



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

DATE: August 28th, 2019

TIME: 3:00 – 5:00 PM

LOCATION: A300

Minute Taker: Geraldine “Gerri” Valle

SGA ROLL CALL:

Executive Board		Judicial Board	
Shay Tatum	P/P	Pablo Cubillos	P/P
Jason Lillie	P/A	Andre Solis	T/P
Gerri Valle	P/P		
Xiomara Herrera	P/P		
Alan Modrow	A/A		
Ruby Resendez	/P		
Adrian Calagon	A/A		
Ryan Hashem	A/A		
Leboria Chavez	P/P		
Jason Allen	/A		
Legislative Board			
Camilla Sandoval	T/P	Rashel Garcia	/P
Christina Glenn	P/P	Mario Torres	P/P
Aileen Sanchez	P/P	Illias Sotiriou	/P
Kasandra Aparicio	P/P	Emerson Romero	/P
Erik Ndungutse	P/P	Daisy Garay	A/A
Jorge Mendoza	A/A		
Kelsi Rios	P/P		

1. Call to Order

- a. On Wednesday, August 28th, 2019, in the A300 in the One Main Building, the General Assembly began at 3:02 p.m. and the Speaker of the House, Mario Torres, directed it
- b. Chief Justice Cubillos, set Quorum at six senators
- c. Senator Glenn motioned to approve minutes of previous General Assembly; Senator Rios seconded the motion
- d. Senator Glenn motioned to approve the agenda for this General Assembly; Senator Rios seconded the motion

2. Old Business

- a. Vote on Proposed Amendments - CA-40-001
 - i. Due to lack of attendees, there were not enough students to vote for the amendment
 - ii. Senator Sanchez motioned to table vote till after new business; Senator Glenn seconded the motion
- b. Debrief Previous Events
 - i. Speaker of the House Torres and President Tatum talked about the previous All-Branch Training and Diversity Training we had on August 6th. The training was a wonderful experience for those fortunate enough to come
 - ii. Speaker of the House Torres, along with several other senators, talked about Welcome Week. SGA participated by tabling during the entire week in all three buildings. There were a lot of volunteers signing up, and we promoted future events on behalf of SGA
 - iii. President Tatum and Speaker of the House Torres also talked about Meet SGA, where we had the opportunity for the student body to meet their SGA board, and share and provide information about events and General Assemblies. Our table had SGA swag, pens, snacks, and water, among other things.

3. Open Forum

- a. A student named Idella Beverly, mentions that the library is too cold, that they are carrying credit over from printing balance to the following semester, and wanted to know more about the Fee for the New Health and Wellness Center that will be charged to the students
- b. Another student showed up, asking about the limited options on campus for food, commented about food shaming, and asked if there were any plans for healthy options on campus, since the Salad Bar does not open at the same hours as the rest of the other establishments.

4. New Business

- a. Special Guests – Mary Torres Director of University Services
 - i. The guest talked about dining, vending machines, parking and other auxiliary services
 - ii. Concerning the auxiliary services, an auxiliary services advisory committee will be established to help address and educate concerns about dining, parking, and vending
 - iii. Several members of the audience and SGA officers asked her a series of questions.
 - iv. When asked why there were no colanders in the bookstore, she answered that various items need to be ordered about 6 to 8 weeks in advance. She mentions that currently they are assessing what items will be, and because of the new contract for the bookstore was not awarded until May, the deadline to order items (such as planners) had passed
 - v. When asked about the fact that there are no snacks or drinks inside of the bookstore as before, she answered that the vendor contract that was established several years ago with Aramark, allowed for the bookstore to sell these items. However, when Chartwells won the

new contract, they were given the exclusive right to provide these convenience items so long as dining services was open within the same hours as the bookstore

- vi. Another student asked about the possibility of opening a Smoothie King on campus, she said that what they can do is go back to dining services and work with them to see what our current vendors can offer, now that would meet the need for healthier options on campus
- vii. A lot of students asked about clarification concerning the confusion with parking, as to clarify which lots were for students, or whether the Daly lot has been oversold, or whether students be credited if they have permits, but are unable to find a place to park. Concerning these issues, she said that the student permit gives a student access to park in any of the surface lots (Daly, Washington, Naylor and Lot B); she also says that the parking lots are not filling up, and that spaces should be available at all times
- viii. One last question concerned the last point, as a student asked if there was a real way to know if there were parking lots that have not reached its maximum capacity; she answered this by stating that the Police Officers patrolling the areas send them updates, and that the report is usually stated to say that a certain parking lot is filled between 60% to 80% capacity
- b. Special Guest: Dr. Liza Alonzo from the Alumni Relations Department
 - i. She said, "I am your Director of Alumni Relations here at the University of Houston - Downtown, and we have our incoming Alumni Board Chair who wanted to make this one of his first priorities as he comes into office this next year starting on September 1st, and so I'm proud to introduce my friend and your Alumni Association Board Chair, Mr. Lawler Davies who wanted to come and address you folks firsthand and wants to make partnership with SGA and supportive students' one of his major goals for the next year"
 - c. Chief Justice Cubillos reset Quorum after the arrival of another Senator

5. New Business

- a. SGA Budget: Speaker of the House Torres
 - i. The Senate voted on the budget to utilize during the upcoming academic year.
 - ii. Senator Glenn motioned to vote by Ballot; Senator Sanchez seconded the motion.
 - iii. With 5 votes in favor and 1 vote against, a majority in the Senate approved the SGA Budget.
- b. Nomination and Selection of Permanent Speaker of the House: President Tatum
 - i. During this process, President Tatum presided during the selection process.
 - ii. Senator Glenn motion to nominate current Speaker to continue with his term; Senator Sandoval seconded the motion.
 - iii. Due to only having one nominee, the nominee became the permanent Speaker of the House.
 - iv. Chief Justice Cubillos swore Speaker of the House Torres in to the position.
- c. Nomination and Confirmation of New Senators: Speaker of the House Torres
 - i. Senator Sanchez motioned to present all three nominees at the same time; Senator Rios seconded the motion
 - ii. The names of the candidates are Rashel Garcia, Ilias Sotiriou, and Emerson Romero, and they wish to become a Senior Senator for the College of Science and Technology, and the last two nominees, Senators-at-Large
 - iii. Senator Sanchez motioned to vote by consensus; Senator Glenn seconded the motion and the Senate confirmed the new Senators by consensus
 - iv. Chief Justice Cubillos swore in Rashel Garcia, Ilias Sotiriou, and Emerson Romero as the newest members of the Senate

- d. Nomination and Confirmation of New Directors for the Executive Board: Speaker of the House Torres
 - i. The name of the candidate is Ruby Resendez, and she wishes to become the Director for Marketing and Public Relations
 - ii. After the Senate confirmed the candidate, Chief Justice Cubillos swore in Ruby Resendez as the new Director for Marketing and Public Relations
 - iii. It was later explained that the other nominee for a position in the executive board, Jason Allen for the position of Community Outreach, was approved by an extraordinary General Assembly that happened on August 21st. He was sworn in by Vice-president Lillie on behalf of Chief Justice Cubillos
- e. Back2School Field Day: President Tatum
 - i. The event will take place on September 3rd, in the sports field, and from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.
- f. Know your rights: Senator Aparicio and Director Herrera
 - i. The event will take place on September 11th, in A300/Buffalo room, and from 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M.
- g. Hispanic Heritage Month: Director Valle
 - i. The event will take place on October 10th, in the Mural Area and the South Deck
 - ii. The logistics of the event are still being determined.
- h. Houston Youth Voter Conference: Director Valle
 - i. The event will take place on September 20th, in various places around campus, and from 3:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.
 - ii. Details of the Event will be announced at a later General Assembly
- i. Special Guests
 - i. The last three guest (Ramiro Ojeda from Mi Familia Vota, Representatives from the United States census, and Aaron Azios) requested help from SGA in the form of support.
- 6. Open Forum
 - a. Cancelled due to time constraints
- 7. Legislative Report Time
 - a. Postponed due to time constraints
- 8. President Report Time
 - a. President Shay Tatum
 - i. She is still on the committee for the search of a new Dean of Student Activities.
- 9. Adjournment