



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SENATE JOURNAL

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Fourth Meeting of the Spring Senate
February 26, 1990
Dallas/El Paso Room, University Center
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer:

The meeting was called to order by the Speaker of the Senate, Michael Danke, at 7:00 P.M.

2. Call of the Roll by the Secretary:

The following Senators were present: Barrus, Burns, Danke, Grimm, Harper, Hoglund, Miklos, Parker, Patel, Saeed, Sharma, Wuthrich, Zarka, and Urban

The following Senators were late: Dockery, Foley, and Marino

The following Senators were excused:

The following Senators were absent: Browne, Corbello, Hasselbrink, Heaney, Karim, Owens, Spacek, Ware and Wilson.

The following Executive Cabinet members were present: President Belicove, Vice President Butt, Mark Burge.

The following University Officials were present: William Munson

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

The Senate Journal was approved as corrected by the members.

4. Report of the President:

President Belicove began by announcing an Emergency Student Senate Meeting for Monday, March 5, 1990. He added that the one agenda item for next weeks meeting would be legislation that would create a new standing university committee on food service.

Speaker Danke suggested to President Belicove the idea of a Senate Retreat to be offered for all new Senators. President Belicove announced that the retreat would be held on March 10. In addition, President Belicove announced that at the next meeting, he would be asking for a line item transfer from the President's salary to cover the costs for the Senator retreat.

President Belicove announced that he would be sending a student, Nick Brines, to the National Orientation Directors Association Conference, held in Dallas, Texas. President Belicove recalled that when he ran for office, a prime issue he targeted was Transfer Student Orientation. He announced that the Dean of Students has designed a two day transfer Orientation session much like the Freshman Orientation. In addition, not only would a director be sent to the conference, but also a student that served on the Orientation Team last year (Nick Bryans.) President Belicove announced that the expenses for the trip would be \$200.00 and this would come from the Executive Contingency.

President Belicove announced to the Senate that UB26016: A UNIVERSITY BILL BANNING POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON was not signed by Interim President Magner. He added that President Magner solicited many comments from the University community, such as Service Corporation America, ARA, and the legal counsel for the University. Dr. Magner felt the Bill was too broad in scope, and that the impact would be too great. President Belicove informed the Senate that he had forwarded the comments to Senator Miklos (the author of the first University Bill) and had hoped that he would see another revised version come before the Senate.

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In addition, the Election Commissioner had asked the Senators to make sure that tables and chairs be reserved for the days of March 7, 8, 14, and 15, 1990. He added to please notify Vikram when this has been completed or if any problems occur.

President Belicove informed the Senate that President Bush had vetoed the House Bill 2712 which would extend J-1 visa status to Chinese students in the United States. After contacting Nancy Pelosi's office, she informed President Belicove that President Bush had put out a administrative directive to all INS offices throughout the country that the J-1 visas would be looked at on an individual basis.

Another topic President Belicove talked about was UB26024: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING AN ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN. He added that the Bill was signed in January by Interim President Magner. President Belicove noted that according to the Students' Association specifications, the policy calls for five senators to serve on the committee and urged the interested senators to join.

President Belicove announced that Wednesday, both he and Senator Hasselbrink would be attending the American Association of University Students Inter Collegiate Conference. Two pieces of legislation would be introduced to the AAUS. The first piece of legislation was a resolution dealing with the underrelated Business income tax changes that is currently in the House Ways and Means Committee. The resolution would affect the status of computer sales on campus. The second Resolution, would call for changes in the Gramm Rudmann Hollings Bill, which specifies in certain areas on how Pell grants should be expended. It would also ask the United States Government to recognize the difference between proprietary institutions and traditional schools such as the University of Houston when issuing Pell Grants. President Belicove announced that these issues would be discussed at the AAUS Conference. He also added that he was seeking the Central Chair for AAUS. The position would cover the States of Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. In addition, if elected to the position, President Belicove would coordinate these states in relation to their relationship with AAUS on a National level.

President apologized for not having the schedule for selection of the SPB officers by the first Senate meeting of the Spring Semester, noting it was a specific responsibility of the President. He announced that he had set the dates for the selection, and applications would be due by Wednesday, February 28, 1990. Interviews will be held on March 9, 1990.

5. *Report of the Vice President:* None

6. *Report of the Speaker:*

Speaker Danke announced that the Senate Executive Cabinet would meet shortly after the meeting to discuss a new meeting time. He reminded the Senators to check their boxes, attend the Senate meetings, and arrive on time to the meetings.

Speaker Danke noted that Ken Antcil, a representative from the Committee on AIDS, had to leave but will try to return at next weeks meeting.

Speaker Danke stated that he was not happy with amount of research that the Students' Association did on the Health Center Fee agreement. He talked to Dr. Smith and checked into what kind of fee the students would have to pay for Primary Care and Public Health Maintenance and Preventative Medicine. The information was compiled and handed out for the Senate meeting to read over. Senator Miklos questioned who the Speaker Danke was referring to when he stated that he was "unhappy with the lack of research done" Speaker Danke answered that he was unhappy with the Senate as a whole. Senator Miklos asked Senator Danke to explain why he was unhappy with the research done, when essentially it was the same information. Speaker Danke answered that he wanted to see line items. He felt that this was not an unreasonable task to ask of the Senate. In a point of information, Senator Miklos added that a week before last President Belicove announced to the Senate that an itemized list was in his office for all to see. He felt that this latest report was grandstand. Speaker Danke felt that the report was needed because all the Senate had was a report and the word of B.J. Smith. President Belicove echoed that the report was grandstand.

7. *Special Reports:* None

8. *One Minute Speeches by the Members.*



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Senator Hoglund - Mentioned to the Senate that two pieces of legislation would be introduced to the Senate later in the meeting.

Senator Sharma - Voiced that the members of the Senate were taking out vendettas and wasting the time of the entire senate. Senator Sharma added that the members of the Senate needed to be more mature.

9. *Report of Standing Committees:*

1. Academic Affairs - Yahya Saeed, Chair - Senator Saeed reported that the Academic Affairs Committee did not obtain quorum. However, he announced that they were discharging UB26031: A UNIVERSITY BILL ABOLISHING THE WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAM and SR26018: A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REGULAR SCHEDULING OF KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION CLASSES
2. Internal Affairs - Chris Browne, Chair - Senator Grimm announced that the Internal Affairs Committee did not meet.
3. Student Life - Rekha Sharma, Chair - Senator Sharma noted that the Committee did meet with quorum. The Committee reported out unfavorably on UB26028: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LOGO. In addition, the Committee reported out unfavorably on the appointment Kalpana Bhakta, for the Student Publications Committee. Senator Sharma felt that the candidate did not want the position.
4. University Administration and Finance - Robert Miklos, Chair - Senator Miklos reported that the Committee met on Monday at 6:00 p.m.. The Committee took informal action on a substitute for the returned bill banning Polystyrene and he announced that it would be introduced tonight. The committee reported out favorably on UB26027: A UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON OPEN RECORDS BILL which would be introduced later in the meeting.

10. *Report of the Select Committee:* None

11. *Special Reports:* None

12. *Unfinished Business and General Orders:*

a. Presidential Nominations and Appointments

Senator Barrus moved to accept the nominations of the committee reports as a whole. The motion was seconded by Senator Sharma. A direct vote was taken on accepting the Student Life report and vote passed. The appointment did not pass.

b. Legislation

Senator Miklos moved to pass favorably the amended version UB26027: UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON OPEN RECORDS BILL. The motion was seconded by Senator Saeed. As Speaker in favor of the Bill, Senator Miklos assured the Senators that the bill appeared to conform to the Texas Open Record Statute. In addition, he explained that bill would leave a paper trail (receipt) for any public groups and institutionalize open records. The bill allows students to petition the administration to see documents. If the requests were denied, a student could take the university to court. After no further debate a vote was taken and University Bill 26027 passed unanimously.

Senator Sharma moved to pass UB26028: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LOGO. The motion was seconded by Senator Barrus. As speaker in favor of the bill, Senator Harper felt it was conflicting to have different logos and there should be only one. He noted that the other logo was not official. He added that many constituents added support to his legislation. As speaker against, Senator Sharma noted that only two logos were used. The logo (proposed to be the official logo) is currently used only in the Athletic Department. She felt that the University would have to spend unnecessary money to conform the logo, when the present two logos are not causing any strife at the University. Senator Grimm added that nobody should be dumb enough to be confused by the different logos. Senator Foley thought the Senate should ban the apocryphal interlocking logo, and only the proposed logo should be used. Senator Miklos moved to put the bill back into committee. He felt the bill had a good idea, but the University would have to replace many signs around campus etc. The motion was seconded by Senator Foley. As Speaker Against, Senator Marino voiced that he would like to vote the bill down. In Senator Harper explained that he wrote the bill fairly generally, so that the University would not have to go out and change the signs or logos but eventually they would be replaced by the official logo. In a point of information, Senator Burns asked what was the reason for two logos and what was the point of



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mandating one logo. Senator Harper satisfied her inquiry, by stating that the proposed logo was not just on athletic related material. He added that it was important for students to stick with one logo so that they could identify with it. A vote was taken on the motion to send University Bill 26028 back to committee. The roll call vote results were: YES: Barrus, Dockery, Foley, Harper, Hoglund, Miklos, Parker, Patel, Daees, Sharma, Wuthrich, Zarka NO: Burns, Grimm, and Marino ABSTENTION: Urban, and Sharma The motion passed.

Senator Saeed moved to pass SR26018: A SENATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REGULAR SCHEDULING OF KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION CLASSES. The motion was seconded by Senator Marino. After no discussion, a direct vote was taken and the bill passed favorably.

Senator Saeed moved to bypass and consider UB26031: A UNIVERSITY BILL ABOLISHING THE WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAM. The motion was seconded by Senator Grimm. As Speaker in favor, Senator Foley explained that the Writing Proficiency Exam had never fulfilled its intentions and that other Universities were not required to take the exam before graduating. In addition, he noted that college students are required to take the T.A.S.P test, which is also a writing proficiency exam. He felt that since the professors that instituted the exam were no longer at the University of Houston, it was time to abolish the exam. In general debate, Senator Sharma agreed with Senator Foley. She added that after taking the exam, she felt it was on the ninth grade level, and that it need to be changed. Senator Burns echoed Senator Sharma's comments. Senator Marino moved to amend the bill to add various housekeeping items and after no objection, the bill was amended accordingly. Senator Hoglund stated that the exam was administered to make sure transfer students would be able to pass the standard requirements. Senator Foley re-emphasised that the exam was designed to be a great scheme to ensure that everyone was a great writer by the time that they left the University. Senator Foley felt that if the test were for transfer students only, the Admissions should deal with it. In a point of information, Senator Dockery asked what was the exam designed to do, what has it done, and who is actually taking the exam. Senator Foley answered that the test had never been designed for transfer students. It was designed from the beginning as an exam for everyone leaving the University. He added that the test was given to weed out people before graduating. Senator Parker added to the debate by stating that he was told that the administration did not want people transferring from the downtown campus because the standards were not the same. Vice President Butt felt that the useless exam was "a lot of bull and that students should not have to pay \$10.00 for an exam before they could graduate. Senator Marino expressed that the English Department felt the exam was also pointless. However, he added that the department required transfer students with more that thirty hours to take the exam. Senator Saeed called the previous question and after a vote debate was closed. A vote was taken on UB26031 as amended and the bill passed.

Senator Barrus moved to consider SR26012: A SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF ON-CAMPUS OUTLETS. The resolution was seconded by Senator Miklos. In General Debate, President Belicove informed the Senate that the House Ways and Means Committee was looking for a way to reduce the ability in this case to purchase computers on University campuses. He noted that to do away with this would be an injustice. It would take away contracts from the University, and a higher computer prices would result. After no further discussion, a vote was taken and the Senate Resolution passed unanimously.

13. New Business and General Orders:

a. Presidential Nominations and Appointments

President Belicove introduced two appointments: Greg Lubojacky, Selection Committee on Teaching Excellence Award and Veena Sardana, Bookstore Advisory Committee

b. Others New Business and General Orders

Senator Miklos moved that all legislation that has been passed by the Senate in this past session be in formal copies by Wednesday so that the Senator and President Belicove could take them to Washington D.C. this next week. The motion was seconded by Senator Sharma. President Belicove apologized to the Senate Secretary for any strain on the legislative office but he hoped that the legislation would be formalized before he left. Speaker Danke asked all authors of the legislation to place their copies in Senators Data. The motion passed by general consent.

14. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:



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Senator Barrus moved to bypass and consider SR26019: A SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MIKAL EVAN BELICOVE IN HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE POSITION OF CENTRAL CHARIPERSON POSITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. The resolution was seconded by Senator Sharma. In general debate, President Belicove explained that AAUS requires support from the students at home in order to be a candidate for the position of central regional chairperson. A direct vote was taken and the Senate Resolution passed unanimously.

Senator Hoglund introduced SR26020: A SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF NEW, MORE DIVERSE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. Senator Hoglund also introduced UB26032: A UNIVERSITY BILL ELIMINATING FRESHMAN EXIT EXAMS IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AND RESTRUCTURING THE FINAL EXAMS FOR FRESHMAN ENGLISH CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON.

Senator Sharma introduced UB26033: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A STANDING UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON FOOD SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON.

Senator Miklos moved to bypass UB26034: A UNIVERSTIY BILL BANNING POLYSTYRENE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. The motion was seconded by Senator Sharma. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos explained that eventhough the bill was bypassed, the bill had satisfied all objections of the Administration while still holding on to the basic goal of eliminating polystyrene. A vote was taken on University Bill 26034 and it passed unanimously.

15. Comments and Announcements:

President Belicove - Thanked everyone for submitting legislation and taking an active role in the Senate Meetings.

Vice President Butt - Announced that he will not be running for re-election.

Speaker Danke - Expressed to the Executive Committee chairs that they need to meet in the Speaker's office directly after the meeting. In addition, the Speaker asked all authors of legislation that had passed through the Senate as of tonight to place the legislation in Senator's Data.

Senator Sharma - Emphasised that all Senators need to attend the next Student Life Committee meeting.

Senator Miklos - Announced that the University Administration and Finance Meetings will be every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

16. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 9:22 p.m.