

TWENTY-NINTH SENATE  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Fourteenth Meeting of the 29th Senate  
Monday, November 23, 1992  
Regents Room, University Center, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer: Michelle Palmer, Speaker of the 29th Senate
2. Call of the Roll by the Secretary: Quynh Thai, Senate Secretary
3. Reading and Approval of the Senate Journal
4. Special Reports: Jerrold Always, Undergraduate Council
5. Two Minute Speeches by the Members
6. Report of the President: Rusty Hruska
7. Report of the Vice President: Charles Gaviola
8. Report of the Speaker: Michelle Palmer
9. Reports of the Standing Committees
  - a) Academic Affairs: Dina Abramson, Chair
  - b) Internal Affairs: Coy Wheeler, Chair
  - c) Student Life: Jennifer Zuber, Chair
  - d) University Administration and Finance: Carlos Morales, Chair
10. Report of the Select Committees
11. Special Orders
12. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation
  - a) Legislation Turned in to the Speaker Prior to Publication of the Agenda
    - None
  - b) Legislation Introduced on the Senate Floor
13. Unfinished Business and General Orders
  - a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments
    1. Committee on Academic Affairs:
      - Rajuh Shah –Academic Computer Advisory Board
    2. Committee on Internal Affairs:
      - Anthony Cheng –Senator for the College of Engineering #3
      - Gavin Kaszynski –Senator for the College of Business #1
      - Michael Martin –Senator for the College of Natural Science and Mathematics #1
    3. Committee on Student Life:
      - None
    4. Committee on University of Administration and Finance:
      - None
  - b) Reconsideration of Presidential Vetoes and Other Legislative Business
    1. Presidential Vetoes to be Reconsidered
      - None

2. Committee on Academic Affairs
  - None
3. Committee on Internal Affairs
  - SR29003**: A SENATE RESOLUTION REQUIRING THAT THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SHOULD NOT BE AN ACTIVE SPONSOR OF POLITICALLY PARTISAN EVENTS.
  - Sponsor: Michelle Palmer
4. Committee on Student Life
  - UB29002**: A UNIVERSITY BILL MAKING ELEVATORS IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER MORE WHEELCHAIR -ACCESSIBLE
  - Sponsors: Dina Abramson, shane patrick boyle, Carlos Morales, Michelle Palmer
5. Committee on University Administration and Finance
  - SAB29004**: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPERATING BUDGET AS PER TITLE 5 SECTION 2.0.2 PART C OF THE SA CODE.
  - Sponsors: Carlos Morales
  
14. New Business and General Orders
  - a) Introduction of Presidential Nominations
  - b) Motions on Committee Bypass
  - c) Other New Business and General Orders
  
15. Comments and Announcements
  
16. Closing Call of the Roll by the Secretary: Quynh Thai, Senate Secretary
  
17. Adjournment

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Fourteenth Meeting of the 29th Senate  
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**1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer:**

The meeting was called to order by Speaker of the Senate Michelle Palmer at 7:15 p.m.

**2. Call of the Roll by the Secretary:**

Senate Secretary Quynh Thai called the roll and the following senators were present: Dina Abramson, Bobbie Bowen, shane patrick boyle, Aijaz Chaudary, Carlos Morales, Amy Parks, Reshma Patel, Gregory Propes, Kevin Soebbing, Sadiq Sayani, Crystal Wallace, Greg Wassberg, Coy Wheeler, Jennifer Zuber.

The following senators were late: Henry Gaw.

The following senators were absent: Chris Barelo, Ralph Coatsworth, Stephanie Hawkins, Vernita Hoyt, Alan Matheson, Megan McGovern.

The following senators were excused: Randy Kirby, Nivine Zakhari.

The following Executive Cabinet members were present: Rusty Hruska, Charles Gaviola, Jason Fuller, Kevin Jefferies.

The following university officials were present: John Logan, Advisor from Campus Activities.

**3. Reading and Approval of the Senate Journal from the Previous Meeting:**

The Senate Journal was approved as corrected by the members.

**4. Special Reports:**

Jerold Alwais, a student representative from the Undergraduate Council reported that the council received a piece of legislation ( a while ago) concerning the current drop policy. The legislation was written by Professor Lowell Wood, former Associate Dean of the College of Natural Science and Mathematics, now a professor of Physics. He said that Professor Wood felt that a large portion of the student body (approximately 20%) register for classes during the course of the semester would drop them. Mr. Alwais reported that the professor did a study in which 111 courses across the university were surveyed to determine what percent of students on the SORD (State Official Reporting Day) completed courses with a letter grade. The surveyed was from Fall 1990 with the majority of the courses being freshman/sophomore level core courses in the College of Humanities, Fine Arts, and Communications, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social Sciences. A few courses from the College of Architecture, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Pharmacy, and Technology were also sampled. He said that the results of the survey showed that out of 16,365 students enrolled in the 111 courses at the SORD (twelfth day of class) 2086 did not complete the courses with a letter grade; they either dropped the course or withdrew from the University. Mr. Alwais said that the percentage shows that only 87.3% finished the courses. He said that Professor Wood did further research and reported that the completed rate at Texas A&M University is approximately 96.5%. Mr. Alwais said that when the university is looking towards performance measures the potential of people in the classroom is vitally important and that the low number that the university has is definitely a problem.

He stated the following proposal offered by Professor Wood:

1) Make the last day to drop a course without a grade coincide with the 12th class (4th class day for summer), which is the SORD. 2) Limit the number of hours of courses which a student may drop to nine, with no more than six hours in core curriculum courses.

Mr. Alwais said that he has problems with the proposals and that was the reason why he brought the issue before the Senate. He asked that the Senate support his efforts in trying to "lock" the proposal and come up with other solutions for the problem. Mr. Alwais informed the Senate that the current policy allows the students to drop within the first twelve day of class and then receive a full refund. He stated that the current policy also allows students to drop classes within a month without receiving a grade. Mr. Alwais said that Professor Wood's proposal would basically allow students to drop before the twelfth class day. The proposal will also only allow students to drop nine hours, with no more than six hours in core curriculum courses. He said that with a lot more students being non-traditional students with work schedules the proposal would be "harsh." Mr. Alwais asked that the Senate help in blocking the proposal and help come up with an alternative for the problem. He informed the Senate that the Undergraduate Council will vote on the legislation and that the legislation will come out of committee on Dec.2 before the next SA meeting. He said that therefore, an alternative solution needs to be found "now."

Student Regent Rhodes asked if the survey gave any examination to how many students out of the 2086 students drop courses in favor of another.

Mr. Alwais replied that in Professor Wood's information Mr. Wood did not provide any comparison of that type of data and that he does not know if that information is possible to show. He said that the faculty has difficulties with large number of students taking a number of classes then dropping it. The problem he said for the faculty is that "they don't know who's in their class."

Senator Propes asked if any analysis was given to why people were dropping classes.

Mr. Alwais said that he doubts that that type of information was used. He informed the Senate that the Undergraduate Council is predominantly faculty and that SA only has four student representatives on the board.

Senator Soebbing remarked that students at UH need more of a lenient policy possible due to the fact that the university is an "urban-working university."

Mr. Alwais said that he agrees completely with Senator Soebbing. He said that SA and student representatives need to let the faculty know the reasons why the proposal would be unfair to students. Senator Wheeler asked for a copy of legislation and a list of names of the people on the council.

Senator Bowen commented that "UH professors don't want to test, and that classes may go practically for half of a semester and not be tested."

Student Regent Rhodes asked how much of the proposal policy is "in line" with Texas A&M University drop policy.

Mr. Alwais replied that he does not know much about the drop policy of Texas A&M and assumes that from the information given by Professor Wood that the policy is the same. He said that he was not sure. He asked that if the Senate opposed the proposal, "does it have any suggestions or alternatives for the problem?"

Senator Zuber said that "the bottom line is that UH is not Texas A&M." She said that the proposed policy is "ridiculous," and that the "faculty needs to open their eyes." Senator Zuber said that people drop classes for various reasons. She said that there is nothing wrong with current policy and that SA should contact the members of the council and express its view.

Senator Chaudary said that the policy would not be fair to all students because of the differences in graduating hours of each college.

Mr. Alwais said that the big problem is the performance measure with course completions. He said that knowing that the state legislators may not completely understand the differences between universities, the large differences between the two percentage may look bad on the university. Mr. Alwais said that coming from the faculty side, the university does need to come up with something to encourage the percentage to raise. He said that that the faculty feels this way due to their concern that the issue is primarily financially based and that the university faces losing money because its number is lower.

In closing, Mr. Alwais encouraged all senators to help him in any manner to come up with a counter-proposal. He informed the Senate that the Undergraduate Council will meet on Dec.2, Wednesday at 3:00 p.m in the Presidents Board Room. Mr. Alwais said that the meeting is open to the public.

##### 5. Two Minute Speeches by the Members:

None.

#### 6. Report of the President:

SA President Rusty Hruska reminded senators that the Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Dec.2 at 12 noon. He said that today he received approval from the Student Program Board to co-sponsor the event. President Hruska said that Dr. Pickering, Dean of Students William Munson, Vice President for Student Affairs Elwyn Lee, Law Professor Steven Huber and Faculty Senate Chairman Bill Cook will be speaking at the meeting. The meeting he said will be open for discussion. President Hruska said that SA will be running ads to encourage students to attend the event. He asked that senators inform their constituents about the Town Hall Meeting.

President Hruska asked that all senators meet with their respective Deans before the end of the semester. He said that senators need to know the issues and concerns facing their college, so that they can better represent their constituents.

Lastly, he informed the Senate that the recent fee bill statements are incorrect and that new ones would be mailed out on Monday.

#### 7. Report of the Vice President:

Vice President Charles Gaviola reported that David Daniel and he met to revise the Election Code. He reported that they had two successful meetings and have thoroughly reviewed the code. He thanked David Daniel, Cipriano Romero, President Hruska and members of the cabinet for their help.

Vice President Gaviola said that they made a few changes to the code. He reported that the polling sites were reduced from 11 to 8 and issues such as compensation and filing procedures were also addressed. Vice President Gaviola said that the bill will be introduced tonight. He asked that senators provide him with inputs and criticisms about the bill. He said that hopefully the Senate will pass the bill before the first Senate meeting of Spring.

#### 8. Report of the Speaker

Speaker Palmer asked that senators set-up an appointment with her to discuss about the Legislative Internship Program and the Town Hall Meeting.

She said that the election code bill is not problem-free, but she would like for it to be put in committee tonight. Speaker Palmer informed the Senate that the bill would be discussed on Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m and that all are welcome. She said that she would really appreciate inputs from everyone.

#### 9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

##### a) Academic Affairs:

Dina Abramson, Chair of Academic Affairs, said that her committee had no business to report.

##### b) Internal Affairs:

Coy Wheeler, Chair of Internal Affairs, reported that his committee met and approved the following nominations:

Anthony Cheng                      Senator for the College of Engineering #3

Gavin Kaszynski                    Senator for the College of Business #1.

and that the nomination of Michael Martin to Senator position of NSM#1 passed unfavorably out of committee.

He reported that no legislation was discussed. He said that the next Internal Affairs meeting would be held on Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the large conference room and that the committee will be discussing the nominations for position of Election Commissioner. Senator Wheeler asked that all members of his committee be present.

##### c) Student Life:

Jennifer Zuber, Chair of Student Life reported that her committee met and discussed UB29002: A UNIVERSITY BILL MAKING ELEVATORS IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER MORE WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE. She reported that the bill passed out of committee unfavorably, due to the fact that the university is already trying to make the university more wheelchair accessible. Senator Zuber reported that the committee voted Senator Parks as Vice-Chair of Student Life.

d) University of Administration and Finance:

Carlos Morales, Chair of University of Administration and Finance reported that the committee met today and discussed SAB29004: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPERATING BUDGET AS PER TITLE 5 SECTION 2.0.2 PART C OF THE SA CODE. He said that the bill will remain in committee for further analyzation. Senator Morales said that the next meeting will also held on Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the Senate office.

**10. Reports of the Select Committees:**

None.

**11. Special Orders:**

None.

**12. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:**

a) Legislation Turned in to the Speaker Prior to Publication of the Agenda

None.

b) Legislation Introduced on the Senate Floor

Senator Propes introduced UB29005: A UNIVERSITY BILL REVISING THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING INLYING PARKING PERMITS AND THEIR UTILIZATION.

Senator Morales introduced SAB29005: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL TO AMEND TITLE 3 OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CODE ON POLICIES ON THE TERMINATION OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBERS.

Senator Morales introduced SAB29006: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL REVISING THE ELECTION CODE, TITLE 6 OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CODE.

**13. Unfinished Business and General Orders:**

a) Presidential Nomination and Appointments

1. Academic Affairs

Senator Abramson said that Rajuh Shah had already been nominated and approved by the Senate for the same committee awhile back ago.

2. Internal Affairs

Senator Wheeler said that the committee recommended the nomination of Gavin Kaszynski and Anthony Cheng. He said that the nomination of Michael Martin was unanimously disapproved. Senator Bowen asked Senator Wheeler for comments regarding the disapproval of Mr. Martin. Senator Wheeler said that when asked "What he (Mr. Martin) could do with the position as senator," Mr. Martin replied that he did not know and had not given it any thought." He said that basically he felt that Mr. Martin did not show much interest in the position.

The nomination of Michael Martin as Senator for the College of NSM #1 was put to vote.

After a Senate vote the nomination unanimously failed.

The nominations of Gavin Kaszynski and Anthony Cheng were put to a vote.

The Senate unanimously voted to confirm the nominations.

The approved nominations were sworn in by President Hruska and were asked to join the Senate.

3. Student Life

None.

4. University of Administration and Finance

None.

b) Reconsideration of Presidential Vetoes and Other Legislative Business

1. Presidential Vetoes to be Reconsidered:

None.

2) Committee on Academic Affairs

None.

3) Committee on Internal Affairs

SR29003: A SENATE RESOLUTION REQUIRING THAT THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SHOULD NOT BE AN ACTIVE SPONSOR OF POLITICALLY PARTISAN EVENTS remains in committee.

4) Committee on Student Life

Senator Zuber spoke against UB29002: A UNIVERSITY BILL MAKING ELEVATORS IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER MORE WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE, saying that the university (to her knowledge) is in the process of trying to make the university reach ADA standard, which already requires making the university more wheelchair-accessible.

Senator Wheeler asked if Senator Abramson would comment on the bill.

Senator Abramson said that she agrees with Senator Zuber. She said that since the university is already "doing what it can," to get in standard with ADA the bill would be "pushing it."

After a Senate vote the bill unanimously failed.

5) Committee on University of Administration and Finance:

SAB29004: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPERATING BUDGET AS PER TITLE 5 SECTION 2.0.2 PART C OF THE SA CODE remains in committee.

14. New Business and General Orders:

a) Introduction of Presidential Nominations

President Hruska introduced the following nominations:

Corey Olomon	Election Commissioner
Natalie Sinn	Assistant Election Commissioner
Ron Capehart	Assistant Election Commissioner
Cipriano Romero	Senator at Large #4
Brian Thompson	Senator for the College of Engineering #3
Jeff Fuller	Senator for the College of HFAC #4
Parul Shah	Career Placing and Planning Center
Brooks Rembert	Police Advisory Board
Greg Propes	Graduate & Professional Studies Council

b) Motions on Committee Bypass

Senator Zuber moved to bypass the above nominations in block form, seconded by Senator Morales. Senator Wheeler said that due to the nature of the positions and their importance he would like to see the nominations of the Election Commissioner and Assistants Election Commissioner in committee. He said that the Internal Affairs committee was able to interview and approved the nominations of Cipriano Romero and Jeff Fuller. Senator Wheeler said that he has no problems bypassing committee of on those two nominations, but would like to see the others go through committee. Senator Wheeler yielded the floor to Director of Personnel, Jason Fuller. Mr. Fuller said that he agrees with Senator Wheeler and that as long as an Election Commissioner is approved by the end of the Fall semester, he sees no problems.

Senator Morales moved to amend the previous motion and motion to bypass the following nominations:

Cipriano Romero	Senator at Large #4
Jeff Fuller	Senator for the College of HFAC #4
Greg Propes	Graduate & Professional Studies Council

seconded by Senator Zuber.

The motion to bypass the above nominations passed.

After a Senate vote the nominations were approved. After being sworn in by President Hruska the new senators were asked to join the Senate.

c) Other New Business and General Orders

Speaker Palmer made the following committee assignment:

Academic Affairs:

None

Internal Affairs:

Ron Capehart	Assistant Election Commissioner
Corey Olomon	Election Commissioner
Natalie Sinn	Assistant Election Commissioner
Brian Thompson	Senator for College of Engineering #3

SAB29005: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL TO AMEND TITLE 3 OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CODE ON POLICIES ON THE TERMINATION OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBERS

SAB29006: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL REVISING THE ELECTION CODE, TITLE 6 OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION CODE

Student Life:

Brooks Rembert	Policy Advisory Board
Parul Shah	Career Placing and Planning Center

UB29005: A UNIVERSITY BILL REVISING THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING INLYING PARKING PERMITS AND THEIR UTILIZATION

University Administration and Finance:

None

15. Comments and Announcements:

None.

16. Closing Call of the Roll by the Secretary

Senate Secretary Quynh Thai called the closing call of the roll and the following senators were present: Dina Abramson, Bobbie Bowen, shane patrick boyle, Aijaz Chaudary, Anthony Cheng, Jeff Fuller, Gavin Kasyznski, Carlos Morales, Amy Parks, Reshma Patel, Gregory Propes, Cipriano Romero, Kevin Soebbing, Sadiq Sayani, Crystal Wallace, Greg Wassberg, Coy Wheeler, Jennifer Zuber.

The following senators were absent: Chris Barelo, Ralph Coatsworth, Stephanie Hawkins, Vernita Hoyt, Alan Matheson, Megan McGovern.

The following senators were excused: Randy Kirby, Nivine Zakhari.

**17. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE TWENTY-NINTH SENATE OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ON DECEMBER 7, 1992

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Quynh Thai, Senate Secretary

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Michelle L. Palmer, Speaker of the Senate