

Atlanta Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2016

- I. **Call to Order: Speaker Blessing Akomas at 7:19 p.m.**
- II. **Opening Call of the Roll** (Quorum Achieved)
Attendance: absent→ Lindsey Smith, Arinzechukwu Akomas, Chandler Harper, Kevin Martinez, Bolbi Liu, Brian Nguyen, Tiffany Ezeokonkwo and Markeesa Walker
- III. **Reading & Approval of the minutes** from the October 27, 2016 meeting
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Myles Brown. Senator Gray seconds. All in favor. No abstentions – No nays. Minutes approved.
- IV. **Special Reports**
 - a. University Representatives wishing to address the Senate - None
 - b. Student Forum (Students wishing to address the Senate) - None
 - c. Two minute speeches by members of the Senate
 - i. Senator Vashi : Ad-Hoc Committee Report
 - Ad Hoc committee formed to fix issue of time for Law and Grad students. However the representatives deviated on solutions so Grad students are moving on with their own initiative.
 - Vashi met with Gail and Boyd on Tuesday to amend bylaws to have an apportioned amount of available seats for graduate students to be a part of SGA
 - A survey will be sent to all graduate students to gauge their interest in apportioned seats and whether or not they would be interested in running for election. Requests students to advocate within their colleges and schools to TAs and professors to make sure they are aware that graduate students can be elected in SGA and that they fill out the survey if they receive it.
- V. **Executive Cabinet Reports**
 - a. Report of the Communications Director, Director Nguyen
 - Polos have been ordered will arrive next week (possibly)
 - Mugs are being given out at tabling and Liaison Grand-Jean took 4 boxes to Piedmont North
 - Liaisons on committee will take charge of senators (i.e. Maxwell Turner contacted Senators about attending tabling)
 - SGA Now: need to meet with Dr. Covey because it is a publication that needs approval by VP of Student Affairs
 - b. Report of the Finance Director, Director Smith – None
 - c. Report of the Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Akomas
 - SGA Now application has been live for a week now
 - Volunteers still needed

VI. University Senate Committee Reports

- a. Report of the Academic Affairs Committee Chair, Committee Chair Wami
 - Panther Kit items have been ordered
 - Volunteers needed (Blessing will send out a document so you can sign up to volunteer)
 - Still working on Academic Advisement initiative for each major.
- b. Report of the Student Life Committee Chair, Committee Chair Batista – Vargas
 - Senator Rodrigues in place of Chair Batista-Vargas
 - Thanks for attending watch party it was very successful
 - Dates for co-sponsorship meetings will be sent out so please attend them to have SGA representation there.
 - Gender-inclusiveness bill update: Expanding number of bathrooms on campus→ survey initiated to LGBTQIQ community to see if there is any interest
- c. Report of the Student Services Committee Chair, Committee Chair Scales
 - Cat Nap meeting with David Murkison has led to approval for initial cat nap room for finals.
 - Only need to get mats and other supplies to finish it off.
 - Clean up around GSU is being organized→Facility management is in the process of being contacted to see proper way to initiate this.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business

- a. Nomination and Confirmation of Transfer Liaisons – Postponed due to absence of SJB Liaison
- b. College of Law Bill: Senator Moore, Senator Lavallee
 - Bill written to guarantee College of Law participation. As a way to make it fair for everyone we found it more effective to be non-voting members in order to continue to participate in SGA.
 - Senator Gray moves to discuss. Senator Wami seconds. All in favor. 0 abstentions – 0 nays.
 - Senator Nwoke: If we use 'or Senators' then the same issues arise. I think that all liaisons should be required to attend meetings.
 - Speaker Akomas: Their schedules do not align so the ability for one liaison to come instead of all is better than none.
 - Senator Nwoke: Then in that case the senator's portion of Section 3 does not apply.
 - Senator Moore: It will be completely up to SBA to decide whether they are going to be a Senator or a liaison.
 - Senator Nwoke/Speaker Akomas: That should be added
 - Senator Roby: We should take into account that they are trying to be involved.
 - Senator Lavallee: Some years we may only have one person to run for the position.
 - Senator Scales: What if your liaison actually makes all of our meetings could they switch to be a Senator as well.
 - Senator Moore: I don't see that language in there but our understanding is that SBA will dictate the meeting where the representatives will choose.
 - Senator Gray: What is your ideal image for the liaison role?

- Senator Moore: To still have a voice for our College of Law student body as well as representation and a voice to advocate what happens in our SBA board.
 - Senator Nwoke moves to extend discussion for two minutes. Getty seconds. All in favor.
 - EVP Southwell: You all have to get approval from your SBA to even vote on important legislation o the liaison position for law students is a good idea.
 - Director Nguyen: I agree with SBA being a sovereign entity that dictates their position. This can also create change in the future. Perhaps with the addition of RHA liaisons, Athletic liaisons, etc.
 - Senator Okanlawon: How could we give back to the SBA?
 - Senator Moore: That is applicable to subsection G. Most of the discussion with student orgs are catered to law students. Sometimes we branch out to other organizations and your assistance with those events is needed.
 - Speaker Akomas: Correction→ You state that they are non-voting members but I would say that to be more specific: If they choose to be Senators then they need to abide by the rules of regular senators.
 - Point of Information: Advisor Beckwith→ You need to follow Robert’s Rules of Order to amend this legislation in order to pass it.
 - Senator Gray moves to table until the end of the meeting. Senator Wami seconds. All in favor. 0 nays – 0 abstentions.
- c. Senate Development
- Senate breaks into individual groups to participate in Senate Development.
- d. Senate Discussion
- Members reconvene for discussion.
 - Senator Galvis comments how this strengthens the bond between the executive board and the senate.

IX. Closing Remarks

- a. Voting on College of Law Bill.
- Senator Moore rereads document with edits.
 - Senator Wami moved to vote. Senator Gray seconded. All in favor. 0 abstentions – 0 against. Bill passes.
- b. Executive Vice President’s Report, EVP Southwell
- Executive board members met with USASS to give them the opportunity to talk about Turner Field subjects. Their concerns is that President Becker has not been understanding of the community. They want community benefits and advocacy to ensure changes in area don’t affect residents.
 - Asked how they’ve gotten in contact with Dr. Becker to voice opinion. They wrote in, attended Board of Regents
 - Dr. Becker finally agreed to meet with them after they attended Alumni meeting.
 - In meeting with Dr. Becker Executive Board spoke with Dr. Becker who explained how a lot of the things that are listed in their CBA is impossible for GSU. (i.e. fund wanted cannot be funded because student tuition will go up)
 - They are in contact with elected officials in the area and they are not displacing anyone. The potential gentrification of the area is unfortunate but we cannot pay their increased taxes

- Wednesday meeting was cancelled and want to put them in contact with individuals in government that they can speak with.
- Gave resolution for DACA and he said he was on board that disallowed DACA students to attend GSU, UGA, etc.
- He said he was *for* undocumented students however the changes still moved forward. He did not foresee this changing any time soon.
- The legislation was given to him and the executive board ensured he heard the student's opinions.
- Construction on Courtland Street Bridge will begin next semester and last two years.
- Point of information – Boyd: Pieces of bridge has been falling and the construction is necessary. The city will close Courtland Street and Decatur and Gilmer will be open, but we are aware of difficulty for students and campus.
- GSU was approved to purchase Turner Field, plans for the stadium are on the website.
- Senator of the Month is Sarah Moreno: She did a great job with the DACA resolution and working with Freedom University was great.
- Georgia State graduation at Georgia Tech will be May 8th and May 9th and commencement activities will take place in ballroom. This was previously supposed to be the day that our inauguration happened. Wednesday May 10th in Ballroom, Wednesday May 3rd – Friday May 5th are the options for our inauguration.
- Campus safety week is November 14th through 18th. The Campus Safety Walk will begin at Piedmont North on Monday November 14th at 5pm so SGA representatives will be needed.
- Carly has left; her position will be filled with a temp position so if you want to be a part of the input for the hiring of the permanent position then let Shamari know. Interview dates are not available yet.
- Election Commission applications are open so sign up for it. Positions will be selected by Gail, Boyd and an SJB representatives.
- Senator Moore: Is there any word from Freedom University on what they are doing to continue their fight?
- Senator Nguyen: I feel compelled to talk about the issues that affect the ones that I love. As an advocate I was invited to reach out and see what their fight is about. DACA protests were particularly important for me because I see these people. Sarah told me personally that they about the way deportation affects others. Wants to see us be more active in this cause.

X. Closing Call of the Roll

Attendance: absent → Lindsey Smith, Arinzechukwu Akomas, Chandler Harper, Kevin Martinez, Bolbi Liu, Brian Nguyen, Tiffany Ezeokonkwo and Markeesa Walker

XI. Adjournment

Senator Gray moves to second. Senator Getty seconds. All in favor. 0 abstentions – 0 nays