

SGA's 90th Administration

University Wide Senate Meeting Minutes from 8/10/19

- I. **Call to Order: SGA President Jazmin Mejia at 3:28 pm**
- II. **Opening Call of The Role & Determination of Quorum: Senate Clerk - Brittany Dankwa**
(Absent: Senators Charity Jackson, Walker, Aiken, Tinsley, Staine, Valverde Ramirez, V. Jones, McIver, Martinez, Gongora)
 - It should be noted that none of the Presiding Justices from the Student Judicial Board were in attendance.
 - It should also be noted that hereinafter Senator Tooke will no longer be counted on the roll.
 - Quorum is achieved with 18 present senators out of 30.
- III. **Reading & Approval of the minutes:**
 - a. **Approval of the Minutes for April 18, 2019 from previous (89th) administration.**
 - i. **Senator Abraham approves** the minutes. **Senator Walton seconds** the motion.
 - ii. **Vote to Approve: 18** votes for.
 - b. **Approval of the Minutes for May 10, 2019**
 - i. **Senator Walton approves** the minutes. **Senator Mai seconds** the motion.
 - ii. **Vote to Approve: 18** votes for.
- IV. **Special Orders**
 - a. **Two-Minute Reports from Senators**
 - i. **Senator Walton** met with **Senator Baig and Hassan**, to discuss Academic Affairs. They intend to brainstorm ideas and set goals for not only their respective campus' but also as scholars. Suggests that if you have any suggestions or problems to stop by and voice your concerns or send it to our emails.
- V. **Executive Cabinet Reports**
 - a. **Alpharetta Campus**
 - i. **EVP Ritterbusch** – Main initiative for the fall is trying to expand the clubs and organizations on campus. They have a gaming club. They are also at the final stages of a Photography and Video Club. The Alpharetta campus is expanding class offerings in hopes of engaging more students to stay. They have 3 more classes for the fall semester. Also, trying to get food on campus as currently there is none. The roof is also undergoing repairs as we speak.
 - b. **Atlanta Campus**
 - i. **EVP Rahman** – There are a couple of initiatives that they have in the works and are being tweaked. One of them is the legislative affairs committee. It would serve the same purpose as the Governmental Affairs and Communications on the Perimeter Campus'. It is an effort to close that gap; the idea is that we, as a University, want to begin working with our local government to alleviate some of the problems we have. And we want to put up a united front as an institution to be able to do that. It should be proposed at the next Atlanta Senate meeting and then brought to the U-Wide Senate on how to be a united front so that the various campuses can lobby our local government. There are a couple of Atlanta initiatives that are focused on food. A lot of Atlanta campus students have dietary restrictions, and because of the requirements for some students to purchase a meal plan and we must have these accommodations for these students. They have initiatives to communicate with Panther Dining to switch certain meat to halal and

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provide kosher options; expanding vegan and vegetarian options. Working with Athletics, that during large events like Homecoming where there is tailgating working together with the Perimeter Campus' for further inclusion in the activities.

- a. **Point of Inquiry, Senator M. Jones:** What initiatives is he attempting to lobby the federal or state government?
- b. **EVP Rahman:** Is not currently lobbying any initiatives. It would be up to the Senate or the Committee to decide what initiatives they would like to lobby. He would like to create that pathway for Senators to be able to lobby with local, state, or maybe federal governments.
- c. **Senator M. Jones** would like to know what has been discussed.
- d. **EVP Rahman** uses Higher Education Reauthorization as an example but states that it could also include determining how students feel about the city of Atlanta's policies regarding Bird (or other e-scooter) use. The idea is create a forum where students can lobby for the things they want.

c. Clarkston Campus

- i. **EVP Henry** - The Flower Initiative is an initiative that works towards getting feminine hygiene products onto campus. It is something that she is starting on Clarkston campus but would love to take it university-wide and if there is anyone that would like to help can reach out to EVP Henry or Senator Hassan. This is to make sure that Georgia State as a whole, shows that they support all people including menstruating people, and there are not just menstruating people on Clarkston but on all Georgia State University campuses. Also working on a Relaxation Station, to gain a space that promotes mental health and well-being. Looking for a space that students can feel relaxed, and comfortable knowing that it is a safe space. Lastly, working with the University-Wide Communications Director to make the Clarkston Campus a polling station. Also working on a cafeteria initiative that will include more options for students that have varying accommodations, like vegan and hallah options.

d. Decatur Campus

- i. **EVP Manais** – Their initiatives focus' on giving to the students as much as they possibly can. Decatur has a large homeless population as well as students with a lot of food insecurities so they do have a food pantry, and they are trying to get that up and running. Every month, they are going to do a Farmers Market type of a situation where they provide food to students so that they will be able to have fresh groceries as there is not a grocery store within walking distance and not everyone has access to transportation. Once a month they will also do volunteer work, for an example a clean-up campus initiative in hopes of keeping the campus nice and clean.
 - a. **Point of Inquiry, EVP Henry:** Would you be opening up of forum for other students on other campuses so they can also participate in the volunteering opportunity?
 - b. **EVP Manais:** Yes

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e. Dunwoody Campus

- i. **EVP Alo** – Their campus initiatives focus' on building a healthy lifestyle for students on campus. They have started talks with the cafeteria. They had a meeting on Tuesday, with the food director and agreed that the food on campus is unhealthy and should be changed. They discussed a tabling event that would present various option for students to try and decide what options they would like to have on campus. They also have a de-stress event in the fall in the works for students to come to the library and enjoy a space of relaxation during the final times.
 - a. **Point of Inquiry, Senator Tshizubu:** Would like to know how he intends on getting students responses on the food options; via survey?
 - b. **EVP Alo:** They will put it in a social area for students. They haven't applied any advertisement as the event doesn't take place until September.
 - c. **Senator Tshizubu:** Is it for the whole campus?
 - d. **EVP Alo:** The food vendors will come up with the food and be presenting in the cafeteria and see if students will like it or not.
 - e. **Point of Information, EVP Henry:** At the meeting, when we were speaking with the cafeteria directors, the suggested that we as a group should suggest menu items. They said that they would test those items and present them to the students, so students would actually get a say in what is added to the menu. That way its something that will actually be purchased rather than something just taking up space.
 - f. **Point of Information, Director Pirani:** This is a problem that affects all campus. We had a sit down with all the campus and we are excited to come up with a menu in the next 2 weeks and beyond that can be applied to all campus. One issue that each campus has in common is the budget which includes everything down to the number of napkins. He looks forward to working with all the EVP's and Senators in providing healthy options for students while making it easier to know what the food options are.

f. Newton Campus

- i. **EVP Turner:** The campus has been working on a few initiatives, beginning with disability services. Currently the disability services office is on the second floor and they have a working elevator, but it goes out a lot. So, the goal is to get the elevator consistently working and secondly, to get disability services to come down to the first floor. There has been some discussion on that and she has been doing some research. As of right now, she will be speaking with Disability Services next week. My second initiative is to get Pounce on the Newton Campus for photos and some promotional things.
- g. **Communications Director Marlborough:** Currently, the Communications Committee is working on a few initiatives. The one that is most pressing, is on Tuesday, they have meeting with Fulton county to discuss voter registration advocacy as well as building some infrastructure when it comes to student voting. They are lobbying to promote this service called TurboVote, which is a service that GSU has used to not only register students to vote but it will also send you notifications when an election is coming up. We would like the county to sign a deal with TurboVote to make it available to the public; also talking to them about polling location reform. Currently to be a poll worker,

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you must be able to work the full shift of the day, which can run from as early as 6 am and as late as midnight, sometimes later and you are expected to work the runoff. Trying to lobby a student adjusted poll worker shift that doesn't demand as much hours for a shift, so instead of working a potential 16-hour shift students might work a 2-4 - hour shift to accommodate classes. Which ties into the other initiative, to create a completely or mostly student ran polling location on the Atlanta, Alpharetta, and Dunwoody Campus' for Fulton County. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, and those in attendance will include representatives from the Atlanta, Alpharetta, and Dunwoody Campus', as well as Representatives from Clark Atlanta University and TurboVote. Also, next semester or late this semester we will be hosting the first ever Fulton County Voter Summit, which will be of all schools in Fulton County. So, what will happen is all three of the Fulton County Campus' will be represented separately as the voter needs for each community are different. We have a meeting with the Dean for Title IX to discuss a video series they will be doing to showcase the Code of Conduct. Already spoken with Communication Directors from various campuses as well as Political Affairs Directors to get that set up. They have bought all new equipment and they have given us access to use all of it. So for what we plan on doing is for how many videos we are doing, we want to showcase the entire university, which includes all Perimeter Campuses. So, we will be having film teams and writer native to each campus do a video each and then we will all come together and release them with the Title IX Office.

- i. **Point of Inquiry, Senator M. Jones:** What things were you needing from the senators for reaching out to the government of Fulton County?
- ii. **Director Marlborough:** That would be communicated later. When we get more into the conference and student poll worker aspect, we're just trying to get see what Fulton County wants exactly so we can start building things on campus.
- iii. **Senator M. Jones:** Are you working with Atlanta because that's the same initiative with trying to reach out to our local governments?
- iv. **Director Marlborough:** The reason we are working with Atlanta is because Fulton County actually specifically reached out with respect to wanting to host a conference on the Atlanta Campus.
- v. **Point of Inquiry, EVP Turner:** The video initiative, is that to find someone on each campus?
- vi. **Director Marlborough:** Yes.

VI. Old Business

- a. **President Mejia presents** University-Wide Special Order to Seat Members of the Perimeter College Committee
 - i. **Senator Walton moves** to open discussion for 5 minutes.
 - ii. **Point of Inquiry, Senator Ebiringa:** Is the idea that there will be a chair from each campus, on a rotation basis?
 - iii. **EVP Rahman:** Yes, Atlanta will not. Atlanta is the only campus that will not be on that. But yes, the idea is that the chairs will rotate. The idea is that this committee equally represents all Perimeter campuses. The purpose of the Chair would be to enforce Robert's Rules.
 - iv. **President Mejia calls for more information from Advisors**
 - v. **Point of Information, Advisor Beckwith:** Purpose of this standing committee was to enable Perimeter College representatives to discuss issues that specifically

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pertained to Perimeter College college-wide in advance of university wide senate meetings. And thereby have an avenue to workshop legislation and issues prior to presenting them to University-Wide.

- vi. **Point of information, Speaker _____:** Before approving it, suggests the wording be changed from only once a semester, to more than once a semester.
- vii. **EVP Rahman:** It's at least once a semester.
- viii. **President Mejia entertains motion to increase discussion time.**
- ix. **Senator Walton moves** to extend discussion for another 20 minutes.
- x. **EVP Rahman:** For Perimeter Campus this is the forum that serves for your campus. This is entirely up to you. Even if you are not sitting on the Senate you can nominate yourself as a Perimeter Campus member to sit on this committee. Encourages members to nominate themselves
- xi. **Point of inquiry, Senator Ebiringa:** Do Atlanta Senators have to vote on this?
- xii. **EVP Rahman:** Yes, because it is a University-Wide Senate Bill.
- xiii. **Point of inquiry, Senator Mai:** Based on the writing of this bill it's mandated that there needs to be at least one Senator from each Perimeter Campus?
- xiv. **President Mejia:** Yes
- xv. **Senator Mai:** So to play devils advocate, they already struggle to recruit Senators on the Perimeter Colleges, if for by any chance there isn't any open Senators whom could serve on this committee, what would happen because the committee wouldn't be able to essentially operate due to the fact that there isn't at least one Senator from "X Campus."
- xvi. **EVP Rahman:** It says student for that reason. It does not say Senator, it says "student."
- xvii. **Senator Mai:** Good point.
- xviii. **Point of inquiry, Speaker Thomas:** Where does it clarify in this bill that it's not an SGA Officer but not a student?
- xix. **Line 18 states that "one SGA Officer from each Perimeter Campus..."**
- xx. **EVP Rahman:** It is a mistake on Terry's part, the author of the bill.
- xxi. **Point of Information, Speaker Thomas:** I recommend that if the Perimeter College Committee is open to the idea of more than just Senators being able to sit as representatives of this committee, then a Senator from the U-Wide Senate make a friendly amendment to amend the bill to allow students and not just SGA Officers to sit on the Perimeter College Committee.
- xxii. **President Mejia calls for motion on the floor for friendly amendment**
- xxiii. **Senator M. Jones moves** to add friendly amendment
- xxiv. **Senator Walton seconds** the motion.
- xxv. **Point of information, Advisor Beckwith:** Technically a friendly amendment, would need to be accepted by the person who introduced the legislation and he is not here to friendly amend, so my question is, is there a Perimeter Senator willing to sponsor the bill and then accept the friendly amendment?
- xxvi. **Senator M. Jones volunteers** to sponsor bill and accepts friendly amendment to the bill.
- xxvii. **Senator Walton moves** to change wording from "senators" to "students."
- xxviii. **Senator M. Jones accepts** friendly amendment

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- xxix. **Amendments are made to lines 11, 12, 13, and 18, in regards to changing the language from "senator" to "students" in order to increase likelihood of representation for the operation of the Perimeter College Committee.**
 - xxx. **EVP Manais nominates herself** to serve on the Perimeter College Committee.
 - xxxi. **Point of Inquiry, Hassan:** This committee would also have to figure out who the recipients are for the Panther Wall of Fame?
 - xxxii. **Point of information for the basis of the question, Speaker Porter**
 - xxxiii. **Senator Hassan:** I wanted to know if this committee would be responsible for awarding student for the Panther Wall of Fame. If I were to nominate myself for this position and I were to know a student who has been nominated and is up for the award. Wouldn't there be a conflict of interest?
 - xxxiv. **EVP Rahman:** Under Robert's Rules, for that vote you would be required to abstain.
 - xxxv. **Self-Nominations Include:** Senators Hassan, M. Jones, Porter, EVP Henry, Director Ali
 - xxxvi. **Point of Inquiry, Boyd:** An executive member can not chair a legislative committee. Suggests friendly amendment that a Perimeter Senator can chair the committee on a rotated basis.
 - xxxvii. **Further reading into the bill calls for further amendments to the language in the bill.** EVP Rahman recommends that Perimeter Senators connect with Terry, author of the bill, on how to work the kinks out. Senator M. Jones moves to table the bill to discuss with Terry. Senator Mai seconds the motion.
- b. **President Mejia presents bill to form Ad Hoc GILEE Committee**
- i. **Senator Walton is called** to the floor to update us.
 - ii. **Director Malbrough** explains that GILEE stands for the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. A program for people who work in police departments in Georgia to go to different countries to learn different policing styles in hopes of learning things to apply back in their precincts, and they will send officers from other countries to work with our officers as well.
 - iii. **Senator Walton explains** that this is very important to the community, especially to our Muslim and Jewish students. Someone would have to add an amendment to seat and chair people for it.
 - iv. **Point of inquiry, Senator M. Jones:** Are you saying you need someone to friendly amend this?
 - v. **Senator Walton:** Yes
 - vi. **Point of inquiry, Senator Mai:** Given the nature of this topic, how do you intend on finding or choosing unbiased members to be a part of this committee?
 - vii. **Senator Walton:** Same way the President Patterson did in the previous administration, through the honor system.
 - viii. **Point of information, Senator Ebiringa:** Believed this bill's purpose was to further discuss it, not to necessarily agree or choose a side for it.
 - ix. **Senator Walton:** Correct, this bill is to begin the process of researching and developing a stance off the research done. The committee would then present their findings during a U-Wide Senate meeting so that the Senate can take it to the necessary department.

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- x. **EVP Rahman:** This piece of legislations was not created for members to state whether they are pro- or con regarding GILEE.
- xi. **Point of Information, Advisor Sutton:** In regards to how the committee of the previous administration was put together, President Patterson appointed Kirsten to research the GILEE program and students were chosen by showing interest in the program's effects on campus and then evaluated by President Patterson to ensure a non-bias opinion.
- xii. **Point of inquiry, Senator Hassan:** What is the objective after all the research has been done and presented? What would be the goal of building this committee?
- xiii. **Senator Walton:** The question we are asking, is should GSU support or be apart of the GILEE Program?
- xiv. **Point of Inquiry, Senator Mai:** Was it not already determined that no GSU Police Officer except for former Chiefs Mullis and Sampson entered the program?
- xv. **Senator Walton:** Yes but, if you remember from the last meeting there was argument about whether or not that was true or not true. Therefore, if you are on the committee you can actually answer whether it is true or not.
- xvi. **Point of inquiry, Senator M. Jones:** Is that not already answered?
- xvii. **President Mejia:** This is a form of fact-checking.
- xviii. **Point of information, Director Malbrough:** This technically is not through GSU as an educational institution, it is through the GSU Foundation, which is technically a separate entity.
- xix. **Point of information, Speaker Thomas:** Just for clarity, the work of the last ad hoc committee to investigate the GILEE programs presence here at GSU, did not completely absolve the GILEE program from any wrongdoing, which is why there is a need to recreate this committee to determine if there is or is not any wrongdoing.
- xx. **Point of inquiry, Senator Hassan:** Is there anyone from the last administration who could tell us more information regarding the research done last year?
- xxi. **Senator Walton:** There is a 200-page binder in regards to the GILEE program and the findings of the last administration.
- xxii. **President Mejia:** There is a digital copy on the iDrive and they can access it via SharePoint as per last meeting it was requested that a digital copy be made.
- xxiii. **President Mejia calls** for a non-biased volunteer to chair the ad hoc committee.
- xxiv. **Senator DeHart self-nominates.**
- xxv. **EVP Henry verifies that Senator DeHart has no bias towards the GILEE Program. Senator DeHart is confirmed as the Chairperson of the GILEE Committee.**
- xxvi. **Vote to Form Ad Hoc GILEE Committee passes 17 for.**

VII. New Business

a. Post-Retreat Quiz

- i. **Advisor Beckwith:** On the Pre-Retreat Quiz there was 152 wrong answers. The Post-Retreat Quiz there was a total of 24 wrong answers. There were 9 perfect scores on the Post-Retreat versus the 2 on the Pre-Retreat Quiz. Congratulations on improving. If you have any questions, please speak to your advisors and your EVP's in the front of the room.

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- b. **University Senate Committee Appointments**
 - i. **President Mejia opens the floor for Senators to join University-Wide Committees**
 - a. **Senator M. Jones – Budget Committee**
 - b. **Senator J. Jones – Commencement Committee**
 - c. **Senator Milani – Culture and Diversity Committee**
 - d. **Senator Simpson – Library Committee**
 - e. **Senator Cole – Athletic Committee**
 - f. **Senator DeHart – Planning Committee**
 - g. **Senator Saied – Library Committee**
 - h. **Senator Tshizubu – Cultural Diversity**
 - i. **Senator C. Jackson – Student Life**
 - j. **Senator Ebiringa – Sustainability Committee**
 - k. **Senator Mai – University Statutes and Bylaw Committee**
 - l. **Senator Mackey – Cultural Diversity and Athletics**
 - m. **Senator Walton – Research Committee**
 - n. **Senator Baig – Library Committee**
 - o. **Senator Manning – Sustainability Committee**
 - p. **Senator Lopez – Student Life**
 - q. **Senator Cornett – Student Life**
 - r. **Director Pirani – Academic Affairs Committee**
 - ii. **Deadline set for the next University Wide Senate Meeting on September 19, 2019.**

VIII. **Closing Remarks**

- a. **Senator Mai:** Talked to EVP's Turner and Alo about volunteering for the Bylaws Committee. To his knowledge there are senators who can fill those positions. He is also looking for a representative from the Decatur campus.
 - i. **EVP Turner:** Will discuss with her senators whether they would be willing to switch roles in a committee.
- b. **Senator Mai:** Invites anyone who is interested in being apart of the Bylaws Committee to contact him.
 - i. **EVP Henry:** Does it have to be a senator?
 - ii. **Advisor Sutton:** Clarifies that anyone can join the committee.
- c. **Senator DeHart:** Would like to confirm that **Senators Jackson, Simpson, Martinez, Saied, EVP Turner, and EVP Henry** would like to remain on Safety Committee. Still looking for representatives from the Alpharetta and Decatur Campus. If interested please contact, Senator DeHart. Also, if you are interested in joining the GILEE Committee you may contact him as well or President Mejia.

IX. **Closing Call of Role: Senate Clerk Brittany Dankwa**

(Absent: Senators Charity Jackson, Walker, Aiken, Tinsley, Staine, Valverde-Ramirez, V. Jones, Mclver, Martinez, Gongora)

- X. **President's Report:** Thanks, to everyone who was able to come. Due to the quiz results we feel like we were successful in training. Wishes all the officers luck this semester with straight A's. We are students first so, let us know when you are overwhelmed. Don't overwhelm yourself, because we want you to graduate on time.

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- a. The Student Government Association was one of the departments she wanted to work with when she came to college and make a difference. She stopped herself from joining because she thought she wasn't good enough but eventually got out of her comfort zone and ran for a position as an SGA Senator and then stepped out of her comfort zone again and ran for President. If you don't make your self uncomfortable you will never grow. We are the 90th Administration. We are not the same GSU from 100 years ago or 10 years ago. What does the 90th Administration trying to be remembered for? The choices are endless but we must work hand and hand to accomplish those changes we wish to see. You and I are here because students saw potential in us. As we begin this school year, we can not forget the reason we ran for office and ensure that we listen to our student and their concerns.
- XI. **Adjournment:** Senator Walton moves to adjourn meeting, seconded by Senator Mai. Meeting is adjourned at 5:21PM.