San Antonio Higher Education Representative Assembly
September 22nd, 2015
AGENDA

I. Call To Order - 8:14

Members Present: Ileana Gonzalez, Marcus Thomas, Jeff Schilder, Luis Zaragoza, Patrick O’Donnell, Harley Williams, Jamie Keaton, Stacy Freealee, Katherine Brown, William Trynoski, Sean McCutchen, Adam Mueller, Allison Garcia, Brian Harrin

Members Absent:

II. Chairman’s Report

a. Facebook page is live. Use for discussions. Who needs to be added?

   i. Constantly updating email list, let me know if you do not get our emails

   ii. If you would like anything added to minutes, be sure to let Ileana or Marcus know

b. Contacted every institution, awaiting response from TAMU-SA

   i. Ideally, we will have 8 universities/colleges present in the future

c. Waiting to Ratify Constitution until we have all 8 present

   i. Same goes for passing the Resolution. I think it is best to push it after our first successful initiative

d. National Voter Registration Day was TODAY!

   i. SAC partnered with MOVESA, and got 119 people registered on campus, was very excited

   ii. Alamo Colleges had an event on campus, as did St. Mary’s

   iii. UTSA registered 500 people

e. Should SAHERA have a common website?

   i. Each SG has its own website and mentions SAHERA vs a Unified page for all campuses
ii. Public Facebook Page?

iii. Have a SAHERA tab on UTSA SGA’s website?

iv. Have each college’s website list SAHERA?

v. Put it on City of San Antonio’s Website?

f. Should SAHERA attend city committees?
   i. Each college sends delegates - doesn’t have to be the SAHERA reps themselves

III. Representative Reports

a. Incarnate Word University
   i. 

b. Our Lady of the Lake University
   i. 

c. Palo Alto
   i. Club rush on 9/7
      1. Groups go to the courtyard and promote their groups
   ii. Alamo Colleges looking for student voice on their board
      1. Each campus elects one student, the board will interview them
   iii. new VP on campus, wants to hear opinions and concerns from students from all walks of life
      1. Wants to meet to discuss changes to Board of trustees
   iv. House of representatives
      1. clubs and orgs meet and discuss common concerns
   v. Paloween
      1. Halloween event on 10/30
2. costume contest, food, dancing, prizes for best dressed, etc

3. Carnival in spring

vi. VA decorated student annex center on 9/11

d. San Antonio College

i. Spending the first couple of weeks letting the students know they’re there.

ii. helped in the 9/11 remembrance events

iii. student dialogue series - chancellor spoke, answered questions, etc

1. 120-140 attendees

2. Students from dual credit courses were in attendance, had a good mix throughout

iv. Alamo Colleges are up for reaccreditation, so they are working on a quality assurance program

v. QEP - literacy information in regards to research

1. giving out pizza (Q-E-Pizza) on 9/23

e. St. Mary’s University

i. Voting for elections opens tomorrow, 9/23

1. Did not elect officers for this year previously

ii. Focusing on foundations of SGA, and how it operates

iii. Orientation for new senators is coming up soon

1. teamwork

2. what the senators’ jobs are

3. etc

iv. want to collaborate with other orgs across campus

v. biggest goals include:

1. setting a formalized way to gather feedback from students.

   a. Suggestions

   i. paper surveys, all the time
1. pizza for surveys?

ii. student organization liaison meetings a few times a semester - the officers of different groups meet with SGA occasionally

iii. President’s advisory committee

1. different groups from around campus meet with SGA

iv. focus groups, and meetings with student organizations

v. Topic of the week - leave a big board out and let students write on it.

1. Already has a question of the week that is very successful

f. St. Phillips College

i.

g. Texas A&M – San Antonio

i. Just got approved for downward expansion

1. currently only junior/senior/graduates

a. next fall can bring in freshman and sophomores

ii. Also had funding for new buildings approved recently

iii. establishing traditions

1. A&M system - follows what Aggies do in some regards

iv. new University president

1. very student focused

2. very social media savvy

v. Military embracing university

1. Day of celebration

a. flyover, A&M corps of cadets
vi. A&M night at the Spurs

h. Trinity University
   i. B cycle still hasn’t happened at Trinity
      1. Has zipcar
   ii. New university president this semester
      1. optimistic about new president
   iii. recently hired a master planning firm
      1. will be trying to get students involved in the new master plan
   iv. having a meeting next month with all presidents and vice presidents, hopefully with student involvement
   v. Trying to restructure SGA so that all of the responsibility doesn’t fall on two people
      1. possibly having president and VP elected earlier on to encourage continuity
      2. changing the structure of senator constituencies
      3. electronic voting - currently only doing paper voting
   vi. Bringing in activity friendly scheduling - can’t only offer classes in one slot, because this prevents students from being able to participate in organizations and athletic teams
      1. is done at other colleges, but isn’t widespread.
   vii. Student activity fee allocated by SGA
      1. 2% is used as operations budget
      2. planning to pay for busses to get students to football games since team is doing well
   viii. Trying to get Senator Menendez and Congressman Dogged on campus
   i. UTSA
      i. UTSA Blvd being expanded
         1. two lanes each side, bike lanes, sidewalks, middle turning lane
2. is setting up the master plan expansions

ii. TRB approved for $100 million, UTSA adding $25 million for new science building

iii. starting a new garage

iv. Campus carry task force

   1. discussed for two weeks in general assemblies

v. Greenfund

   1. Spring 2011, UT BOR approved green fund for 4 campuses

   2. Will be ending soon, are looking into incidental fee options

vi. SGA elections

   1. 50 positions + non-positioned members

vii. alcohol at on campus athletics events

   1. intended to increase attendance

viii. student outreach focus for this year

   1. tabling, new website, social media presence, etc

ix. More positive outlook from campus newspaper

x. Dept. of Homeland Security award

   1. National Cybersecurity standards to be developed at UTSA

xi. First open cloud institute with Backspace - Intel joined recently

xii. NVRD - we registered 500 people

xiii. looking into improving international student experience

xiv. PINK campus showdown

IV. Committee Reports

   a. No committees or special projects have been formed

V. Open Discussion
a. What are some of your greatest strengths as an organization? (ex: your people, the help you receive from your administration, your advisors, abundance of resources, etc.)

i. Let’s look for similarities

ii. How can we as a group help further facilitate your growth?

iii. Texas A&M

1. Age population. Older students mentor organization leadership.
2. Significant resources for initiatives
3. initiatives have full backing of fac/staff

iv. Trinity

1. Group of people willing to work for the students. Being able to enable them to do things. Administration clearly cares about students.
2. Very interconnected senate and faculty

v. Palo Alto

1. relationship with administration and advisors
   a. Campus leadership meetings lead to the administration becoming very supportive of SGA

vi. SAC

1. good connection with district and president. monthly meetings with president
2. passionate officers who are dedicated to fixing issues

vii. St. Mary’s

1. Recognition from Fac/Staff
   a. will be taken seriously in meetings

viii. UTSA

1. Easy to communicate with EBoard, Fac/Staff
2. Good at encouraging younger leadership
3. Interconnected Senate

b. Senator Menendez Meeting

   i. Trinity and SAC met with Senator Menendez

      1. He will be coming to SAC’s campus on November 10

      ii. Other campuses had reps meet with him - their reps are not present

VI. Old Business

   a. Letter to the Mayor and City Council

      i. Get College/University Student body presidents to sign on to the letter?

VII. New Business

   a. We still need a symbol that fits with slogan (Ex: “We won’t desert our constituents”), potential committee project

   b. Be prepared for next meeting: What do you feel is most holding you back (external or internal)?

      i. Also: ideas for new slogans, logos, etc

VIII. Announcements / Upcoming Events

   a. Next Meeting. WHERE?

      i. Trinity

      ii. Does Tuesday night work for the various reps?

   b. Issues presented to be discussed on various campuses:

      i. Uber coming back to SA

      ii. Music festival in City of SA

IX. Adjournment - 9:40