

Minutes for June 18, 2008 7:35pm

- 1) **Call to order by presiding officer:** Present- Sam, Jonas, Aleah, Amanda, Kaley, Mary, Franceska, Van, Sean, Manny, Kelly, Amod, Stephen, Jonathan, Jackie
- 2) **Reading and approval of Senate Journal:** **Bypassed**
- 3) **Special Reports**
 - a) Mary Jo Lawry- USA Today- Collegiate Leadership Program, program aligns very well with SGA initiatives, currently in Hilton College, desire to make a full campus program, which gives students a selection of newspapers available, gives a variety of perspectives to allow students to have tools to form their own opinions, unfortunately have not obtained support from other SGA's, they work with over 30 schools and have realized that it comes down to the power of the students, currently have 500 campuses on board
-Presentation: Mission is to promote civic engagement, over ten years old (program), offers availability of a selection of newspapers each day, have different types of displays, encourage students to recycle, do flyers, adds in the student newspaper, provide a map that indicates location of newspaper pick-up, have a website (www.usatodaycollege.com), VOICES, provides many benefits for students and for student governments, Pilot Program
QUESTIONS FROM SENATORS: Sean- asks for clarification on program, Mary states that the program is not just to try to encourage students to just "buy" a newspaper, they want to educate students, his other question was with regard to the affects this newspaper will have on our daily cougar, Mary mentions that there is a question with regard to effects on the local newspaper; Amod asks which newspapers are included, Mary clarifies that there are usually about 3 newspapers included, i.e. Houston Press, Amod also asks about inserts, Mary states that there is no commitment with regard to inserts
 - b) Edgar Alvarado- Designated Driver Program- Why a designated driver program is required...to prevent accidents, focuses on Universities because of the age bracket, most individuals involved in drunk driving accidents are between 16 and 24 years of age, this is due to the fact that these individuals have the inexperience to drink, attempting to get non-alcoholic beverages and club cover charge for free, benefits are to provide a solution to all participants in the program, want to get the message across, participants get a planner, i.d. card, discounts, awards.
- 4) **Students Wishing to address the Senate:**
 - a) Michael Blunk- Students for Sensible Drug Policy- promote protection for students who call for help while in an environment with others who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, students are required to take a course, it is not just a get out of jail free card, program is designed to reward students

who ensure safety, wants to draft a policy, if privilege given to organizations will only apply for on-campus offenses

5) **Members of the Senate who wish to give a two minute speech:**

a) Francesca mentions USA Today and supports the notion

6) **Report of the President:** Sam

a) Thanks guests who came

b) Addresses USA Today and the benefits it will provide for the university, we have to figure out how we are going to pay for it

c) Designated Driver Program- thinks it is a great opportunity, Sam mentions how a lot of schools want to have a safe driving program, but the size of Houston would hinder that, the DDP provides a form of promotion for student life

d) Summer Senate- looking at the structure of SGA, have opportunities to fix areas that are insufficient, or to make other areas more efficient, we are adding an intern program which allows individuals to become more involved with SGA

e) People will be moved around, some people will be moving to the Executive Branch, tonight Mary will be nominated to serve as Executive Chief of Staff, this allows us to have a helping hand

f) Marketing- will start immediately

g) Major initiative- Texas Students Association, next month is first meeting in Austin

7) **Report of the Vice President:** Jonas

a) UC Renovations- Jonas has attended many meetings; money- fees, budget, looking at about 100 million dollar project, talk to Jonas for more details; construction- have a very good architecture team that presented four different options that were broken down; timeline- 2015 is the estimated date for completion

b) Committees- appointments, interns

c) SGA documentary- Amod's idea, goal is to get a list of people who desire to be involved

d) Supports nomination of Mary for Executive of Chief of Staff

e) Yields time to Marcela - Cat's back (Wednesday August 27, 2008) big party to celebrate new year, last couple of years SGA has been a sponsor, senators will be asked to contribute, SGA will be asked to do some sort of activity, also have information available to promote SGA

8) **Director of External Affairs:** Aleah

a) Texas Student meeting, July 19, 2008, mentions plans, and confirmations

b) Added a component to external affairs- global action- will address different current events, issues, and things that people are passionate about that don't fall under certain categories- Mindy Lee- nominee

9) **Director of Public Relations:** Kaley

- a) Working on getting polos, shirts for Cat's Back, logos for shirts, ordering
 - b) Serving on search committee- has learned a lot and looks forward to their future endeavors
 - c) Banner- purchasing a large collapsible banner to use at events, has our new logo, light weight and compact
 - d) Internal Newsletter- keep everyone updated in what goes on in SGA, will be published on the new website, facebook
- 10) **Director of Finance:** Amanda
- a) USA Today- refers to decline in readership, supports the idea
 - b) Purchases- made first round of them, banner, polos, shirts for cat's back, things to hand out at games, website
- 11) **Report of the Speaker:** Alex
- a) Boxes- have them in the SGA office, will inform senators of things placed in boxes
 - b) Congratulates Mary
 - c) DDP- great program, hopes to be on board
 - d) Apologizes for time spent on presenters but felt they were important
- 12) **Standing committees:** NONE
- 13) Confirmation for Mary as Executive Chief of Staff- **Confirmed**
- 14) **Closing Roll Call:** Sam, Jonas, Aleah, Amanda, Kaley, Jonathan, Kelly, Francesca, Jackie, Mary, Van, Manny, Amod, Sean, Stephen
- 15) **Comments/ Announcements:**
- a) Sean- Cat's back- dunking booth, suggest Sam to participate
 - b) Manny- supports DDP
 - c) Amod- will be graduating in the summer, plans to stay in the Senate until graduation, cannot pursue long term projects, any concerns with environmental issues, financial aid please discuss with Amod
 - d) Amanda- Email about a Summer Senate Social, two dollar Tuesdays at Astro's game
 - e) Sam- thanks everyone for attendance, mentions ideas for projects, things must be put into context, if you have an idea voice it, if you need a project come talk to Sam
- 16) Adjourned at 8: 56 pm