

Atlanta Campus Senate Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2019

- I. **Call to Order: Speaker of the Senate, Kaelan Thomas at 7:20PM.**
- II. **Opening Call of the Roll & Determination of Quorum: Senate Clerk Brittany Dankwa**
(Absent: Senators Aiken, Manning, Tinsley, Staine,) Quorum was reached with 19 out of 22 seated senators present.
- III. **Reading & Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2019.**
 - A. **Senator Abraham to approve the senate meetings, seconded by Senator Jones.**
 - B. **Motion passes.**
- IV. **Special Reports:**
 - A. **Student Forum:**
 - i. **Danielle Ellington-Myles:** Presents the Atlanta Senate with the play season for the 2019-2020 school year. Some of the works directly align with the committees that they will work on. For example, Traffic, is a night of original works, in which, students will be writing, directing, producing, and filming their own project about sex and human trafficking and the things we can do to stop it. Danielle says it's hard to miss her on campus because of her colorful hair and Senate members should feel free to communicate with her if they want to collaborate in any way with the College of Arts.
 - ii. **Kenon McCollins:** Kenon is a senior, Public Relations major. He is working with the Dean of Students Office on initiative called MVP, Men in Violence Prevention. The goal of MVP is to combat gender-based violence, build bridges between different communities here at GSU, and change the way we look at masculinity. Plans to do this by hosting a series of different workshops and dialogues throughout the school year. The first workshop will be focused on controlling your anger, which will be on September 19 in the Dean of Students Office, SCE RM 302 from 12pm – 1pm. Kenon provides the Senate with contact information and asks for the support in promoting the initiative.
 - iii. **Senator Walton motions to amend the agenda to add 90-CSO-CL-ATC-14 under Special Orders, seconded by Senator Stokes.**
 - a. **Motion passes.**
- V. **Special Orders:**
 - A. **Seating of New Members of the Atlanta Senate (90-CSO-ATL-CL-10)**
 - i. **Senator Jones presents** legislation to fill seats in the RCB due to the Graduate Seat that was not filled during the Spring 2019 Election, as well as the resignation of Senator Danny Mai an additional seat has opened

up. This special order will seat Michael Olajide and Peter Minetos as Undergraduate Senators of the J. Mack Robinson School of Business.

- ii. **Two Minute Speeches:**
 - a. **Michael Olajide** is a senior, CIS major. He is excited to be here and give it his all.
 - b. **Peter Minetos** is a sophomore, CIS major. He is excited to be surrounded and serving with the student leaders in the Atlanta Senate 90th Administration. He believes that together we can accomplish a lot of great things and looks forward to it.
 - iii. **Speaker Thomas entertains a call for a discussion or a call to vote.**
 - a. **Senator Abraham calls to vote, seconded by Senator Jones.**
 - b. **Motion passes. 17 Votes For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions.**
- B. Seating of New Members of the Atlanta Senate (90-CSO-ATL-CL-11)**
- i. **Senator Jones presents** legislation to fill a seat in the College of Arts and Sciences due to the resignation of Senator Charity Jackson. This special order will seat Maria Johnson as an Undergraduate Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.
 - ii. **Two Minute Speech:**
 - a. **Mariah Johnson** served as Student Engagement Chair for the 89th Administration and is so excited to be back and help support the 90th Administration.
 - iii. **Speaker Thomas entertains a call for a discussion or a call to vote.**
 - a. **Senator Le calls to vote, seconded by Senator Stokes.**
 - b. **Motion passes. 17 Votes For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions.**
- C. Seating of Freshman, Transfer, and Transition Liaisons (90-CSO-ATL-CL-12)**
- i. **Senator Jones presents** legislation to seat liaisons for freshman, transfer, and transition students. This special order will seat Hermela Assefa, Jesutofunmi (Jay) Alli, Aja Ashford, Johnathan (Spence) Carr, Jimmya Camp, and Joshua Roberts as Freshman Liaisons; Elaina Hardwick as a Transfer Liaison; and Hope Harlow as a Transition Liaison.
 - a. **Liaisons introduce themselves to the Senate.**
 - ii. **Speaker Thomas entertains a call for a discussion or a call to vote.**
 - a. **Senator Lopez calls for a vote, Senator Cole seconds.**
 - b. **Motion passes. 17 Votes For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions**
- D. Seating of Head Senators (90-CSO-ATL-CL-13)**
- i. **Speaker Thomas entertains a motion for a five-minute recess.**
 - ii. **Senator Walker calls for a five-minute recess, seconded by Senator Garrett.**
- 5 Minute Recess -
- iii. **Per conclusion of recess, Senator DeHart moves** to strike section 1, which is approved by **Senator Jones**. This bill will make Senator ____ the Head Senator for the School of Nurse Professions.
 - a. **Senator Ebiringa calls to vote, seconded by Senator Le.**
 - b. **Motion passes. 17 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions.**

- E. **Establishing Government & Relations Ad Hoc Committee (90-CSO-FC-ATL-01)**
- i. **Communications Director Malbrough presents** legislation to create a Government and Relations Ad Hoc Committee designated to do research on policies that affect Georgia State students all while advocating for students through the newly built bridge between Student Government here at GSU and our elected officials for the House and Senate Representatives of Georgia as well as various political officials in Fulton county.
 - ii. **EVP Rahman** reminds the senate that this is something that already exists on the Perimeter Campus'. Each PC has a Government and Relations Senator. He explains that once the committee is fully functional on the Atlanta Campus, they will work to forming a U-Wide Committee that will focus on bettering the university, rather than focusing on the Atlanta community like the Atlanta Committee will pursue.
 - iii. **Speaker Thomas entertains a friendly amendment to the bill.**
 - a. **Senator DeHart moves to** friendly amend the bill to correct the section titles, to which Senator Abraham agrees.
 - iv. **Speaker Thomas entertains a motion to discuss the bill as is.**
 - a. **Senator Walker moves to hold** a discussion on the bill for three minutes, seconded by **Senator Abraham**.
 - b. **Senator Walker asks** for 90 seconds to speak to the Senate. He begins by letting the Senate know that we have been on the short end of the stuck when it comes to a relationship with our local and state governments as we have had various alumni serve as Speaker of the House, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Chancellor of the University System of Georgia over the past 10 years. He asserts his support for the bill and sees this a great opportunity for Georgia State students to have a seat at the table and work with all our local governments in various efforts, like MARTA. He also emphasizes that we need to make sure that at a state level when the budgeting cycle comes, we are exercising our ability to get every penny possible.
 - c. **Senator Abraham moves to end discussion, seconded by Senator Jones. Motion passes.**
 - v. **Various grammatical errors are friendly amended by Senators Dehart and Ebiringa, all which are approved by Senator Abraham.**
 - vi. **Senator Dehart moves to friendly amend the bill by adding a section** to the bill that states that the committee members will be appointed by the EVP of the Atlanta Campus, to which **Senator Abraham moves to discuss this on the floor, seconded by Senator Jones.**
 - vii. **Speaker Thomas opens the floor for discussion for two minutes.**
 - a. **EVP Rahman:** "Since it's an ad hoc committee, technicality, there has to be an amendment."
 - b. **Senator Abraham:** For which part?

- c. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "So, add another section entirely, for appointments. It's just a technicality. So, the committee would function as it would, we're just writing it—we're just officializing everything."
- d. **Senator Abraham:** "But why does it—I don't understand why they have to be appointed?"
- e. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "Because its ad hoc."
- f. **Senator Abraham:** "Yeah, I understand that but why does it have to be appointed by the EVP?"
- g. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "Cause that's just the way it's been done for ad hoc committees. Even for GILEE, like GILEE for example, last year was appointed by the President because that was the executive of the University-Wide. Unless you want to sit here and nominate—"
- h. **Senator Abraham:** "I just don't think they should be appointed. I think they should just be senators."
- i. **EVP Rahman:** "They will be."
- j. **Senator Abraham:** "I understand they will be senators. Of course, but do they have to be appointed for an ad hoc committee?"
- k. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "Forget ad hoc committee. It's for standing committee's; go through that proceeding."
- l. **Advisor Sutton:** "Without the amendment, it doesn't define how the group is constituted."
- m. **Senator Abraham:** "Yeah, so why can't they just be senators who want to join an ad hoc committee instead of having to be appointed?"
- n. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "SJB?"
- o. **SJB Liaison Allen, point of information:** "Is there anything in your specific constitution (bylaws) that regulates that ad hoc committees must be appointed?"
- p. **Director Velasquez:** "I am checking the bylaws right now."
- q. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "It's always been done on principle."
- r. **SJB Liaison Allen:** "I understand—"
- s. **Director Velasquez:** "There's nothing in the bylaws."
- t. **SJB Liaison Allen:** "I understand but there is nothing in the bylaws to support that. **Speaker Thomas asks for members to speak one at a time. SJB Liaison reaffirms that her question pertained to whether the SGA bylaws matched the information she had. "There is nothing that mandates this, even though this was tradition."**
- u. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** "It is conventional. Should you choose not to accept it, you can refuse it, and we can change it to what you accept. Because, that was—the only reason we added it was to

make sure that the committee was appointed because there was no wording in the bill appointing the committee itself.”

- v. **Senator Abraham:** “So, it just says that at least 5 members of the senate.”
- w. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** “Yeah, so the bill is not conceding those 5 members, not in the technicality rule book. If you were to say that members of the senate wish to join it, that would also satisfy it.”
- viii. **Senator Abraham and EVP Habibur Rahman agree on the friendly amendment. Speaker Thomas indicates that the discussion time period is over.**
- ix. **Senator DeHart motions to make a new amendment to “add a section to specify that “whoever wishes to join the committee—”**
 - a. **Senator Abraham:** “” ... will have to be seated.””
 - b. **Senator DeHart:** “That’s a lot.”
 - c. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** “I think that they would have to be seated on another bill, to seat them. You want to do that?”
 - d. **Senator Abraham:** “Yes.”
 - e. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** “Or do you want to just want to have it all on here?”
 - f. **Senator Abraham:** “No, that happens at a later time.”
 - g. **Speaker Thomas:** “Senator DeHart how would you like this section to read?”
 - h. **Senator DeHart:** “Um... these specify that the committee member will be seated on a volunteer basis? No?”
 - i. **Senator Abraham:** “Nope not volunteer. They will be seated.”
 - j. **Senator DeHart:** “...will be seated by the Atlanta Campus Senate.”
 - k. **Advisor Gail, point of inquiry:** “What is your desire in terms of how the committee is built?”
 - l. **Senator Abraham:** “So, the Atlanta Senate, will have to—if they do volunteer, they will have to be approved by the Atlanta Senate as a whole.”
 - m. **Advisor Gail:** “So, are you interested in doing that tonight?”
 - n. **Senator Abraham:** “No.”
 - o. **Advisor Gail:** “Ok, so they will be seated at a future date?”
 - p. **Senator Abraham:** “Yes.”
 - q. **Advisor Gail, friendly suggestion:** “Do you want to table this, so that it can be brought up under old business at the next meeting, where you’re prepared to seat and fill blanks...?”
 - r. **Senator Abraham:** “Yes, I Senator Abraham motion too table—no, never mind. Can we still vote on legislation and then at future Atlanta meetings—”
 - s. **EVP Habibur Rahman:** “No.”
- x. **Senator Walker motions to table the bill until the next meeting on Thursday, September 26, seconded by Senator Coggins.**

- a. **Motion fails. 4 For. 4 Against. 11 Abstentions.**
 - xi. **Speaker Thomas entertains a motion for continued discussions, a friendly amendment, or a call to vote.**
 - xii. **Senator Abraham call for to continue discussion for 3 minutes, seconded by Senator Jones. EVP Rahman and Senator Abraham confer with Advisor Gail on whether it is possible to add the words “...appointed by the EVP and approved by the Senate,” so that they can approve the legislation tonight and appoint and approve at the next meeting. Advisor Gail concurs but suggests that the day that members will be confirmed on be added to the bill.**
 - xiii. **Senator DeHart, point of information: “Would we not just pass the bill as is?”**
 - xiv. **Senator Abraham: “No.”**
 - xv. **EVP Habibur Rahman: “It’s going to be two different pieces of legislation.”**
 - xvi. **Senator Abraham: “We’re going to amend it, and then approve it. Then at the next meeting we will be appointing.”**
 - xvii. **Senator DeHart: “Ok.”**
 - xviii. **Senator Abraham motions to end discussion early, seconded by Senator Stokes. Motion passes.**
 - xix. **Senator Abraham motions to add a section that states “be appointed by the Atlanta EVP and approved by the Atlanta Senate on September 26, 2019.” (It is important to note that Senator Abraham wrote this bill and therefore does not need approval to make changes to her bill.)**
 - xx. **Speaker Thomas entertains a call to vote.**
 - a. **Senator Ebiringa motions for a call to vote, seconded by Senator Milani. Motion Passes. 13 For. 2 Against. 4 Abstention.**
- F. Seating of New Members to the Atlanta Senate (90-CSO-CL-ATC- 14)**
- i. **Senator Jones presents** legislation for seating a Liaison/Senator in the College of Law per the Student Bar Association’s choice and due to the vacancy of a representative for the College of Law. This legislation will seat James Beale as a Senator for the College of Law.
 - ii. **Senator Walton motions for a friendly amendment** so the bill may read as “Senator for the College of Law” as well as the title of the bill, which is **approved by Senator Jones.**
 - iii. **James Beale** is a 3rd year law student in the College of Law and he looks to forward to working with students in SGA. He was very proud of the back and forth communication that took place previously and encourages the behavior. James works for the Atlanta Senate and sees discussion like that on a constant basis.
 - iv. **Senator DeHart calls to vote, seconded by Senator Cole.**
 - v. **Motion Passes. 17 For. 0 Against. 2 Abstentions.**

VI. Executive Cabinet Reports

- A. **Communications Director Malbrough:** Director Malbrough welcomes all new senators and liaisons. Planned Parenthood has agreed to donate \$3,000 towards buying feminine hygiene products in their support of the Flower Initiative, which hopes to provide free feminine hygiene products on all campus'. Also, looking to plan a week where we can learn more about the struggles of females and their periods with different events. There will be a Flower Initiative Committee, so keep an eye out as information will be coming out soon. They have also sent in a proposal to hold a joint meeting with the House and Senate. Asks to speak with Head Senators as they will be permitted to give a state of the college address on the chamber floor. Extends invitation to new senators and liaisons to join Communication Committee.
- B. **Finance Director Velazquez:** Welcomes new senators and liaison, emphasizes that they keep up their excitement and drive throughout the semester. Finance Committee has provided a little over \$3,000 towards Conference Spending, extends the invitation for students to look to SGA for funds to help with conferences they would like to attend as there is still a balance of about \$20,000. Director Velazquez has a few initiatives he would like to get off the ground especially in regard to Financial Literacy and hopes to begin collecting data next week.
- C. **Speaker of the Senate Report:** Speaker Thomas reemphasizes the requirement for senators to join at least one standing committee for the Atlanta Senate. Members who have not done so are provided another opportunity after the meeting to sign up but will receive a point. All the Committee Chairs have decided on their meeting times. Speaker Thomas also refers to a read in The Signal that references Senators who were distracted by their phones and casual conversations during the meeting. Speaker Thomas warns his members that this behavior will not be tolerated. Speaker Thomas then engages the members in an activity in hopes of reminding members of how their passion and goals for SGA must be at the forefront of their work. Speaker Thomas calls for a brief recess so that each college can talk a little bit more in depth about their goals.
- D. **Senator Walker motions for a 15-minute recess to discuss with head senators, seconded by Senator Tshizubu.**

- 15 Minute Recess -

VII. **Two Minute Speeches by members of the Senate.**

- A. **Senator Walker:** Discusses trying to re-charter Kappa Alpha Psi. They have been banned from the campus indefinitely; it's been 10 years. Senator Walton believes that we shouldn't punish those who want to be a part of it. He sent in his request to Dr. Calhoun-Brown yesterday, who would have the last say in whether they can come back or not. Senator Walton also talks about a student DJ who wanted to come and bring some life to Panther Dining during wing nights on Thursdays.

- i. **Senator Le:** “Why was Kappa Alpha Psi banned from campus?”
 - ii. **Senator Walton:** “Hazing allegations.”
- B. **Senator Abraham:** Informs the senate that Dr. Calhoun-Brown will be present at a Student Life meeting which she will get the specifics for next week. Suggests that if members want to be able to speak to her about bringing them back those would be great opportunities.
 - i. **Senator Cornett:** Informs us that Tyrell is working towards the same initiative so collaborating with him would be a good idea.

VIII. **SGA Senate Committee Reports**

- A. **Academic Affairs Chair Senator Walton:** The Academic Affairs meeting will be bi-weekly on Fridays from 1-2:30 pm in the SGA Conference Room. Currently working on planning Final Weeks. Senator Walton emailed the Director of Advisement regarding how we can improve advisement. If you have any suggestions, please talk to Senator Nigel Walton or join the Committee.
- B. **Student Engagement Chair Senator Abraham:** Official meeting times are Mondays from 2:30-3pm and Tuesdays 4-5pm. She has had a couple of Co-Sponsorships applications come in. Encourages members to get the word out as deadlines are approaching very quickly. Also plans to collaborate with other organizations as well as other campus'.
 - i. **Director Velazquez:** Our co-sponsorship fund is our least used fund in our budget.
 - ii. **Senator Abraham:** Informs members that application deadline is approaching and that organizations need to go ahead and apply because they do allocate up to \$1,000.
 - iii. **Senator Milani, point of information:** When is the deadline?
 - iv. **Senator Abraham:** Deadlines are on a rolling basis with the first one approaching in October. ORGs must put in their application 4-5 weeks before the scheduled event.
- C. **Student Services Committee Chair Senator Tshizubu:** His committee meets every Friday from 11-12 in the SGA Conference Room. Working on a commuter and religious meal plan with EVP Rahman. Commuter's already get a 10% discount at any dining hall, but Senator Tshizubu is looking for a program that will allow commuter students “swipes” in the dining halls. He is still working with the Panther Dining Director who is entering in a contract with a company that will be providing Hillel chicken, meeting was canceled for today but rescheduled tomorrow. The Counseling and Testing Center will be getting a new space in Dahlberg Hall on the 2nd floor, as well as some new employees. They are waiting on funding, which will take about 30 days. They hope to open the new facility by January. The Clinic is also looking to expand, they have a lot of students come in but there doesn't seem to have enough space. The clinic was opened in 2008 and were promised a larger space after 10 years which has still not happened. Senator Tshizubu calls for all organization and club leaders to take a part in the QSR meeting which informs students on the various ways to help a student in crisis. Senator Tshizubu also discusses GSU APP and met with Dr. Cody Benson

and expresses how they have a budget of \$2,000 which will need to expand for a more useful app. Lastly, Senator Tshizubu introduces a recycling initiative via two other students, Nicole Toole and Ishir Vasavada, who provide a presentation to the Atlanta Senate on their recycling initiative. For more information on the project, please refer to Senator Tshizubu.

- i. **Senator Walton** would like to know when they will be on campus to which **Senator Tshizubu says he will distribute that information. Senator Walton's** second question refers to where the materials will be going after being put into the recycling machine. Ishir tells him that they will be taking it to a professional recycling location.
 - ii. **Senator Le** inquires about what locations they are looking to put their machines on campus. Nicole says they have been looking at locations near the housing centers as well as the library as this is where students frequent.
 - iii. **President Mejia explains** that something she recently learned is that when you are recycling it is important to remove the ring around the bottle as well as the wrapping as these are very dangerous for the environment. She inquires as to whether that was going to be a process required of the people participating or if they will do it themselves. Ishir informs the senate members that they will be doing it themselves, but the barcode will have to remain as this allows them to get information on what type of bottle it is as well as keeping track of them.
 - iv. **Director Malbrough** also offers his assistance regarding getting the word out and securing any rooms needed for further discussions regarding the project.
 - v. **Speaker Thomas asks that if there are any further questions to direct them towards Senator Tshizubu after the meeting.**
- D. **Ad Hoc Committee Reports: Senator DeHart** informs the senate that he will be providing a report during the U-Wide Senate Meeting.
- E. **Vacancy Report Speaker Pro Tempore Jhane Jones:** There are currently vacancies in the College of Education, School of Nursing, and College of A. Young Policy Studies. There are 2 Transition Liaison and 2 Transfer Liaison positions as well. **Speaker Pro Tempore Jones** thanks Senators Walton, Abraham, Ebiringa, and Lopez for helping her with the interview process as some of them were not even a part of her committee and still took the time to help. Encourages senators to get to know the new liaisons.
- F. **University Committee Reports: Senator Lopez discusses** her attendance at the Cultural and Diversity Committee. This meeting was more so an introductory meeting in regard to the members themselves as well as what this committee is to do. They discussed forming subcommittees, for example a Faculty and Staff Diversity, that would focus on the onboarding of a more diverse faculty and staff as well as ways to help GSU retain them. Senator Lopez references other committees such as and LGBTQIA+ Support Community which will focus on things like providing more gender-neutral bathrooms, and a General Student

Diversity Committee, focusing on things like the inequalities between male and female sports and how it affects the students, or the individuals involved in said sport.

- i. **Senator Walton says** a student made a comment to him about the disparity between how men's sports are advertised on a larger scale than women's sports.
 - ii. **Director Velazquez emphasis** this notion of a disparity between the two sexes especially when the female teams are bringing in the wins and are still not being advertised as well as the male teams.
 - iii. **Senator Garrett would** like to know how the committee will go about collecting that information or data.
 - iv. **Senator Lopez says** that this was the introduction meeting, but she will inquire at the next meeting as to how the data will be collected.
- IX. **Advisor Sutton Report:** Discusses that there will be some lighting renovations going on to conserving more energy. This is a project that was co-funded last fiscal year, partially by SGA and the other part by Student Center Operational Funds. The conference room already has energy-conservative lights; they are looking for the rest of the office to match. All the ladder will be done during the hours of 6-9:30am, set to begin on September 27.
- X. **Old Business**
- XI. **New Business**
 - A. **SJB Liaison Dawnyale Allen swears in new senators and liaisons, as well as all Head Senators.**
- XII. **Speaker Thomas opens the floor for comments.**
 - A. **Senator Le addresses the New Senators and Liaisons by welcoming them to Senate and extending out a hand if they need any help or have any questions.**
 - B. **Speaker Thomas reminds New Senators, every one that was not at the retreat, to see him after the meeting so he can provide them with more information, as well as all Senate members who have not chosen a standing committee to be a part of.**
 - C. **Senator DeHart would** like to know if his Ad Hoc Safety Committee counts as a required Standing Committee. **Speaker Thomas says yes but** is corrected by EVP Rahman. **The Safety Committee does not a count as one of the required Standing Committee. Speaker Thomas** does encourage members join the committee as it is an integral committee regarding safety on campus.
- XIII. **Executive Vice President Report:** Informs the Senate that the Student Activity Fee Committee will begin meeting tomorrow and extends an invitation out to the members to join in hopes of becoming an alternate as he would like help in allocating the funds to the various organizations. The meeting will be from 3-5pm, please speak with EVP Habibur Rahman if you are interested. Badges are available as well, so again see EVP Habibur Rahman to collect you badge.
- XIV. **President Mejia:** Expresses her excitement to finally having the Liaisons here, as we have had previous liaisons in the current administration who were go getters and we have had some spread their wings elsewhere after being a liaison. So, she is excited to

see what the liaisons bring to the table as well as how they can all grow together as the 90th Administration. Yesterday, there was a financial literacy event posted by the Student Financial Department, that was quite informative. This month is safety month. On Monday at 8pm, students, with the Police Department, will be walking around the campus performing safety walks to point out areas that might need cameras or better lighting to reduce incidents.

XV. **Closing Call of Roll: Senate Clerk Dankwa** (Absent: Senators Aiken, Manning, Tinsley, and Staine)

XVI. **Adjournment:**

- A. **Speaker Thomas entertains** motion to adjourn meeting at 9:34pm and reconvene on September 26, 2019 at 7:15PM Student Center West RM 466.
- B. **Senator Walton motions** to adjourn meeting, seconded by **Senator Le.**
- C. Meeting is adjourned at 9:35pm, September 12, 2019.