

SGA Atlanta Senate Meeting Minutes Monday, May 9, 2016

- I. EVP Blessing Akomas calls meeting to order at 12 p.m.
- II. Sarah Wilcox takes attendance → absent: Juan Galvis, Chandler Harper, Jacob Hill, Kevin Martinez, Chanel Smith, Julie Lavellee, Shaun Moore, Leonardo Rodriguez, Diamond Miller, Viviana Santana
- III. EVP Akomas moves to approve last meeting's minutes, Sarah Wilcox says to skip minutes
- IV. No Old Business
- V. New Business
 - a. EVP Akomas calls on Shamari Southwell to introduce new executive cabinet members.
 1. Anthony Nguyen: Past VP of Public Relations, has been involved in SGA for 3 years. His freshman year he was liaison, sophomore year he was a senator that transitioned into VP for Public Relations.
 - Senator Batista-Vargas – moves to confirm Anthony Nguyen as Communications Director. Senator Scales seconds that motion
 - 17 confirm. 0 nay or abstentions. Confirmed
 2. Lindsey Smith: Outgoing treasurer of Alpharetta campus SGA. Impressive knowledge about SGA and finance abilities. Comes well recommended, and works as financial analyst under the CFO and President of a company.
 - Senator Martin – moves to confirm Lindsey Smith as Financial Director. Senator Kebede seconds that motion
 - 17 confirm. 0 nay or abstentions. Confirmed
 - b. Committee Chair Nominations and Appointments
 - i. Senator Martin moves to open floor for nominations. Senator Batista-Vargas seconded
 - 17 confirm. 0 nay or abstentions. Floor opens for nomination
 - ii. Nominations – Academic Chair
 1. Benson – Bolbi Liu; Bolbi accepts
 2. Brown – Neka; Neka accepts
 3. Nwoke – self nomination
 - iii. Speeches for nominations
 1. Neka -Platform of instituting a system of communication between Senators and the department chairs for each major, also wants to implement an internship coordinator and academic advisor for each major. Using example of history department which already implements this system, it is clear that the system is helpful for not only undergraduate but graduate students.

2. Nwoke - "Stay woke to the academic resources we have on campus for academic excellence." Passionate about academics and academic excellence. Serving as a FYRE mentor for freshman students is something that Nwoke hopes to bring to the sciences and humanities building under the College of Arts and Sciences. Also wants to spearhead honors students graduating with honors distinction. Is available, has plenty of availability to use towards this position.
 3. Liu - Is new to SGA but has done several things. Helped prepare events, collaborated with others, and held events and positions that moved SGA forward. Platform is accessibility, applicability, and Advisement center is overloaded.
- iv. Motions and Voting
- Scales move to discuss for 3 minutes. Martin seconds
 - 15 affirm
 - Discussion
 - Someone vouches for Liu stating: her initiative to already write an initiative shows she is a go-getter
 - Someone else vouches for Liu stating: working with her for Panther Kids shows how she volunteers when things fall short and makes herself available when it is needed. Senator believes she can trust that she will do well in the position
 - Senator Batista-Vargas - vouches for Liu stating: she is very active, passionate about SGA, she's been interested in this position since elections, she's shown a lot of dedication to the position.
 - Senator vouches for Woke stating: she is definitely a hard worker, gets job done, she has great availability which means she can give her all in position.
 - Senator vouches for Wami stating: she is a hard worker, she is a doer
 - Senator vouches for Wami stating: She is hard worker, go-getter, she gets things done, her resolution would be the most beneficial in the long term
 - Scales– Move to extend by 2 minutes. Yemi seconds
 - Mohamed vouches for Woke stating: she is most hard working, she does everything with enthusiasm and is open and receptive
 - Martin – moves to close discussion early. Kebede seconds
 - 17 confirm. 0 nay or abstentions. Discussion closed
 - Kebede moves to vote on Academic Affairs Chair. Yemi seconds
 - 17 confirm. 0 nay or abstentions
 - Voting follows
 - 5 – Bolbi Liu, 5 – Neka Wami, 5 – Joy Nwoke
 - EVP Akomas will break the tie voting for Neka
 - Neka Wami accepts

- v. Nominations – Student Life Committee chair
 - 1. Yemi - Gabriela Batista-Vargas; B-Vargas accepts
 - 2. Mohamed – Lamesha Martin; Martin accepts
 - 3. Nguyen – Scales; Scales declines respectfully
- vi. Nominee Speeches
 - 1. Gabriela Batista-Vargas: Active volunteer in SGA since transferring here—first as liaison then as a senator and on Campus Safety Committee with 4 pieces of legislation passed in the short span of 2 months which is really good. Sponsored many bills including the Liaison Inclusion Resolution, DACA Student In-state Tuition Resolution. Moving forward wants student body to feel as spirited and loved as she does at GSU. Plans on enhancing school spirit by expanding the organization of the game to other sports also wants to advocate for student rights and liberties so that we are all safe, being heard and exemplifying the conduct, spirit and legacy. Promises to dedicate time to make sure students feel as spirited and love GSU like she does. Promises to lead as servant, build great relationships between students and SGA. Promises to dedicate time and work into this committee and help students feel the same way she does about GSU.
 - 2. Lamesha Martin: Feels as if her experience on campus (Inceptor, Spotlight, etc.) has given her enough experience to know what needs to be done to make Student Life better here at GSU. Feels she has learned from other senators and executive board has taught her. And she is hard working so avoids learning curve. Increase amount of student orgs that utilize co-sponsorships and are knowledgeable about its availability. Broadcast resources and what SGA has available to student orgs. Wants to advocate the benefits that come from being a part of a student organizations. Wants to also work on more diverse and inclusive programs.
- vii. Motions and voting
 - Senator Kebede motions for 2-minute discussion. Senator Mohamed seconds
 - 15 confirm. 0 nay and abstentions
 - Discussion
 - Senator Magie vouches for Gabriela stating: she is dedicated, determined, and goes above and beyond what is expected of her position.
 - Senator vouches for Martin stating: she is about her business, gets job done, she is driven, organized, and she is ready to work.
 - Senator adds on to statement for Martin stating: her involvement in so many student orgs means she has a lot to bring to the table.
 - Scales moves to vote. Yemi seconds. All confirm
 - Batista-Vargas – 11
 - Martin – 4
 - Gabriela Batista-Vargas confirmed

- viii. Nominations – Student Services
 - 1. Nomination for Senator Scales
 - 2. Scales accepts
 - 3. Scales: Knowing that this position needs a committed leader who listens to constituents and can swiftly integrate change while maintaining transparency between Senate and constituents he believes he is best suited for this position. Not only because he has 2 years of experience in this committee but also because you see a vision of him progressing SGA as a whole.
- ix. Motions and voting
 - Martin moves to vote. Nwoke seconds
 - 17 in favor. 0 nay or abstentions.
- c. Swearing In
 - i. Anthony Nguyen, Lindsey Smith, Neka Wami, Gabriela Batista-Vargas, Josh Scales
 - ii. All sworn in and confirmed
- d. Closing remarks
 - i. Bolbi Liu has legislation – Improvement of Academic Advisement Resolution: Advisement center skype services offered for convenience for international/commuter students. Also host events for students who are outstanding in their own field to offer info about future career and give advice. Finally a partnership between freshman and upperclassmen in their field for advice/ideas about future (partnership only involves 2-3 students per field). Contact info: 404-444-8844
- e. Closing Call of Roll →absent: Juan Galvis, Chandler Harper, Jacob Hill, Kevin Martinez, Chanel Smith, Julie Lavellee, Shaun Moore, Leonardo Rodriguez, Diamond Miller, Viviana Santana
- f. Executive Vice President's Report
 - i. Interviews for director positions last week
 - ii. Goals for the year: With consolidation wants to work with the communications director to increase branding of SGA. More collaboration with student orgs. Increase program initiatives. “SGA Now” pamphlets for students. Increased awareness about GSU resources. Foster stronger relationships with administration (i.e. Becker or a Dean at Senate meeting). Continue to address campus safety issues. Foster relationship with GSUPD. Have campus safety campaign bill continue to keep changes going such as the ad hoc committee, sustainability committee and bike share resolution to create committee.
 - iii. Concludes report.
- g. Adjournment
 - i. Blessing's comments – be active, speak to the e-board. Goal to increase transparency. Over the summer continue to receive emails and more retreat information later.

Vacant senator positions (4) interviewing this week – any senators available to sit in during interviews tomorrow and Wednesday. She will send email with times needed/availability for interviews.

- ii. Boyd's comments –retreat on August 12-14. President will be appointing people to University Senate committees – be sure to take notice of what they are.
- iii. Sarah's comments – Senate retreat: clarifies retreat will be on August 12-14 transportation provided to Camp Glisson. RSVP to Carly when asked or you will need to pay for inability to go. Contact Blessing if you want to be a part of planning. Group photo afterwards so do not scatter. If time individual portraits (newly confirmed have first priority)
- iv. Anthony Nguyen's comments – thanks to everyone who made it; encouraging words – looking forward to working with everyone.
 - Senator Benson moves to adjourn. Senator Kebede seconds
 - All in favor. 0 nay or abstentions
- h. Meeting ends