General Assembly  
November 4, 2004

I. Call to Order – 7:55 P.M.

II. Roll Call – Damon Garcia, Cody Coeckelenbergh, Carlos Cardenas, Chris Forbrich, Poe Madole, Christina Gomez, Eddie Dawson, Destinee Waiters, Richard Knight, Marcos Menchaca, Alex Medina, Jozi Zatarain, Justin Shenk, Tommy Thompson, Felicia Owo, Dallas Davis, Justine Joseph, Daniel Laugesen, Nick Lambert, Jonathan Ferrero, Jennifer Malaer, Sandra Guerrero, Angela McNair, Vaughn Cummings

Excused Absences – Jason Palasota

III. Open Forum:

Jenn Malaer – As a student, Jenn wants to raise the issue of DVD vending machines for the residence facilities on campus. There is no cost or liability for UTSA. The school will actually be receiving a small profit margin from the use of these machines if it is decided that they are a good idea. Jenn needs feedback from the students to know if getting these machines will be beneficial for student life.

- Carlos says that the proposed contract is necessary in order to have a complete view of the proposal. He is also interested in knowing what kind of format that the DVDs are in, since some DVDs are able to disintegrate after a few days. Jenn clarifies that the vending machines will be dispensing regular DVDs.

- Vaughn states that the students should be allowed to decide how to spend the money that the school gets from these machines.

- Cody wants to know what kind of maintenance service is going to be provided for the vending machines. The company told Jenn that they would provide maintenance at no cost to the school.

- Vaughn wants to know if this is the only company that provides these kinds of machines, because if there are then there should be a bidding between the competing companies.

- Priscilla asks if there are going to be machines in the University Oaks and Chisholm Hall since they are not owned by UTSA. Jenn says that the machines will be available in Chaparral Village first and then depending on the success of those machines, the school may choose to put more in the other two residence halls.

- Angela is interested in knowing what other universities are using this particular company and if vandalism is a problem. Jenn replies that St. Mary’s has one of these machines and it has turned out to be quite successful for them. Furthermore, any vandalism will be dealt with by the company (Netflix) because the school will have no liability and maintenance will be provided.

- Destinee asks if school has considered putting a DVD machine in the UC so that all students could benefit from it, not just those who live on campus. Jenn explains that it might be an option for the future, but for now the company is interested in putting a couple of machines in the Chaparral Village to gauge student interest.

- Jozi points out that if this contract is being set up with only one company in mind than it cannot be considered bidding. If bidding cannot be achieved then the school should not proceed with this arrangement. The university should also examine the division of the profits between the company and UTSA because there might be a way to increase the school’s percentage. Would the school receive a percentage of the $25 fee that will be charged to students if a video is not returned on time? If so, how much? If not, why not? If a student becomes a repeat offender for not returning movies on time, then what would be done by the company to make the student comply with the deadlines? Is that something that UTSA should be concerned about? The profit that the school would receive should not go to the purchase of more washing machines because the on-campus residence facilities should already have those before they begin to acquire luxuries such as DVD vending machines. Jenn asks to talk to Jozi later.

- Cody suggests that Jenn place this on a forum for students to examine this issue.

IV. Executive Officer Reports

A. President – Damon Garcia

1. The UC expansion meetings will be in the Willow room on November 9 at 12:00 PM, 3:00 PM, or 5:00 PM. Please attend so that the architects may receive feedback from students.
2. Everyone needs to read the Honor Code and give their feedback to Marcos Menchaca. Marcos needs this information by November 11 because he needs to turn it in to the Provost's Office.
3. Damon has been meeting with the Office of the President and the Assistant to the President to discuss the election season in the Spring. He will be talking to some Senators and State representatives in regards to student needs. If any students have any input then please come to Damon and discuss it with him.
4. Damon is going to the UT system Student Advisory Council meeting on November 5. They will be discussing the possibility of getting a student on the Board of Regents. He will have his report next week.
5. The Election Party went very well. Approximately 1500 students came throughout the night. The publicity was very beneficial for the school. The PR committee worked very hard to put the party together.

B. Vice President Internal -- Cody Coeckelenbergh
1. The SGA mixer went very well. It was a good step towards unifying the SGA's from different schools which will make us a more influential group within San Antonio.
2. The online report forum is almost complete.
3. The survey is almost complete and it will be sent out very soon.
4. Cody wants to encourage everyone to use the online report forums such that we can discuss issues more frequently and easily.
5. Everyone needs to read the Honor Code because it is important to have the student's feedback before it becomes official.
6. The sign up list and concern ballots were successful at the Election Night Party.
7. A resolution was passed to put a student on the Board of Regents as a voting member. Cody wants copies of the petition so that he can make more copies.
8. Reports need to be shortened for presentation during General Assembly. The meetings are carrying on for too long due to lack of structure for the reports.
9. Ruti Kovner, the College of Science Representative resigned this morning. Give Richard a hug.

C. Vice President External - Carlos Cardenas
1. Mixer went over very well, there were about 20 students there. It was a step toward organization between campuses.
2. Election Night Party went very well. The PR did a good job of getting everyone involved. Thank you to everyone who helped out with the party.
3. Kudos to Chanale and Justin for pulling together all of the elements for the party.
4. On Nov 18 we are going to be at O'Connor High School to visit with the Political Club.
5. After the meeting with the Political Club on Nov 18, the student union will be lobbying at the City Council for early polling sites on our campuses.
6. Student union will be lobbying for early polling at the County Commissioners Court until Nov. 18.
7. The SGA Bexar county meeting will be at Palo Alto on Nov 19. The agenda will be distributed soon.

(Damon adds – 1. SGA will be looking into buying its own email service to make sure that the SGA email is more reliable. 2. Student concerns are important - major ones should be brought forward in new business as a motion 3. CoS and CoEHD representative positions need to be advertised for two weeks)

D. Treasurer - Chris Forbrich
1. Chris has presented a (rough) current statement of accounts – if anyone does not understand how to read a financial statement then please contact Chris so he may explain it further.
2. He also passed out an announcement of the LeaderFund date on Nov. 22 at 5:30.
3. He is still waiting on reconciliations from University, will meet w/ Barry next week to audit them.
4. Chris will be doing more Leader Fund Application hearings, the information goes to organizations tomorrow.
5. It would be nice if everyone donate a couple of dollars or so to purchase flowers for Glenda as she recovers from surgery.

E. Secretary - Amy (Poe) Madole
1. I would still like to get the reports from the SGA members who have business to present at the General Assembly.
2. The Historian and I will be cleaning out the dungeon next Wednesday.
3. I have a rough version of the SGA Contact Sheet and still need some information for it. I will send it to everyone soon over the SGA email.

V. Advisor’s Report

A. Associate Director, SLCP - Barry McKinney
1. The Search Committee will have its first meeting this Friday at 10AM.
2. Kudos to all members who participated in the Election Night event.
3. Glenda is doing well and should be going home tomorrow.
4. Barry will be out of office on Monday.

B. Executive Director, SLCP - John Kaulfus
1. Tomorrow is the deadline to turn in job applications for the role as John’s assistant.
2. Forum for the architects is on Nov 9 at 12, 3, and 5 PM in the Willow Room.
3. An email about the SLCP name change will be going out tomorrow.
4. John will be out of the office tomorrow.
5. Kudos to everyone involved in the Election night party.

VI. Cabinet Reports

A. Student Affairs Chair - Alex Martinez
1. He is still looking to set a date for review of disability services.
2. The SI meeting will be extended so we can get additional research.
3. I will attend next IFC to recruit members for Roost Committee.

B. Downtown Affairs Chair - Jozi Zatarain
1. She had an opportunity to meet with downtown students at the election night party and got them to participate in downtown affairs.
2. Jozi will be representing the Downtown college students and the CoPP in the meeting with the Tuition Deregulation Committee and wants to hear any questions or comments that any student might have. She will present those questions and comments to the committee to ensure that the students voices are heard.

C. Academic Affairs Chair - Marcos Menchaca
(Secretary’s Note – To provide everyone with more detailed information, I posted Marcos’ report below.)

I.) Professor Proficiency in English
A.) The committee asked the Provost "what policies are currently in place to ensure that all instructors can proficiently speak English?"
B.) The Dr. Welch responded, "EVERY instructor must fill out an English proficiency form when he or she is hired. If English is not a first language, the instructor must fill out further information and take an English proficiency test. I suspect the problem some students are encountering may be centered around hard-to-understand accents rather than lack of vocabulary and grammar. When I was a student I sometimes had this problem. It usually cleared up as I grew used to the professor's accent. If the students as a group are having trouble understanding an instructor, they need to notify the department chair of the problem. This should be done once the students determine they cannot adjust to an accent.
C.) Moreover, she noted, FROM THE UTSA HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES (http://www.utsa.edu/hop/chapter2/): 2.33 Faculty Proficiency in English <http://www.utsa.edu/hop/chapter2/2-33.cfm#C> 2.33.C]
D.) The committee chair suggest that the Assembly investigate how to educate students that going to the department chair to address a problem with an instructor speaking ability is the correct form of action.

II.) Classroom Utilization
A.) The committee asked, "what policies are in place for utilizing classrooms at UTSA?"
B.) Dr. Welch responded. Due to its rapidly increasing enrollment, UTSA currently has one of the highest classroom utilization rates in the entire state. The classroom assignment is centralized in the Registrar's Office to organize the
process. The Registrar's Office makes an effort to match each class section request with a room that meets the needs of the class, such as layout, technical capabilities, etc. The Supplemental Instruction sections should have been submitted for scheduling at the same time class sections are scheduled. The heavy bureaucratic approach that kicks in happens if requests are made after the other classes are scheduled. It isn't bureaucracy so much as just a really HARD job to do. Rooms must be found to satisfy the requests. This will likely require juggling class sections already in progress to new locations, etc. to find a place for added courses (SI or regular courses). If there are special requests for rooms, they must be scheduled in light of the classes already in session and the times that heavily used rooms available. Booking classrooms centrally also prevents overbooking, or having two groups show up to use the same room at the same time. This has happened in the past when more than one person could schedule rooms. For example, before the Registrar's Office took over the assignment centrally, a community group attempted to force a regularly scheduled College of Business Accounting course to leave its classroom during its normally scheduled class time so that the group could hold its one-time meeting."

C.) The committee will make a policy recommendation on this soon.

III.) Formula Funding
A.) The committee asked the following and received the following responses from the Provost's Office.
1.) What is the exact formula used?
2.) Dr. Welch responded, "Formula funding isn't determined by UT System. It is the State of Texas formula funding. The state pays $51.25 per semester credit hour for every student enrolled in college-level, for-credit courses. (This is subject to certain restrictions. For instance, the funding running UTSA this year was approved in 2002, during the last biennial legislative session. In addition, when students go over certain total semester credit hours limits or retake a course too many times, the State refuses to keep funding that student.) But without restrictions, a 3-hour course with 30 students enrolled would generate 3x30x$51.25, or $4612.50 base. Then formula is multiplied by weighting factors that vary with the type of course and level of course. The formula and weighting factors can be found on the State of Texas web site in the state budget:
http://www.leg.state.tx.us/Bill_78/7_FSU/Bill-78-7_FSU_1003.pdf . Chapter III related to higher education. Look on page III 265 for the formula and weighting information. You can apply the weighting factors you see there to the dollar amount above to see what the change would be for a lower level Liberal Arts course (the base x 1.00 - no change) compared to a upper division Engineering course (the base x 3.46, or $15,959.25) versus a MBA course (the base x 4.59 or $21,171.38)."
3.) What are the statistics over the years of how tuition is dispersed in the UT System?
4.) Dr. Welch responded, "UT System doesn't disperse tuition although the Regents have to approve the tuition charged at each campus. The state funds the universities through formula funding (with a two year lag due to the biennial legislative sessions in which each university's budget is approved noted above), and then also returns the portion of tuition paid above the minimum required tuition back to the universities in which the students are enrolled. So the tuition our students are paying in excess of the basic tuition returns to UTSA to use to educate our students. This office doesn't have the information you request [regarding state dispersal of funding] available and it would require extensive data gathering to see what might be found. The link above will provide budgetary information regarding each state university. Search on each university's name to find the budget for each."
5.) What is the historical justification for the formula?
6.) Dr. Welch responded, "There are occasional studies performed by the State that looks at formula funding weighting and makes adjustments. The formula weighting ideally attempts to adjust the funding per hour from the state for courses in disciplines which are more expensive to offer."

B.) As can be seen, this issue is not easily resolved simply from within the UT System. It must be a state higher educational issue that SGA can address.
UTSA is growing to the point where it this formula may hurt the university more than it helps. The committee will be drafting a preliminary resolution to start the process of making this issue officially on the UT System agenda.

IV.) Core Curriculum
A.) The committee is reviewing the following domains from the Core Curriculum: English, Mathematics, and Science.
B.) Committee members have been assigned to investigate the purpose of the classes in these domains by acquiring syllabi from the professors of these classes.

V.) Honor Code
A.) All voting are of SGA must ask themselves the following question: “if the Honor Code were to be put up to a vote today, would I vote for it.”
B.) If the answer to the previous question is no, then the committee chair asks that those members submit an electronic copy of their suggested changes to the chair, which will be forwarded to Honors Alliance.
The members can also discuss the code on the “Wiki” (for more information, talk to Richard Knight).

D. Business Affairs Chair - Jennifer Malaer
1. The last food services meeting was held this week.
2. Business Affairs will still have monthly meetings with Chartwells to review comment cards.
3. The UC bookstore is expanding their product line to include lots of new items.
4. Business Affairs is going to be focusing on the issues with parking for the rest of the semester.

E. University Advancement - Nick Lambert
No report

F. Parliamentarian - Eddie Dawson
No report

G. Historian - Christina Gomez
1. Thank you to everyone who was there to take the picture before today’s meeting.
2. Christina needs members to forward reports and pictures to her.

VII. Representative Reports

A. College of Science - Richard Knight
No report

B. School of Architecture & Design - Christian Borres
Not present

C. College of Liberal & Fine Arts - Destinee Waiters, Antonio Mills
1. The CoLFA Student Council Meeting will be on Tuesday Nov.9, 2004 at 6pm in the Willow Room in the UC.
2. I have been getting great responses from the Department Heads; however, the Dean and associate Dean of CoLFA have failed to get back to me. I will be following up with them.
3. HAPPY NOTE:
I went to the Fine Arts Building to hand out flyers about the meeting and the Departments had already sent hung them up around the building.
4. The First Tuition Deregulation meeting went well. I will keep everyone updated, as it is an important part of representing our students.
5. I am still working on Concerns.

D. College of Public Policy - Geraldine (Jeri) Lopez
Not present

VIII. At Large Representatives

A. Freshman Representative - Dallas Davis
1. Update on his Student Concerns — Students have been complaining about the poor quality of the food in the UC and have discussed the possibility of passing around a petition. Dallas needs to know what the proper process is that he must go through to see about improving food quality.

B. Graduate Representative — Sandra Guerrero
1. Set up a Downtown Graduate meeting on November 17 from 4-6 PM in the Durango Building (Rm. 4.211)

D. University Oak Representative — Daniel Laugesen
1. Dan had a meeting with Assistant Director of Resident Life (Ben Newhouse) on Nov. 1 to go over student concerns.
2. Dan is interested in starting an Oaks Committee, anyone who lives in the Oaks and is interested in participating should contact him.

E. College of Business — Angela McNair
1. The Business Student Council had 37 students in attendance at last night’s meeting. Nine organizations were represented. We are still working on visibility and attendance.
2. There was a vote about voicing to the administration that the business students want to remain in the Business Building. 28 in favor — 9 abstain
3. At the recommendation of the business students, the CoB has created a Student Advisory Board on Undergraduate Advising.
4. The BSC budget has been approved at $2,500.
5. Meet the Dean will be next Wednesday at 7PM in the Oak room.
6. The last meeting will be on Nov 17. The constitution will be revised.
7. The first ever community service project is going to be held soon.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Information and Technology
1. The SGA website and email are working now
2. Status on our printer — IT has been called everyday this week and they will speak to Barry before they look at the printers. Supposedly, IT is on its way.

B. FIRE (presented by proxy — Barry McKinney)
1. Completed draft of the FIRE operations manual.

C. Public Relations
1. PR is currently looking into different kinds of promotional items that can be used to advertise SGA at athletic events.
2. The Election Night Party was great.
3. (Chanelle) Thank you to the people that volunteered to help with the Election Night Party, especially the Clean Up crew.

E. Website Chair
1. IT is a mess and Tommy has been trying to work with them to fix the printers and such around the office.
2. The website is back up again, but in order to make a report forum Tommy might be able to create a yahoo email system like what SGA had last year.

F. Environmental Services
1. The recycling initiative is gaining support from students through student concerns submitted regarding recycling.
2. Two questions will be on the student survey regarding recycling.
3. We are collecting signatures of those interested in having a program on campus.
4. We are also looking into donations of bins.
5. Documentation of support and research and a plan for UTSA will be presented to the V.P. of Student Affairs and the V.P. of Business Affairs.
F. University Life Awards – Angela McNair
1. There will be a ULA meeting this Wednesday at 11:00 AM in the SGA Office.
The following will be discussed:
   • possible theme “On the Red Carpet”
   • locations: Retama-DT-Main Building
   • possible selection committee chair
   • nomination packet
   • tentative timeline

G. Rowdy Voter Group
No Report

H. Advancement of Women (presented by proxy – Carlos Cardenas)
1. They are interested in bringing a Planned Parenthood Clinic to UTSA and making it available to
   everyone in the community instead of just UTSA students.
2. Advancement of Women is going to schedule meetings with Planned Parenthood, members of the City
   Council, National Organization of Women, and the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center in order to realize
   this goal.

X. Old Business
No old business

XI. New Business

A. Jonathan Fierro moves to open in house elections. Alex Martinez seconds the motion.
   • CoB Representative: Emily Bachelor, Tommy Thompson, Alex Cruz
   • Tommy and Alex win
   • CoEHD Representative: No candidates present.

B. Christina moves for the Business Affairs Committee to open an investigation for the appeals
   process for parking at UTSA. Jenn Malaer seconds the motion.
   Open Discussion:
   • Jenn Malaer clarifies that the parking appeals process is unclear and needs to be investigated
   • Cody moves to accept by consent.
   • Marcos objects in order to move that we broaden the investigation to traffic appeals which will cover
     parking and other types of appeals. Motion seconded.
   • Jozi wants to make an amendment to this motion such that there is a specific part of the investigation that
     will be dedicated to solving the issue of parking appeals at the downtown campus.
   • Damon clarifies for Jozi that downtown parking appeals is implied under the current motion because it
     refers to the entire university as a whole.
   • Carlos says that the problems within the police department are so large that it renders the entire
     department “broken in the way that the IT department is broken”. He feels as though this motion is a small
     step in the right direction for rectifying the major flaws with the arbitrary law enforcement on campus.
   • Sandra is concerned about broadening the motion to include an investigation of the police at the
     downtown campus. The police downtown are issuing parking tickets to people who park in the parking
     complex yet they park there without permits as well.
   • Cody believes that Sandra’s concern is a different issue, and that it warrants its own investigation. He
     suggests that Sandra meet with Jenn and Business Affairs to look into that issue farther.
   • Marcos wants to clarify whether or not the motion regarding parking appeals would fall under Business
     Affairs or Student Affairs.
   • John Kaulfus confirms that this is a Business Affairs issue.
   • Cody moves to accept by consent
   • Daniel seconds the motion.
   • Motion passes, all in favor. No abstentions.

C. Destinee moves that the University Advancement Committee should investigate the option of
   putting pencil sharpeners in the Main building. Nick seconds the motion.
Motion passes, all in favor except for Eddie. No abstentions.

D. Cody moves allow the Communications Director to investigate the possibility of organizing a campus-wide Meet and Greet with SGA officials. Eddie seconds the motion.
Open Discussion:
- Cody explains that a campus-wide Meet and Greet would allow students on campus to come and meet the SGA officials.
- Vaughn says that he likes this idea and has been working on it for the past couple of days. He wants this event to be scheduled on Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. During this event, SGA officers and representatives would go to three different locations on campus (the JPL Library, the residence facilities, and the Downtown Campus) where they would meet the administration and the students to hear more concerns.
- Eddie points out that this would benefit the goal of obtaining transparency for SGA by publicizing the officer's presence on campus. The student body should be familiar with SGA and the officials that make up SGA.
- Motion passes, all in favor. No abstentions.

E. Chris moves to create a task force consisting of the chairs of all standing committee chairs to investigate the financial process affecting students at UTSA. Poe seconds the motion.
Open Discussion:
- Chris explains that a committee working to investigate this issue would help to clarify the process and make more resources available to the students.
- Cody wants to know if it is open for all students.
- Chris says that it would.
- Motion passes, all in favor. No abstentions.

F. Carlos moves to open an investigation for the sinks in the Main Building because they leak. Jenn seconds the motion.
Open Discussion:
- Carlos has received concerns about the leaky sinks in the Main Building. This is a new building and should be working properly. Business Affairs should look into getting a work order for this problem.
- Motion passes, all in favor. No abstentions.

XII. Announcements

A. Cody needs to speak with Sandra and Jonathan after the meeting.

B. Poe needs to see the newly elected members and Vaughn to get their contact information.

C. John makes a point of reference: there are only three General Assembly Meetings left for this semester.

D. Chris thanks everyone who contributed money to the hat which will be used to get a gift for Glenda. We collected over $50.

XIII. Adjournment - 10:05 P.M.