Senate Meeting

November 8, 2023

Legacy A&B @ 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – 6:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call

Senator Arriaga AE

Senator Bennett P

Senator Craft P

Senator Elam P

Senator Gonzales P

Senator Hernandez P

Senator Hill P

Senator Juiye P

Senator Kourouma P

Senator Lynch P

Senator Andii Martinez P

Senator Nelson Martinez P

Senator Olivas P

Senator Orellana A

Senator Page P

Senator Pereyra A

Senator Pippen P

Senator Rodriguez P

Senator Tran P

Senator Washington P

Senator Wright P

Vice President Lara P

Vice President Van Buren P

President Terrazas P

1. Approval of the Minutes – Moved by Senator Olivas, seconded by Senator Lynch, approved
2. Approval of the Agenda – Moved by Senator Olivas, seconded by Senator Pippen, approved
3. Open General Student Input
4. Guest Speakers
   1. Nechell Bonds, Vice President of Enrollment Management – Introduce Jordan Stevenson, new Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, you will see him out for many recruitment and outreach events. We made record enrollment gains that was recorded to our system. Commerce enjoyed the position as the number 1 school in the system with new enrollment. Admissions applications for Fall 24 are already up from 2019, we are up from pre-covid (up 15%, admits are up 50% as well). Last time came to SGA, launched into strategic enrollment management, partnered with Huron Group. We have invited Huron Group back to do a refresh of the data to do townhalls and open conversations. We want to make sure student voices are reflected in the data.
      1. Floor opened for questions by Senator Lynch/ seconded by Senator Bennett
         1. Out of state student - $1000 scholarship minimum would bring a student from out of state tuition to in-state tuition. Encourage participation in general scholarship fund. We do not have students going into the portal and applying. It is one application; it automatically matches you to any scholarship you qualify for in the donor portal.
         2. How are we accommodating commuters that cannot come up here if they have financial aid issues? – There are 3 ways to meet with financial aid, in-person, via zoom, or phone call. In order to facilitate capacity, we have done reorganization, we have frontline team with calendar system that will manage the ways a person can reach the financial aid advisor.   
              
              
              
              
              
              
              
            We are talking about pulling together a Money Matters Center, that will help with financial literacy, be resource to meet with a money coach, talk about financial aid package but if it is not enough, how are other ways to get more funds. Please share the social media posts about the new FAFSA and liking those posts as well.
         3. Who controls social media for Enrollment Management? – Departments have their own person. Enrollment Management does have a communications team that gives things out to prospective students.
         4. Process once they arrive, transition/onboard? – First onboarding is admitted students day, it is an opportunity to take care of any outstanding business (transcript, housing applications, additional enrollment steps, this happens in April). Registration rallies, taking the business component on the road to Dallas, Garland ISD, Commerce, able to sit down with students and families to discuss anything left undone. Next onboarding is orientation, we purposely separated orientation from registration based off focus group feedback. Our students were already registered before they came to orientation. Now we can focus on becoming a Lion and meeting other students, faculty, and staff, giving them the opportunity to adjust without having to deal with course scheduling. After, students can participate in Lion Camp. SGA should show up and give students the opportunity to meet you. Any opportunities you want to be a part of, you are welcome to be join.
      2. Floor closed for questions, Lynch/Pippen, floor closed.
5. Executive Board Reports
   1. President Terrazas – Happy BG Wednesday! This video is for the student body of what SGA is and for the referendum. Voting will be next week 14th and 15th, results will be announced next Thursday. Please share this with other students. Shoutout to External Affairs and Andii Martinez for the SGA Express. Everybody check to make sure you have card access to the office.
   2. Vice President/Senate Chair Van Buren – Would love to have everyone come prepared with questions for guests. This helps you learn and work with your committees. Please reach out if you want to have anybody come speak. E-mail went out if you missed meetings, please respond to those e-mails. Will be reaching out again this week.
   3. Vice President/Senate Affairs Lara – please make sure to email or text report, it is important to show up for committee meetings, there will be an e-mail to those not meeting.
6. Advisor Report
7. Jeremy Sippel – Please BCC or CC me on e-mails to university administrators. Please pick up your polo or quarter zip.
8. Old Business
9. New Business
   1. Chief Justice Representative – Zakiya Young
      1. Floor open for questions moved by Senator Olivas, seconded by Senator Martinez, floor opened for questions.
      2. Floor closed for questions moved by Senator Lynch, seconded by Senator Hill.
      3. Floor opened for discussion moved by Senator Lynch, seconded by Senator Andii Martinez.
      4. Floor closed for discussion moved by Senator Lynch, seconded by Washington.
      5. Floor opened for voting procedures by show of hands vote moved by Senator Lynch, seconded by Senator Tran.
      6. 17-0-1 passed
      7. Floor closed for voting procedures by Senator Bennett, seconded by Senator Pippen.
10. Committee Reports
    1. Academic Affairs – Tabling event to get student input, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. sending list to Advisor, meeting time is Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. except on Lion Ambassador meeting weeks.
    2. Campus Life – Working on a survey to ask students what changes they want on campus. Have an event for Thanksgiving, have a white board to have students write what they are Thankful for, will likely be November 20th.
    3. Campus Safety & Wellness – Last week had pumpkin painting, had many people follow us on social media, looking to partner with campus rec on a tournament to figure out some legislation. Meetings at Tuesday at 4 p.m.
    4. External Affairs – Tailgate this Saturday, we will have snacks. Helping External Affairs counts as office hours. Set up will be at 11 a.m., take down at 3 p.m.
    5. Internal Affairs – Friendsgiving, will be ordering Omegas, at Alumni Center, date to be determined.
11. Announcements
    1. Pi Kappa Alpha Philanthropy Fire Department, information should be coming out tomorrow, message Senator Elam if interested. There are daily events during the week.
    2. CAB is holding line dance workshop at 6 p.m. in the Club.
    3. Thank you for supporting Senator Lynch in the Mr. Heartthrob competition.
12. Adjournment – 7:05 p.m.