

Atlanta Senate Meeting Minutes Thursday March 2, 2017

- I. **Call to Order: Speaker Akomas at 7:23 pm**
- II. **Opening Call of the Roll / Determination of Quorum : Senate Clerk Wright (Quorum achieved)**
Attendance: absent → Director Smith (tardy), SJB Akomas, SJB Jackson, SJB Richards, Senator Kruss, Senator Miller, Senator Nguyen, Senator King, Liaison Moore, Senator Nwoke, Liaison Grand-Jean, Liaison Wragg
- III. **Reading & Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting**
All in favor. No abstentions. Minutes approved.
- IV. **Special Reports**
 - a. **University Representatives wishing to address the Senate**
 - i. **Markessa Walker & Maxwell Turner – Research Presentation**
 - Georgia State purchased Turner field for \$30,000,000 from Fulton County.
 - CBA asks for 40% of contracts for Turner Field to be done through minorities and small buildings.
 - Panther Holdings is assigning portions of the property to different entities (Carter, Board of Regents, GSU). Property is outlined to same things in the sale agreement.
 - Properties being assigned to Carter. USAS Wants Georgia State to sign CBA. Asking for program for development that will help with rainwater problem, as well as a great number of other programs.
 - USAS is working with city of Atlanta to receive different benefits. Percentage of revenue from all small businesses, to benefit the community. CBA primarily chartering GSU.
 - Sales agreement signed August 1, 2016.
 - USAS asking for seat at the table to discuss CBA. Working on resolution.
 - Panther holdings LLC is not associated with Carter Development
 - Addressed to Dale Palmer, not President Becker, and if even so it would correlate to Walter T. Massey not the President.
 - Will email out sales agreement to senators.
 - Ad Hoc committee has not met.
 - There's no concrete evidence that shows that CBA's effectively work.
 - Goal is not to prove USAS wrong but to explore the validity of the claims made by individuals.
 - ii. **Open Forum with the Executive Board**
 1. **Work Session with Committees.**
Purpose of open forum so that everyone can voice their concerns and give constructive criticism.
Senator Rodriguez - Rushing during senate meetings. There's an inconsistency with throwing things at Ad Hoc committee before letting everyone fully express their opinions. Committee reports seem too long
Senator Gray - In meetings, committee reports should be sent in advance (before meetings) so that everyone is aware. Meetings should focus on business and student forum.
Senator Rodriguez - Consider in every other meeting, doing Exec/committee reports
Senator Davies - Improve communication. It should be required that everyone checks their email.
Liaison Wragg - Each committee has platform and carry it out. Committees need to come together and collaborate to improve SGA.
Communication Director Nguyen - Meetings are to enforce everyone's purpose and vision. There needs to be more initiative and step up to create platform. Everyone should focus on their individual platform.
Speaker Pro-Tempore Mohamed
 - Election applications due February 24.
 - Because of lack of applications, application deadline extended until March 3 at 5pm.
 - All Graduate senator positions available (at least 1 seat) except College of Law. Speaker of Senate position application extended until March 3 at 5pm.

- Undergraduate senate application extended until March 3 at 5pm- RCB and Nursing
- Full list of candidates will be available by next week.

Speaker Akomas- Continue e-board presentation? - All in favor. No abstentions.

Senator Gordon: Would like SGA to be more fun and interactive.

Speaker Akomas: Main purpose is to advocate for student body, not be social

Senator Grand-Jean: Maybe a dinner or something where students can come.

EVP Southwell: Great ideas, but we took big cut last year and don't have money for a lot of those activities. We should talk about what we've done and not talk about what we should do.

Constructive criticism can be useful.

Senator Gray: Students run their campaigns with great ideas. There are lot of walls in place which can stop people from putting those things in place. Students run away because the purpose is to make change but continue to get stopped.

EVP Southwell: It is hard to carry out a lot of things, have to jump through a lot of hoops. E-board meetings to tell students about their experiences and initiatives they put into place and give them advice on the best ways to do.

Senator Owens: People should be held accountable to the things they say when they run. Why are there so many loops to passing a resolution? Bills are complex, set up as big legal document and you have to cover your bases.

Communications Director Nguyen: You have to do proper research and have the logistics. If you want to see something to happen, you have to motivate your senators to make it happen. I think we should pass the microwave resolution. It is not a bill.

Senator Batista-Vargas- Persistency is important. If you're going to write bills and/or resolutions, you need to be persistent. It's going to take time.

Liaison Grand-Jean: We have to carry out our duties as senators. Make rest of the year a great one.

b. Student Forum (Students wishing to address the Senate) - None

c. Two minute speeches by members of the Senate – None

V. Old Business - None

VI. New Business

a. Microwave Resolution – Sen. Corey Gray.

- 27,000 commuter students at Georgia State.
- Conducted research and in every major academic building there's no more than 2 microwaves in each building.
- 1 microwave per 1,000 commuter students= total of 27 microwaves.
- If administration does not fund microwaves, bill proposed for SGA to fund microwaves.
- Will be sent to President and Director of Campus Services and Administration.

Senator Batista-Vargas: What would be the finances?

Senator Gray: Pricing break down is about \$200 each

Senator Scales: After recommendation to admin, whose fund will that come out of?

Senator Gray: Student services

Senator Batista-Vargas: SGA budget cut drastically. \$1,000 more, still very low. We have contract with app (Tradition Keeper) paying \$5,000 so I would personally recommend not saying SGA will fund because we have contract with app.

EVP Southwell: Contract ends the end of next year.

Senator Hall: We can somehow design stickers to promote SGA on microwaves.

How much do we have in budget?

Director Smith: There's several budgets; senate budget category, operational budget, etc. I don't know which budget the microwave would fall under.

Senator Gray: I want to increase number of microwaves and make them available to students.

Senator Wami: I move to table this discussion to next Thursday's meeting.

Senator Gray: I object. Would like to move it to Student Services committee. Committee can work on fine tuning in regards to details.

President Onwuzuruike: I recommend going to Student Services committee and having them review.

Senator Batista-Vargas: Maybe look at \$200 for one. Reword resolution so it's not definite. \$1,000 a lot from student services. "If budget allows, SGA can buy certain amount."

Senator Wami tables to move discussion to next ATL senate meeting; in 2 weeks.

Senator Martinez motions to table it to student services. It is properly seconded and passes unanimously. (All in favor. No abstentions.)

VII. Closing Remarks

a. Comments and announcements of the officers

Senator Scales - Cat Nap Initiative next week

b. Executive Vice President's Report, EVP Southwell - None

c. Closing Call of the Roll, Senate Clerk Wright

Attendance (absent) → SJB Akomas, SJB Jackson, SJB Richards, Senator Nwoke, Senator Kruss, Senator Miller, Senator King, Senator Nguyen, Liaison Moore

VIII. Adjournment at 8:35 pm