



## SGA Atlanta Senate Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 27, 2016

- I. **Call to Order: Speaker Blessing Akomas at 7:19 p.m.**
- II. **Opening Call of the Roll** (Quorum Achieved)
  - a. Attendance: absent → Arinzechukwu Akomas, Chandler Harper, Nwenekanma Wami, Samantha Krauss, Alexis Richardson, Joya Davies, Magie Huynh
- III. **Reading & Approval of the minutes** from the October 13, 2016 meeting
  - a. Motion to approve minutes of 10/13/16 Atlanta Senate Meeting made by Senator Yemi; Seconded by Galvis. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- IV. **Special Reports**
  - a. **University Representatives** wishing to address the Senate
    - i. My101 Representatives Jacob Little and Ladi Fatade explain the new launch of app My101. The app launched 8 weeks ago and has garnered more than 3,000 students thus far. App is equipped with polling capabilities, events on campus and around Atlanta have groups. It is a GroupMe-like experience but with classes as well as organizations and "Class of..." groups. Any questions?
      1. Senator Nwoke: Is there a Report of Use feature? Representative: Yes
      2. Senator Batista-Vargas: Is there a way to kick students out of groups or to block them? Representative: Yes
      3. Senator Nwoke: Is there a message deletion capability? Representative: No.
    - ii. Sustainability Fee Committee representative Jenni Asman gave a call for proposals for sustainability fee (\$3.00 Student Fee That goes towards students/faculty/staff proposals). Wants SGA representatives to join the fee committee (Important Dates: Dec. 2 from 1-2pm to vote on proposals; Dec. 5 tentative meeting; if you are the first to agree you will get a free gift basket). Any questions contact her: jasman@gsu.edu
    - iii. USAS representatives Patricio Brown and Sherise Brown came to express concern over Turner Field property to our university. "SGA and students have the opportunity to shape what Atlanta looks like for the future."
      1. Patricio Brown: Tells the story that hasn't been told: Generational developments have changed Peoplestown for decades. Resident displacement followed (1996 displaced >10,000); GSU students have gotten involved → Community Benefit Agreement will include community opinions and ideas and benefit it as well. Residents want innovative infrastructure with integration ideals, to prevent displacement and ensure economic security to benefit residents. Representatives are here to ask SGA to vote on a resolution that commits the university and Becker to an agreement with these residents.
      2. Sherise Brown – Resident: The community has seen major development before. However no there has been no resident voice, why do residents want a CBA: Accountability (needs to ensure promised plans that WILL happen). They are pro-development but want to make sure that resident's voices are heard. "Community over Commodity"

- b. **Student Forum** students wishing to address the Senate
  - i. Justin Christan - USASS; Progressive Alliance: I cannot let my tuition dollars go towards violence and displacement. This community has seen developments come up and community be wiped away with no voice in the matter. We need to ensure communities have inclusion; therefore he asks SGA as representatives of student body to ensure students' rights are met and do what is your duty to ensure we are not a part of this narrative that displaces these residents.
  - ii. Two minute speeches by members of the Senate – none

## V. **Executive Cabinet Reports**

- a. Report of the Communications Director, Director Nguyen
  - i. SGA Polos: Atlanta campus will be finalized tomorrow (size paper going around); Perimeter sizes were reported previously.
  - ii. SGA Now: template is starting to be made; November 28 deadline to be created
  - iii. Tabling: Sign-up sheet available; this will create more brand awareness for SGA (lead to our goal of brand awareness and transparency), etc.
- b. Report of the Finance Director, Director Smith
  - i. No recent changes on SGA spending
  - ii. Personnel Budgets have been added
- c. Report of the Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Akomas
  - i. Senator Participation: “Your job doesn’t end with attending these meetings but also going out into the community to increase brand awareness. Our job is to let them know.” Need senator participation to ensure this responsibility is carried out.
  - ii. Email sent out to head senators: still waiting for response → need to hold each other accountable.
  - iii. Constituents Days for each college: still waiting on what head senators to confirm they are working on this (Wednesday of next week is deadline)
  - iv. SGA Now: (pamphlet to create awareness on campus) Volunteers needed for SGA Now: (application on Orgsync) Marketing, Photography, Writers, etc.

## VI. **University Senate Committee Reports**

- a. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Committee Chair Wami - No report
- b. Report of the Student Life Committee Chair, Committee Chair Batista – Vargas
  - i. Golf Cart entry in Homecoming parade: Came out well; special shout out to Usra, keep in mind to volunteer for other things like this (liaisons and senators!)
  - ii. Co-Sponsorship: 3 events coming up (volunteers needed)
    - 1. November 3: 5 – 8 pm “Greatest Minds Society” student forum → email will be sent out (SGA shouldn’t co-sponsor and then not turn out for the event itself)
      - Yemi from 6-8pm
  - iii. Working with Senator Moreno on DACA Resolution
- c. Report of the Student Services Committee Chair, Committee Chair Scales
  - i. Working on Project CatNap: He and Usra met with David Murkison to speak about available Student Center rooms for trial run during finals, how to reserve, how to abide by rules, etc.
  - ii. Panther Pantry can collection project still going on.

## VII. **Old Business**

- a. Confirmation of Senate, Freshman and Transfer Liaison Candidates
  - i. Motion to affirm all new representatives discussed at previous meeting by Senator Yemi; Senator Galvis seconded. All in favor.
  - ii. Justice Akomas swore in all appointees.

## VIII. New Business

- a. Nomination and Confirmation of additional Transfer Liaison candidate: Trayonna Smalls:
  - i. Motion to confirm candidate by Senator Batista-Vargas; Senator Nwoke seconded; 16 in favor; 0 nays; 0 abstentions
- b. DACA Resolution – Senator Moreno: Wants to bring awareness to this issue. A little background→Last Year a similar resolution was passed and while SGA took a position, the current resolution has a plan of action and ability to do something more physical. Senator Moreno was able to communicate/come in contact with Angel/Laura from last meeting as well as Freedom University students→DACA/undocumented students. Contradictions of beliefs for the Board of Regents is evident and this needs to be changed. Please support this resolution.
  - i. Motion to discuss by Senator Yemi; Senator Gray seconded. All in favor.
    1. Vashi: Very detailed, but no plan of action
    2. Moreno: At the very end in bold
    3. Vashi: not sure how that will help is it supposed to bring attention or actually solve?
    4. Moreno: “Still working on it, nothing is set in stone; but the resolution will help let it be known, also by building relationships with Freedom University through a week long event which will be a week of different daily events that bring awareness to this issue and standing in solidarity with students.
    5. Senator Gray: Section 1→only one quotation at end; Section 2: has there been any reaching out to other top universities to see if alliance can be built?
    6. Moreno: After resolution is passed we will
    7. Moore: Some Law students and other students have scheduled sit-ins and he wants to know if meetings will be created with Becker
    8. Shamari: EVPs and President will be attending meeting with Becker next week; more info will follow
    9. Lavallee: FYI if we are voting today, Law school will have to abstain until further information from school is given
    10. Thano Paris: This is a strategic time to be raising this issue and this is saying something in itself if Becker and the Board of Regents are getting meeting requests about this.
    11. Galvis: Georgia State is a leading research university and we are the most diverse - by preventing these students from attending it is negating our reputation.
  - ii. Motion to extend discussion by Senator Garner; Senator Yemi seconded. All in favor.
    1. Moore: What is the stage of second lawsuit anyone?
    2. Thano Paris: Previous lawsuit has been revised and new, stronger one created.
    3. Nguyen: We are not elected officials but this document represents the impact we have on others; I would like to see us pass this because our voices are powerful and we can make a difference; they will have more opportunities.
    4. Bolbi: I move for diversity; this situation against DACA students is disrespectful; not fair. Our school is acceptable, nice and if we are standing for our reputation then we will vote for this.
  - iii. Point of Information – Usra: A quotation mark should be at beginning before Georgia.
    1. Senator Moreno accepts the edit
  - iv. Motion to vote on the resolution by Senator Batista-Vargas; Scales seconded.
    1. 20 in favor - 0 nay - 2 abstentions (Resolution has passed)

## IX. Closing Remarks

- a. Comments and announcements of the officers - none
- b. Executive Vice President’s Report, EVP Southwell
  - i. Round of Applause for Senator Moreno: Sebastian set framework Sarah took it and ran with it

- ii. 6 EVPs and President will meet with Becker next week: 2 things on agenda: DACA AND Turner Field.
  - i. He is slightly disappointed that residents haven't been addressed and he believes President Becker needs to address them. He wants to know why he hasn't. He owes these people an explanation; CBA is a great thing that ensures that things will happen and agreement is mutual.
- iii. SAFC meeting tomorrow at 2 pm (Student Rec Meeting Room)
- iv. Thanks for a great Homecoming week. Congrats to Bolbi & A. Akomas
- v. Lastly, slight adjustment to Election Commission schedule: Senate has to confirm new election committee with 2/3 vote at Dec. 1 meeting. Applications will be available Nov. 4 through Nov. 18.
- vi. Ad Hoc Committee: group did meet → Grad and Law Students have decided to move forward separately to change Law School positions from senator to liaisons. Graduate & professional students working on a different initiative.
- vii. Next Meeting: Nov. 10
- c. Closing Call of the Roll
  - i. Attendance: absent → Chandler Harper, Nwenekanma Wami, Samantha Krauss, Alexis Richardson, 7. Tiffany Ezeokonkwo, Maxwell Turner

X. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn meeting by Senator Gray; Senator Nwoke seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.