University – Wide Senate Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2017

Atlanta Campus, Urban Life Building, Room 100; 7:34 PM

I. Call to Order: President Corey Gray 7:34 p.m.

II. Opening Call of the Roll / Quorum met with 29 out of 42 senators: Senate Clerk – Olivia Abie
(Absent: Senator Arif, Contreras-Murillo, Curry, Daniels, Hudson, Osilaja, Pachon, Iyer, Samuelson, Siam, Thompson, Wright, Yerramneni)

III. Reading and Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
Senator Barry moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of November 2, 2017 seconded by Senator Lakhani. The approval of the minutes from the previous meeting passed with 19 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

IV. Special Reports
a. Dr. Douglass Covey, Vice President for Student Affairs
   • [http://gsu.edu/Courtland](http://gsu.edu/Courtland) is where the most current information about the Courtland Street Bridge construction can be found. It is anticipated for this project to be completed by the end of December 2018. On February 19th Collins St. will be closed to pedestrian traffic and will remain closed through October 2018. The entrance to G deck at Courtland Street will be open until late April. At that time, an additional exit will be available at the Central Avenue exit to assist with exiting the deck. Full closure of the street will occur May 7 and traffic over the Courtland Street will be interrupted at Gilmer St. The loudest construction will occur in May.
   • Received additional funding to provide protected exits from SC West so that it could still be occupied throughout the project.
   • This will be a long project however, it will result in a safer and contemporary bridge.

b. Dr. Peter Lyons, Vice Provost & Dean of Perimeter College
   • In his former position he worked with Institutional Effectiveness, which consisted of looking at the way class schedules were distributed across the weekly calendar, the Registrar’s office has just implemented a new system called Ad Astra which looks at the projection of students in different pathways. To promote clarity, Perimeter College does not offer “majors” but provides “academic pathways” that lead to Associate of Science, Associate of Art degrees, career programs in nursing, radiological tech and dental hygiene.
   • Typically, the way that they create the schedule is by looking at last year’s schedule and then roll over, not helpful if students choices change or number of students changes.
• Ad Astra is used to project enrollment into the upcoming semesters and provides a report of the classes that will be needed. It is complicated since there’s 6 campuses. The way classes are scheduled is by making projections of how many sections and seats on different campus will be needed.

• Students have expressed concerns regarding availability of accounting and computer science classes. The projected workforce for the two top fields for the next 15 years are computer science and health care. It is difficult to hire computer science and accounting professors, since they need to have a research agenda and scholarship in the field. Due to the high demand for individuals with these experiences, their salary requirements are difficult for Georgia State University to match given the much lower tuition revenue generated from Perimeter College students. Other universities are also having a difficult time hiring professors in these fields.

V. Reading and Discussion of the Executive Cabinet Reports

a. Communication Director – Sai Maddali

• Working with the office of Public Relations and Marketing to create an SGA video that will be shared widely, would like the participation from senators from all campuses. In addition to that he’s working on a newsletters and tabling.

• Looking into building more multi-campus communication, sent out an email this week to all communications directors to reach cross campus communication, and use social media for events, right now he only has SGA events of the Atlanta campus, would like to add events advertised from other campuses as well, and include things as fun facts, recruitment event, join committees, cultivating students to be part of committees and then become senators or part of the executive board with a better understanding of their role as an SGA representative.

• Was sworn in last Thursday and got access to SGA’s HootSuite account (used to schedule social media posts).

• Looking into creating a promotion plan so SGA can advertise.


• So far this semester, the Alpharetta Student Government Association has had two events. This included our first coffee corner, which included a speaker that informed students about the campus carry bill. It was a successful event with about 40 students showing up and listening to the information session. They had donuts, coffee, and refreshments for the students to have a snack while listening to the speaker.

• They also had our involvement fair which was pushed back because of the snow days. They got a few students that were interested in filing the vacancies that they will have next semester due to many members either transferring downtown or to another university.
• Last Saturday, February 3rd, some members from our campus went to the Collegiate Leadership Conference at UGA and had a great time listening to the speaker and doing the activities that were planned. Now they are using their office hours to prepare for an information session that they will have on Wed., Feb. 7th and also for their next “Coffee Corner” that will be based on self-esteem and will be on Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 12pm.

• The Atlanta campus kicked off the semester with two consecutive senate meetings. The only legislation that was presented was for appointments. They have filled our one vacancy in the College of Arts and Sciences. The major topics were promotion for constituency days, the Transfer Student Mix and Mingle event and campus safety.
• Continued efforts are being put into finals week, SGA month and constituency days. This semester they have combined the constituency days into two days. This has helped with planning and getting students to the event. Promotion is ready, as it has posting on social media and have handbills.
• There have been recent concerns from students regarding campus safety and the ad hoc committee met last week to discuss the issue with the Georgia State Police Department.
• He congratulated the transfer liaisons for their hard work for the “Transfer Student Mix and Mingle”. The event included games, networking, activities, free SWAG and collaborations from multiple student organizations.
• Congratulations to Sai Maddali for being appointed as the Communications Director. He is off to a great start and we’re happy to have him in this position.”

d. Report of the Clarkston campus - EVP Christin Smith
• This past month has been very productive for on the Clarkston campus. They’ve had three productive meetings so far and two events on campus. The first event was the Involvement Fair on February 1st where we accumulated more than 50 signatures for our table and on the Panther Involvement Network for those who wanted to join a committee. Then, they had their survey table on this past Monday where they served popcorn to those who completed our Transportation at their Event survey; both with over 120 signatures!
• Unfortunately, they had a few senators resign this month; however, they have some very excited and determined candidates that are willing to serve on their team.
• The majority of the Clarkston team, along with a few of our new candidates, attended the Collegiate Leadership Conference at the University of Georgia where they gained an even deeper understanding of what it means to lead in our positions. The team came back refreshed and ready to get to work, including our new Finance Director.
e. **Report of the Decatur campus - EVP Briana Stanley**
   - Attended all necessary trainings for SAF Deliberations
   - Student representative for the Executive Committee for Perimeter
   - Attended UGA’s 22nd Collegiate Leadership conference
   - Things to come: -SGA Celebrates Black History with the movie showing of Detroit
   - First Sexual Assault Prevention committee meeting via WebEx
   - AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington D.C.

   - During Dunwoody Senate spring semester they had “Ask Me” booths, a “Dunwoody Talk” as well as appointing a new senator and finance director. Senator of Government of Affairs Dhakal introduced the “Ask Me” booth idea to allow SGA to interact with students and make their first week back great. They also distributed GSU gear which included SGA bags and agendas. Their first “Dunwoody Talk” topic was Department and You. Fifty students attended and had the opportunity to meet their departments and learn about their campus.
   - Dunwoody Senate also held two information session for elections. One information session was held on Thursday, February 2 lead by Speaker Fye. The second information session was held as a Dunwoody Talk on Monday, February 5th. This event was led by Communication Director Holsey.
   - The Dunwoody Senate appointed a new Finance Director Daniel Mansour and Senator of Student Services Dawnyale Davis. Communication Director Holsey has been visiting Perimeter Class Orientation (PCO) to inform students about SGA election and campus life. Speaker Fye has also been visiting political sciences and history classes to inform students about the upcoming SGA election.
   - EVP Calixte is leading a preventing sexual assault campaign on February 27th. This event is a part of his “We Care” campaign with the goal of bringing awareness and information about sexual assault and mental health.

g. **Report of the Newton Campus – EVP Oundo**
   - The Newton Campus has had a promising start to the semester. January 19, 2018, was SGA’s first senate meeting for the semester.
   - SGA was able to confirm Kasey Carroll as the new Communications Director. The meeting also encouraged fellow SGA officers to have strong development within their initiatives.
The Senate is eager to hear the voice of Georgia State's student body in regards to the campus surveys. They are looking forward to find new ways to serve the student body better.

Friday, January 26, 2018, was Newton SGA's official training for the SAF Budget hearing. Tuesday, January 30, 2018, SGA participated in the club fair. During this time, the growth of positive involvement for future SGA leaders transpired. Friday, February 9, 2018, Newton successfully had deliberations and confirmation of the FY19 SAF Budget.

As of the beginning of February 2018, Newton campus is seeking to host a blood drive to engage and give back to the community. They seek every day at Newton to be a day of progress, and they are looking forward to the work ahead of them this semester.

VI. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

a. Campus Safety – Senator Franklin Patterson, Atlanta campus: “So far we have been trying to get established and get up and running. We had our first University-Wide meeting during the second week of January with just the SGA representatives to discuss the issues that have been brought to us by students; which include: smoking of any items on campus, police availability, panther ambassadors, and more. Recently, we sat down with Sergeant Lewis for our second University-wide meeting. During the meeting we discussed the recent crimes on campus and what can be done, events coming up, and the purpose of the committee. We are currently working on a safety week with GSUPD and on collaboration events where SGA will be allowed to table. The next meeting might possibly be held on the Decatur campus at 12 PM.”

b. Post Consolidation – Senator Ariana Roberts, Atlanta campus: “The Post- Consolidation Concerns committee has had a total of two meetings; one was on December 1, 2017 and the other was on January 26, 2018. At the December 1, 2017 meeting we established the meeting schedule for spring semester, and established Ariana Roberts as the chair of the committee. At that meeting we also discussed different aspects of student government that have changed as a result of the consolidation, and what could be done to improve those issues. At the January 26, 2018 meeting the committee chose Franklin Patterson as its vice chair, and primarily discussed the issue of communicating university wide changes that impact perimeter students to perimeter campus senate and executive board members. If the information describing university wide changes were given to perimeter campus senate they would relay that information to fellow students on perimeter campuses. To resolve this issue the idea of Post Consolidation Reports and University Wide Senate meetings was discussed, and the chair will speak to Advisor Gail Sutton to see if it is possible, and what steps need to be taken to implement it.”

c. Sexual Assault Prevention – EVP Briana Stanley, Decatur campus: No report being that they have not met yet. Their first meeting will be held on Feb. 16 at 1:30 PM via Webex.
VII. University Senate Committee Reports-NONE

VIII. Old Business
   a. University-Wide Senate Committee Appointments
      • Alternate committee budget: Sai Maddali
      • Student life committee 12-1:30 on Thursdays: Senator Delitz and Valezquez and removal of Senator Barry
      • University Senate committee Thursday 3-4:30pm: Senators Davis, Watson, Lakhani, Shaquille, Wright.

IX. New Business
   a. Swearing in of new Senators and Appointees - The swearing of new Senators and Appointees were tabled to next meeting due to the absence of SJB Liaison present at the meeting.
   
   b. 88-UWB-11: A Bill to Amend the Election Code Regarding Executive Races
      • This bill was introduced by Senator Grand Jean and written by President Gray.
      • A candidate must receive a vote count exceeding 10 percent than the other candidates to be declared the winner of that race.
      • Senator King called the question.
      • The motion was struck by President Gray
      • Senator Siemer moved to discuss the bill for 2 minutes, seconded by Senator Swift.
      • President gray amended the bill to strike 10% and replace it with 15%
      • Senator Wright called the question, the bill passed with 23 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 against
      • This bill won’t take effect until next year 2019-2020.
   
   c. 88-UWB-RQ-Q1: A Special Order to Place a Constitutional Amendment on the Spring Election Ballot
      • Remove section B to the constitution and added to the bylaws.
      • Senator Watson called the question
      • The bill passed with 20 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.
   
   d. 88th Administration Mid-Year Report
      • Senator Swift moved to take a 5-minute break to read the 88th Administration Mid-Year Report seconded by senator Lakhani
      • Senator Delitz moved to discuss the motion for 5 minutes, seconded by senator Siemer
      • Friendly amendment by Senator Siemer: handed out over a 1,000 Panther kits
      • Friendly amendment by Senator Wright: Senator Wright was senator of the month for the Clarkston campus and was also featured in the signal.
      • Friendly amendment by Senator Watson: EVP Calixte and Senator Watson had a meeting with The Signal to talk about the improvement in dinning services.
Senator Grand-Jean moved to extend the minutes for 4 minutes, seconded by Senator Dakhal.
President Gray informed that all Senators must send their headshot by Monday noon and EVP’s by Tuesday at 5PM.
Senator Cain moved to end discussion early, seconded by Senator Wright.

X. President’s Report, Corey Gray

Updates from the University Administrative Council meeting: Today is the 18th day of the legislative term. Almost at the midpoint of legislative term, which is 40 days. This upcoming year is the election year, so it is very big year for senators and representatives to push for their initiatives. It can be both progressive and problematic since many topics and issues are being discussed.

The $5.8 million that we requested for Georgia State Convocation Center has passed to House and is currently in the Senate for approval.
GSU is also seeking another 5 million from the budget for renovations to library plaza, and Kell Hall. It hasn’t passed yet.
Two bills that caught his eyes are the House Bill 51, regarding Title 9 and sexual assault, and Senate Bill 339. HB 51 is currently "dead" and will not moving out of committee. The author and the committee chair have both decided that it will not moving forward which is great news.
Senate Bill 339 is about free speech, requiring the Board of Regents to develop and adopt a policy regarding free speech on college campuses. This can be a problematic bill as it will be costly for the university to implement.
Commencement will be held at the Georgia State Stadium. President Gray recognized Speaker of the Atlanta Senate Jones, Senator Cruz-Hernandez, and Senator Patterson for their work and willingness to meet University President Becker twice to discuss commencement. They drafted a survey that was sent to all graduating student. They got 2,032 students (40%) to participate in the survey with 75.6% of those students wanting to have commencement at the stadium.
Commencement will be celebrated in a three-day format on May 9, May 10, and May 11 all at 7 p.m. On May 11, Perimeter College will be graduating with Atlanta students at the stadium.
"Survey Wars" are underway and SGA is currently at 70 responses with more than 20 individuals interested in getting involved with SGA! The top priority list from students for SGA to address are academic advising, textbook services, counselling services, and food services. As a reminder, SGA goal is to reach between 750-1,000 submissions so let's be proactive in our mobility approach. There’s only about two more weeks left to get survey submissions, so please send the survey to all your classmates, your friends, your organizations, and everyone you know who is a part of our Panther family. The surveys can be found on the Panther Involvement Network. The Atlanta Campus is leading the Survey Wars with 36 responses, the second place is Dunwoody campus with 20 responses.
President Gray is working on a number of initiatives to complete all our his "promises" he ran on during the 2017 election. His goal is to be completed by May 1.

He is working with Dr. Covey to have the "open textbook alliance" on campus to provide free and discounted textbook books to students.

-He is also advocating for sexual assault prevention by working with Dean Gillespie and Dean Holloman provide an intervention guide called "Not on My Watch," which is a comic strip book about bystander intervention, to every student. He is also working with Campus Services and the Panther Card office to add the sexual assault hotline and suicide prevention number in the back of the Panther cards.

He is working with dining services to bring more vegan and vegetarian options in all of the campuses and is working on the transportation initiatives on the Perimeter and Atlanta campuses to provide efficiency and great service to our students.

The bylaws meeting will be starting on February 9 and on February 23 while conducting mobile office hours.

The last University-Wide Senate meeting will be on March 29 with President Becker.

The GSU Players will be presenting “Psycho Beach Party” by Charles Busch from February 15-17 at 8pm in Dahlberg Hall. The admission is $10, however SGA senate is invited for free. Email gsuplayers@gmail.com if you want to attend.

Perimeter College Theatre Arts Guild will present “Lucky Stiff” at Georgia State University’s Clarkston campus beginning Feb. 9. Speaker Fye from Dunwoody will be part of the play so support him.

President Gray encouraged senators that are eligible to run for reelection, as SGA need people who understand the mission of SGA to keep continuing its work around campus.

SGA’s work doesn’t cease until May 3, which is the inauguration for the 89th administration.

President Gray invited the senate to stand up and read an oath that he wrote regarding their commitment to fulfill their responsibilities until the ends of their terms.

XI. Closing Remarks—NONE
   a. Closing Call of the Roll, Senate Clerk Olivia Abie
      (Absent: Senator Arif, Contreras-Murillo, Curry, Daniels, Hudson, Osilaja, Pachon, Iyer, Samuelson, Siam, Thompson, Wright, Yerramneni)

XII. Adjournment and Fellowship
Senator Patterson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32PM, seconded by Senator Grand Jean. The motion passed with 24 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions.