

**SGA Atlanta Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

- I. **Call to Order by Speaker Blessing Akomas**
- II. **Opening Call of the Roll** (Quorum achieved)
  - a. Attendance: absent → Juan Galvis, Erin Gardner, Chelsea Gordon, Chandler Harper, Jose Mendez, Jacob Hill, Chanel Smith, Ngocthy (Magie) Huynh, Gelila Kebede
  - b. The following senators have been removed from office due to attendance records: Jose Mendez (A & S), Jacob Hill (COE), Chanel Smith (COE).
- III. **Reading & Approval of the minutes** from the Sept. 15, 2016 meeting.
  - a. Motion to approve minutes by Senator Mohamed. Second by Senator Wami.
  - b. All in favor. Minutes Approved as stated.
- IV. **Special Reports:**
  - a. **DACA Representatives** from Freedom University addressed the Senate about the issue.
    - i. Laura Emiko Soltis and Angel Almora as well as students and representatives urged SGA to help support legislation against ban (BOR Policy 4.3.4 and 4.1.6) on undocumented students as well as to help actively fight the ban.
    - ii. 420 undocumented students on satellite campuses here at Georgia State University
    - iii. EVP Shamari Southwell commented on the issue:
      1. Board of Regents 4.1.6/4.3.4 doesn't allow undocumented or DACA students to attend any USG research universities (GSU, UGA, etc.) they were permitted to attend Georgia Perimeter College but not Georgia State.
      2. There is a current lawsuit going on against Board of Regents (2<sup>nd</sup> lawsuit)
      3. As representatives of the student body, he feels as though it is in our best interest to fight for these students.
      4. Legislation is in development and will be spoken about later in the meeting.
  - b. **Student Forum (Students wishing to address the Senate):**
    - i. USASS – encourages SGA to stand with DACA students to fight the Board of Regents—and to uphold the rights of academically qualified undocumented students' right to education.
- V. **Executive Cabinet Reports**
  - a. **Report of the Communications Director** Anthony Nguyen
    - i. Thanks to the DACA students and representatives for sharing their information
    - ii. Acknowledgement of the Homecoming Court finalists who are senators
    - iii. Shared information on movement to get rid of mugs (student orgs may contact SGA to get a box of mugs for distribution to enrolled Atlanta Georgia State students if needed). Anthony contacted Jeff Benson as well as Spotlight and RHA for collaborative measures for mug distribution.
    - iv. SGA Outreach: let your voice be heard through this new initiative starting soon. EVP Southwell, Speaker Akomas and Director Nguyen will be working together for outreach projects.
    - v. Polo Size Sheet is going around the room for shirt size information from senators.

- b. **Report of the Finance Director** Lindsey Smith
  - i. Thanks to the DACA students/ reps for sharing their information.
  - ii. Information from the FY17 budget spreadsheet was shared.
  - iii. So far, there are a couple areas, like the August retreat and the NACA East SGA Conference where we have exceeded the budget plan. Adjustments will need to be made.
  - iv. A three year commitment to help fund the Traditions Keeper app with Student Alumni Association was made last year. This was not a line item planned for in the budget and adjustments from various line items have been made to gather the funds to meet the commitment for this year. Next year, it should be a separate line item in the budget.
  
- c. **Report of the Speaker of Senate** Blessing Akomas
  - i. SGA Now: proposed as a monthly newsletter, hope to get the first one out by December. Volunteer sign-ups available for graphic design, writing, photography - volunteers are needed!
  - ii. Please direct your attention to the podium/speaker when they are speaking/presenting to the senate. Be respectful.
  - iii. Constituent days: information from head senators is needed, hasn't received any yet. Come to the Speaker's office hours for more information on what is expected.

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

- a. **Report of the Academic Affairs Committee Chair** Senator Wami
  - i. SI instruction project: the SI office is short-staffed but they are working on several initiatives to remedy this shortfall.
  - ii. SGA Study Kits will be made soon so volunteers will be needed to help assemble them.
  
- b. **Report of the Student Life Committee Chair** Senator Batista-Vargas
  - i. Co-sponsorship funds were reduced to help fund the Traditions Keeper app, so the committee will have to be more evaluative in their decision making.
  - ii. SGA has an entry in the Homecoming golf cart parade. Sign-ups to help decorate and be in the parade will be shared via Sly Reply soon.
  - iii. Projects in development:
    - 1. Resolution re: DACA: Senator Moreno is heading up this legislation development, the committee wanted to be sure it was not just a quick resolution but an effective one that is well thought out.
    - 2. Working on Gender Neutral Bathrooms research and a survey
  
- c. **Report of the Student Services Committee Chair** Senator Scales
  - i. Thanks to Angel and the DACA reps for being at the meeting
  - ii. Panther Pantry donations are needed (collection bin is in hallway in front of SGA office)
  - iii. SGA is still supporting the grocery shuttles with volunteer support even though budget cuts have limited funds offered to this event. Volunteers are needed Monday Oct. 17 from 6-10pm (Grocery shuttle)
  - iv. Discount Cards are still under review
  - v. Speaker Pro Tempore Mohamed has been working on research related to relaxation rooms: resting rooms/nap rooms for use during the day, more information coming soon.

## VII. **Old Business -None**

VIII. **New Business:**

**a. Nomination and Confirmation of Senate candidates**

- i. Speaker Pro Tempore Usra Mohamed: For the past two weeks, interviews have been conducted to fill four vacancies in Senator positions, as well as freshmen liaison positions and transfer liaison positions. A round of applause for Senator Okanlawon who has shown dedication to this feat and provided assistance with the interview process.
- ii. **Freshman Liaison candidates** were introduced and discussed by the Senate
  1. Evan Malbrough
  2. Maxwell Turner
  3. Markeesa Walker
  4. Gavin Hall
  5. Alexander Lloyd
  6. Nashbi Grand-Jean
  7. Tiffany Ezeokonkwo
  8. Motion by Senator Scales to move to a vote; second by Senator Nguyen. Roll call vote was taken with 6 votes being cast by each senator. Final voting results: EM: 10, MT: 12, MW: 12, TC: 15, GH: 12, AL: 14, NG: 11. Top 6 candidates will be sworn in at next meeting.
- iii. **Transfer Liaison candidates** were introduced and discussed by the Senate
  1. DeVaughn Wragg: Transfer from Tennessee State
  2. D'ceita Daniels: Transfer from Georgia Southern
  3. Motion by Senator Wami to vote in affirmation (since there are only two candidates for six positions); second by Senator Martinez. Final vote: 15 in favor, 0 nay, 1 Abstention.
- iv. **Candidates for various senate seats** were introduced and discussed by the Senate
  1. **Andrew Young School of Policy Studies** (one vacancy; two candidates)
    - a. Adriann Stinson
    - b. Anescia Loi
    - c. Motion by Senator Batista-Vargas to vote; second by Senator Scales. Final voting results: Anescia: 11 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstentions (wins); Adriann: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions
  2. **College of Business** (2 vacancies; 2 candidates)
    - a. Livingston Getty
    - b. Jonathon Jones
    - c. Motion by Senator Yemi to vote in affirmation; second by Brown seconds; 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention
  3. **College of Arts and Sciences** (1 vacancy; 3 candidates)
    - a. Corey Gray
    - b. Antrell Vining
    - c. Eric Brown
    - d. Motion by Senator Wami to vote; second by Senator Nguyen. Final voting results: Corey Gray: 9 in favor; Antrell Vining: 0 in favor; Eric Brown: 2 in favor
- v. Due to the early departure of the SJB representative, Speaker Akomas announced that new positions will be sworn in at the next Atlanta SGA meeting.

**b. Campus Bill CBATL870001 – Amendment of the Bylaws**

- i. Senator Shaun Moore (COL) introduced the legislation; Wants to amend bylaws to garner more support for Law students and graduate students. The current increased commitment inhibits students from participation in SGA. For example Law students can't go to the fall retreat because of class schedule. Wants to stress that Law and graduate students have more demanding academic schedules so wanted to reflect on this because they are interested and eager to be a part of SGA but time commitments can be prohibitive.
- ii. Motion to discuss the bill by Senator Batista-Vargas; second by Senator Wami seconds; all in favor to discuss.
  1. Senator Scales: Students in Grad/Law identified in beginning but every other section says just law student legislation needs to say Grad/Law
  2. Senator Batista-Vargas: Timing for retreat? Maybe changing that time (moving up in summer or something) will that help?
  3. Senator Moore: Law students take summer classes until late July and internship/externship demands time between and after that
  4. Senator Roby: makes sense if College of Law students can miss because of schedule but verbiage need to be changed
  5. Senator Wami: understands retreat but is this also applicable to standing committees and absences as well?
  6. Senator Moore: Section 9 → Law/Grad students exempt; as for absences in section 8 wants three unexcused absences; so all
  7. Senator Lavalley: Period of 2 weeks before school starts to attend work interviews, jobs, internships, bill sounds like a way to be less involved but this is a way for us to be more involved. This bill will allow students to make a choice. Student Bar Association (SBA) Board voted to step down from SGA but we don't want this to happen so this is the next step.
  8. Motion to extend debate time period by Senator Wami; second by Senator Gordon.
  9. Senator Okanlawon: Section 3 → even if representatives have strenuous schedules we need to work together to change date rather than take it out as a whole.
  10. Communication Director Nguyen: Idea of removing Law/Grad senators and instead implement liaisons
  11. Senator Moore: had drafted a bill that would create liaison roles, but but withdrew it so COL representatives could retain power to vote
  12. Senator Wami: Law students own student bar association makes request understandable but not graduate students who knew requirements before they took the position
  13. Senator Vashi: we weren't told about all of the requirement there is prior to taking office (were appointed this summer just before the retreat)
  14. Speaker Akomas: it is your responsibility to come to the office, to know that information is there for you.
  15. Motion to refer to an ad hoc committee by Senator Mohamed; second by Senator Wami; all in favor.
  16. Volunteers for new ad hoc committee to work on revisions to the bill: Lavelle, Moore, Scales, Vashi, Roby, Brian Nguyen, Roby, Rodrigues, Okanlawon

IX. Closing Remarks

a. Executive Vice President's report, EVP Southwell

- i. September Senator of the month: Yemi, Leo, Myles (nominees); Winner: Yemi Okanlawon → always in office, diligent in tabling sign-up, vacancies positions, financial aid assistance, diligent in seeking to enhance student experience in SGA.
- ii. Traditions Keeper application is co-sponsored by SGA. All members of senate are encouraged to download it to learn more about it and to help promote it to other students.
- iii. Turner Field situation: GSU's role is a focus on athletic facilities (football and baseball stadium), project partner Carter Real Estate will be implementing shopping/ food area → community feels they are being pushed out, they are waiting for President Becker to respond. They want a community mutual agreement in what will take place with development.
- iv. In response to why Plaza was moved - SGA passed a resolution last year to move it because of safety, access for emergency vehicles in such a highly congested areas and future area conversion to green space with Kell hall demolition plans.

b. Comments and announcements of the officers:

- i. Senator Moreno: DACA resolution without added information is not effective so she wants to make an effective resolution that will work! Collaborations are happening on this, want this done by end of semester
- ii. Senator Moore: One last note related to his bylaw bill, he had a big test during retreat time so prep/taking happens during this time of the year right before classes.

X. Motion to adjourn by Senator Scales; second by Senator Batista-Vargas; all in favor.