University-Wide Senate Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 1, 2018

Urban Life RM. 170, Atlanta Campus

I. Call to order by President Patterson at 7:22PM

II. Opening Call of the Roll / Determination of Quorum- Senate Clerk Abie

(Absent: Senator Aniyah Jones, S. Wright, Parekh, Abraham, Bivins, Garcia Velazquez, Tooke, Anthony Jones, Ellington-Myles
(Tardy: Senator Siemer, Nicholson, Williams)
Quorum achieved with 18 presently senators out of 30

III. Reading and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting
- Senator Gregory Wright moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Senator Munoz
- The motion was approved with 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstention

IV. Special Orders (Appointments/Charters)
  a. Swearing in of new officers by Student Judicial Board
     Communications Director Lazare, and Senators Fatima, Nwadike, Clark, Estes, Tadesse were sworn in by SJB Tyren Jackson

V. Special Reports
University Career Services (UCS) – Director Catherine Neiner
Their goal is to make sure that students achieve academic and career success. They are very proud of the progress and the ways that students have achieved academic success, and now they’re turning their eyes to career success. Each SGA representative can be ambassadors on their respective campuses and promote this idea. There will be a lot of initiatives that will happen in the next couple of years.

Other than the knowledge that students have gained in their major, there’s other things that are important, such as experience. She hopes that each of the SGA leaders are including their experience in SGA on their resume. Communication and leadership skills are the top skills that employers are looking for, and each SGA representative is getting that experience by being part of the organization.

UCS is concentrating on problem solving and critical thinking that students can get from their coursework and extracurricular activities. They want to encourage more cultural literacy, over the 5 years as they expand and continue. UCS is here to support student’s professional development and preparation for the job search, be able to get the experience they need for a job. Internships, community service, volunteering, all of those are experiences. They are here to help students find those opportunities, they provide career counseling and assessment, and career fairs. UCS staff are available to come to classrooms or student organization meetings to provide workshops or resources.
The handshake application is available for students to find internships, jobs, and build their portfolio. Employers do use the application to look for prospective employees, so it’s very important for students to complete their profiles. In addition, handshake also provides activities, events and job postings that are more tailored to student’s major/career. The application has also tools to help build your resume, and students can also upload cover letters as well in there. She encourages students to follow them on social media to know about events coming up. They will be having a workshop and a series of events for international students which starts November 16. Their office is open from Tuesday to Friday from 11-3pm if anyone is interested to stop by.

VI. Student Forum – students wishing to address the Senate

VII. Two-minute-long reports by members of the Senate

a. Chair of Student Engagement –Johnson

Chair Johnson expressed her concern about the lack of engagement of SGA leaders during the homecoming game/parade: “Often I hear concerns expressed about promoting inclusivity across all campuses. Homecoming was a prime opportunity that wasn’t taken advantage of. To those who devoted their time and energy to help make the events a success (Senator Abraham, Aniyah Jones, and Speaker Barry) I hope you all don’t mind me using you as examples. SGA and the GSU student body appreciates your support. Moving forward I would encourage you all to reread the constitution specifically focusing on the duties and obligations you took the oath to abide. Remember our responsibility to and I quote, “to promote involvement, and represent the interests of the student body.” Remember we are one and should never stop pushing ourselves to be the best. Lastly, to fuel the flame for accountability and professionalism we will be issuing points to everyone who signed up to help and wasn’t in attendance”.

b. Speaker of the Senate of Clarkston-Terry Fye - Panther Wall of Fame proposal

Speaker Fye talked about the Panther Wall of Fame, which is a proposal to create a wall dedicated to different student groups at Perimeter College. This project will not only help to reach out to these specific groups college-wide through the Honors Day Ceremony but will also help to expand the community feel at Georgia State. There will be three categories which are Rising Star, Honors Student, and Royal Court. This can be a visual motivator for students to continue with their studies as Georgia State students.

c. Senator for Government and Communications of Alpharetta- Martinez

- Mental Health Summit proposal

Senator Martínez proposed a Mental Health Summit that will provide students with resources on mental health awareness, how to spot mental health issues, resources to help them cope, and open discussions between students, faculty, and professionals on mental health. Possibly a week-long event from mid-to-late spring 2019 semester, with each campus hosting its summit on a different day. It could also be a centralized location on only one campus. This summit is meant to create a space for student to learn, gain resources, and have constructive conversations about mental health and mental illness. Possibly conference-style with different sections going on, forums, panel, interactive lectures, discussions.

- Transition Challenges

Students from Perimeter College are having trouble transitioning to the Atlanta Campus because it’s hard for them to get in contact with individuals who can answer their questions and getting requisites done takes longer than it should.
VIII. Brief Review over University Senate Reports and Q/A (10 Minutes Max.)

IX. Executive Cabinet reports from the EVP of each campus (Brief explanations from reports attached to emails)
   a. Alpharetta Campus- EVP Seymour
      - There have been a lot of initiatives undertaken. First and foremost, for dining options, they have contacted a catering company, Fooda. Fooda is a workplace food program and they have decided to set up a diversity of dining options for students and faculty within 3 to 4 weeks. Their first taste meeting was held on October 3rd and during the meeting, there were discussions of setting up a free tasting event.
      - Secondly, Mia-Simone, the Communications Director, has been working on getting Geo-filters for snapchat for the Alpharetta campus. Additionally, she is working on a winter clothing drive for disadvantaged students aimed for the end of November.
      - She is also working on getting more visibility for the Alpharetta campus on the SGA social media accounts.
      - Thirdly, SGA as a whole will be using the survey results to educate each department about student’s knowledge.
   b. Atlanta Campus- EVP Iqbal
      - Over the past two weeks, the SGA Atlanta campus have been working hard on the smoking initiative, transportation issues, and marketing. Senator Thomas and EVP Iqbal have made substantial progress in trying to implement the smoking issue on campus and are confident to see some results in a few weeks. The Dean of the Library, Dean of the School of Public Health, and various departments on campus are working in conjunction with them on this issue.
      - They are also working on security issues on campus. A number of events (most recently sexual assault) has geared our attention to increasing safety and security efforts. Four of our buildings have no security guards and are prime areas of security issues.
      - They hope to see security guards in all of our buildings and an overall greater police presence on campus.
      - A few members of the Senate have also brought up suicide prevention initiatives.
      - After a few negotiations, they were able to install a line system in a blue lot a well as add up to three buses onto the route.
      - As you know, one of our greatest downfalls as an organization is made up of really sad marketing efforts. She is excited by what she has been hearing from her fellow EVPS about their ideas for increasing SGA awareness on their campuses. They are pushing to improve our tabling method, print media, and looking into video creation.
      - They have a total of four vacancies remaining but will hopefully fill them soon.
   c. Clarkston Campus- EVP Smith
      - The past few weeks they have been moving forward with surveys, planning initiatives, training senators, and, as always, recruitment.
      - The SGA surveys were a spearhead for our office hour time. They took out their office popcorn machine and put it in overdrive to peak the student's interest and incentive to finish the survey in front of us. They also went out to classrooms and had them complete the survey.
- Her team has been hard at work with initiatives! Newly elected senators, committee members and those who are in the process of becoming senators have been planning several initiatives that the team can do for long and short terms goals.
- Rebecca (committee member in line to become Senator for Government and Community Relations) is working on hurricane relief efforts for those who have been impacted by recent weather.
- Yahweh (Sen. for Clubs and Orgs.) is leading the way for our Community Day planning. They have formed a committee on this event as well.
- A committee for Sexual Assault/Human Trafficking will also be formed for the event prospects for the spring semester.
- They still have three vacancies for senator positions, however, recruitment is still going, and will no doubt be filled soon. Some upcoming events that they have are the Brake Light Clinic, our second Coffee Corner on Relationships and Dating, and updates for their Wall of Fame.

d. Decatur Campus- EVP Walters
- For the past few weeks, she has been working on recruitment and some new initiatives for the campus. As far as recruitment, she finally has a communications director and just interviewed a Senator last week, hopefully she can get sworn in soon. New additions to our campus senate are coming soon (she has a few interviews for senator next week).
- Initiatives in the works are charging stations for students and voter registration. One of her goals is to get students informed so they can have a better college experience overall so plans for a resource fair and just creating more event with the help of career services and advising are being planned for this upcoming November.

e. Dunwoody Campus- EVP Dhakal
- Library Hours - The Dunwoody library administration is ready to start a pilot program by extending two hours per day a week before the final. This is completed officially.
- SGA Marketing Initiative: This project is divided into two parts. The first one is inside our Student Center where they would like to install signage to indicate our office and some floor decals leading to our office. They have talked with a vendor about the signage and the options are the following. Please remember that this is not finalized, and it will be decided upon Senator's voting and Senate approval. They are also coming up with Scavenger Hunt to promote SGA. Regarding outdoor initiative they met with Becky Owens who is the Senior Construction Project Manager. They are coming with signage and other designs that will be installed in the parking, campus entrance and etc.
- Collaboration with Political Science Departments and Clubs: They have held an initial conversation with few professors and they have been extremely positive about the initiative. They are working on writing a proposal and forming a concrete plan.
- In the meantime, they are exploring other initiatives that they should work or other topics for student advocacy. More details about their projects can be found on https://trello.com/b/mrEsbSKT/dunwoody-campus
- They held three senate meeting in the month of September and they currently have one vacancy. They are also actively recruiting committee members and reaching out to all students who have expressed interest in SGA through our events and meetings.
- He also has a plan to work with our Communication Director and Advisor to build a database of all students who attend our events/express interest in SGA and volunteers for our events.
f. Newton Campus- EVP Patel
- Newton Campus SGA has recruited four new SGA members. She is now just waiting for HR to approve them, so she can get them sworn in.
- They have also been successful in their Campus Cafe initiative. The food quality and customer service have improved. She has gotten excellent feedback from the students when asked about the quality and customer service now versus before. She has reached out to Mr. Kent from Aladdin about bringing in more food options and adjusting some of the prices so that it is affordable to the students.
- She is currently looking into making a hangout room for the students where they can come and relax between classes and have fun with friends and fellow students. She has searched for some places on campus where they can place this room.
- She has also reached out to the recreational center about the logistics of bringing a basketball court. Have not received anything from them yet.
- She is currently looking into hosting a community day at the Covington Square, which would be an excellent idea for students to learn more about the community around them. She is also thinking about collaborating with Emory University Oxford SGA and Piedmont Tech SGA for the community day.

g. Communications Director Report- Lazare
- Since May 2018, the 89th Administration has increased SGA following by over 1,000.
- Atlanta campus SGA has started two series, the “Panthers of Georgia State” and “Talking Tuesdays”, two campaigns that are showing huge amounts of success
- As far as the News Stories, two news stories have been completed so far, but the overall goal is three per semester.
- The Atlanta communications team is working on purchasing branded promotional items for SGA
- Constituency Days are coming up and senators have begun prepping for it.

IX. Old Business

a. College Transparency Act- Briana Stanley
- The students of Georgia State University wish to help other potential students make the best choices when it comes to picking a college.
- A Student-Level Data Network (SLDN) would connect information already collected by colleges, governments, and employers, to answer critical questions about how different students fare at different programs.
- Most states have been collecting this information for years, but their independent efforts have fallen short of a system that is of practical use to students, and, there is currently a ban on a federal student-level data collection.
- Congress could overturn this ban and create an SLDN that links together the information necessary to empower students to make more informed college decisions. They have a right to know before they attend
- Senator Thomas moved to open the floor for discussion for 5 minutes, seconded by Senator Mejia
- Senator Kearse moved to extend the discussion for 3 minutes, seconded by Senator Thomas
- Senator Munoz moved to extend the discussion for 15 minutes, seconded by Senator Rahman
- The legislation passed with 10 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions
X. New Business

a. **Creation of the Human Trafficking Ad Hoc Committee**

Senator Mejia: the city of Atlanta is the highest human trafficking hub in the world. Student Government Association can discuss and create long-term solutions to diminish the probabilities of human trafficking at Georgia State and Atlanta. This will ensure greater visibility on campus and reduce future trafficking.

-Senator G. Wright, Okoreke, Libam, Payoutte, and EVP Smith expressed interest to serve on the Trafficking Committee

-Senator G. Wright called the question

-The bill passed with 18 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

b. **Creation of the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee**

- Senator Munoz: As of the fall 2018 semester, the issue of homelessness needs to be addressed and, there are currently students who attend Georgia State who are homeless, and there is a necessity for the University Wide Senate needs to act, and a committee needs to be made to combine different resources.

- Senator Thomas, Orak expressed interest to serve on the Homelessness Committee

- Senator Rahman called the question

- The legislation passed with 20 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

c. **Support Resolution for the Registrar – Senator Mejia**

- Senator Mejia: Georgia State University has one of the most diverse student bodies in the United States of America. People change their names for a multitude of reasons, no matter their backgrounds, changing one’s name is an important part of their own recognition of their identity, students must be more aware that such services is available for them at Georgia State University. Georgia State University, as outlined in their Mission Statement, provides an outstanding education and exceptional support for students from all backgrounds, the promotion of such program will enhance our students’ success academically and professionally. As students, believe that students’ self-identification leads to greater inclusion in Georgia State University.

- The bill passed with 18 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions

d. **Points System and Speaker Pro Tempore Updates- Senator Gregory Wright**

- There are two bylaw updates, the first one is the point system, which will be updated in order to reflect that the points accumulated resets at the end of the semester. The second update concerns the Speaker pro tempore and vacancy committee responsibilities and office hours. Also, there will be transition liaison positions to help perimeter campus students through the transfer process to Atlanta campus

- Senator Kearse moved to discuss the bills for 7 minutes, seconded by Senator Mondesir

- Senator Rahman moved to table the bill until the next U-Wide meeting, seconded by Senator Munoz

- The motion passed with 13 yay, 1 against, 0 abstention

XI. Closing Remarks

a. **Comments and announcements of the officers**

- Financial Director: There are no security cameras in the parking lots at Newton

- Senator Vlass: The ceiling on Building A of Alpharetta campus is falling down, there is mold, and at least one person got injured.

- Senator Kearse: SGA needs to look into the expansion of the student counseling services, it takes so long for students to get counselling. They give priority to suicidal students, which put the rest of students on a waitlist. A lot of students need the counselling,
therefore she suggested that SGA organizes a mental health week and inform students about discount opportunities for counselling outside of school

XII. Closing Call of the Roll-Senate Clerk Abie

(Absent: Senator Aniyah Jones, S. Wright, Parekh, Abraham, Osilaja, Bivins, Garcia Velazquez, Tooke, Anthony Jones, Ellington-Myles)

XIII. President’s Report

- He would like to congratulate EVP Dhakal for his engagement and hard work at the Dunwoody campus, he’s been very proactive and was able to get the library hours extended during finals period. Also, it’s very important that SGA leaders communicate with each other, because a lot of campuses are dealing with the same issues. He would like to thank everyone who participated at the Capture the Flag event, it was a moment to bring SGA leaders together and work as a team. There will be monthly events happening for SGA leaders to participate.
- In order to bring a tradition to that will unite Atlanta campus with Perimeter campuses, Ms. Samantha brought up the idea to pass a torch from one campus to the other. In order to do that, SGA needs to think about the logistics of it. The next retreat will be in January, and all these initiatives will be brought up and finalized.

XIV. Adjournment

Senator Rahman moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Senator Munoz at 10:15p.m.