something is broken, we put in a work order to get them fixed as soon as possible.
- Rep Laura Grota: I feel like that basketball players dominate the court. I was once trying to book the court for volleyball. I wanted to see if there was a day in the week, where the court can be open to be reserved for any sport.
- Kirk: If we get a window of time that we can have it be for volleyball, as long as people show up. If we have a demand, I will work with you on that to make that happen.
- Rep Laura grota: On the intramural days, there were still people coming and playing basketball on the side. I don’t think that should be happening.
- Kirk: I was not aware of that. But we would ask them to leave.
- Rep Mitchell Katona: What’s the easiest way for people to ask equipment to be replaced?
- Kirk: Please ask them to directly contact me.

6:44 PM Exec Updates

Ms. Roma Kaul, Mr. Alexander Oderhowho, Mr. Daniel Chitty, Mr. Evan Lucas

- Secretary Roma Kaul: The annual SGA service event is going to be habitat for humanity. The scheduled day is Feb 17th, a Saturday. We have a slot for 25 people, so all SGA members are welcome to come volunteer with a plus one. The sign up sheet (google doc) is in circulation. Please mention you t-shirt size on that sheet so we can arrange for a t-shirt in your size.
• Treasurer Alexander Oderhowho: As SGA, we are required to participate in one community service event a year. Let’s all try our best to be there that day. We will be considering an appropriation after this meeting.

• Vice President Danial chitty: As on your agenda, we have events coming up. We need volunteers for those events. We are also going to start working on our spring retreat.

• President Evan Lucas: If you were here in the fall, you know most of the meetings were about replacing the intramural fields. We did get a quote for fencing and lights, around $420,000-500,000. From what I understand, the field has been better maintained this past semester when they were given more attention, and it’ll be up to us to raise money for whatever we’d like to be done on it. We have replaced the microwaves in ALTC, through SGA funds. We asked chief parks, to install a card reader at the golds gym entrance, and it has been confirmed that it’ll be up by March. Another short announcement, from Le’Keshia Johnson: about community service learning conference on February 3rd, they are looking for volunteers for that event, so please check your schedules and if y’all are free that day, there is an opportunity to volunteer that day (please check your email and look for that e-mail from Le’Keisha, inform your classmates about the event) Next month (February), we will be having elections for the executive members of the SGA, and we need nominations. Please contact us if you have any questions.

6:50 State of Affairs

• Rep LaTosha Kelly: Our cohort is fundraising, we are selling a generic UT Health sweatshirt. I think they are $30.

• Rep Isaac Maldonado: Love run is scheduled for February 10th. The link for registration has been fixed.

• Rep Lauren Parten: There are circulating complaints that Say it Ain’t soy is smelly. The question is when will they get vents.
  o President Evan: chef steve said that we were limited in our food options, because it costs around $20,000 to install vents.
  o Rep Mustafa: I was there last week, and I asked for noodles and they didn’t have any because their ventilation was not working.

• Rep Mustafa Mithaiwala: I got the banhn mi sandwich at the new place (Say it Ain’t Soy), I ordered the chicken and it didn’t taste like chicken and the bread was stale.
  o President Evan: I can invite chef Steve to our next meeting and see if he can address our questions.

• Rep Gretel Sanchez: I have a question about the coffee machines in the library, is there any update on that.
  o President Evan: they needed to make some infrastructure changes, but I can follow up on that
  o Rep Gretel: One of my classmates asked if we can put a treadmill in the library and it was agreed upon.
• Rep Chandler Kuhlman: We had some complaints about the lighting in the parking garage, by the side of the parking garage, after hours. Some people addressed it in a parking committee but they asked to bring it up in this meeting.
  o President Evan: Chief parks really encourages safe walk. The number for that is in the minutes from last meeting.
• Rep Sandy Montelingo: I had finals in December, and I bought some food at say it ain’t soy, the food wasn’t good and they had the ventilation problem even back then. I also want to talk to Kirk Robinson about all the golds gyms we have access to since we pay for the gold’s gym on campus (black level).

7:05 Break into committees

7:17 PM Meeting Closed – Executive Order