

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Third Meeting of the 27th Senate
Monday, April 16, 1990
Dallas-El Paso Room, University Center 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer: Mark Burge, Speaker of the Senate
2. Call of the Roll by the Secretary: Darlene Hurt, Acting Senate Secretary
3. Reading and Approval of the Senate Journal from the Previous Meeting:
4. Report of the President: Paul Hoglund
5. Report of the Vice President: Lee Flemming
6. Report of the Speaker: Mark Burge
7. Special Reports:
 - a) Katie Traverse - Campus Security
 - b) The Live Mascot Issue - Presentations and a Question & Answer Session
8. One Minute Speeches by the Members:
9. Reports of the Standing Committees: Standing committees have not yet been appointed.
10. Report of the Select Committee:
11. Special Orders: None
12. Unfinished Business and General Orders:
 - a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments:
Yahya Saeed, Director of Personnel
 - b) Other Business and General Orders:
SAR 27004: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CHANGE
IN THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION CODE - SECTION 54.503 PART F
13. New Business and General Orders:
 - a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments:
 - b) Other New Business and General Orders:
14. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:
15. Comments and Announcements:
16. Adjournment:

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Monday, April 16, 1990
Regents Room, University Center 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer:

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Burge at 7:03PM.

2. Call of the Roll by the Secretary:

The following Senators were present: Grooms, Dockery, Sunderaj, Cortes, Richards, Berggren, Rosenberger, Eastman, Shah, Burns, Talley, Hasselbrink, Hussain, Kelly, Russell, Gandhi, Floreani, Saeed, Sharp, Dunnigan, Oholendt, Berry, Wilkie, Cooley.

The following Senators were absent: Chargois, Zarka, Corbello.

The following Senators were excused: Zarka.

The following Senators were late: Nguyen, Karim, Wong, Kothari, Eskridge.

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 Hogleund began his report by thanking those Senators who participated in the Spring Officers Seminar this past weekend. He then informed the Senators of the visit by Clyde Temple, Vice President of Texas State Students Association, and of the plan to tour Texas Southern University in the upcoming week. President Hogleund announced to the Senate that Katie Traverse will be addressing them later in the meeting and that there will be a question & answer session regarding the live mascot issue. President Hogleund said he hopes that legislation will be generated from this question & answer session. He concluded by outlining his plans for establishing this summer 1) Election Code Review Task Force; 2) Robert's Rules of Order tutorial; 3) Organizational chart of UH Administration, faculty, staff and other to be installed on the computers.

V. Report of the Vice President:

Vice President Flemming began his report by updating the Senators on the progress made on the Legislative Internship Program and the Committee Response Program. He then discussed his meeting with the two candidates chosen to assist the President with affirmative action, Marshall Rhodes and George Warden. He informed the Senators of his meeting with the UH Presidential finalist Margurite Ross Barnett and urged the Senate to generate questions for further finalists and turn these questions into either President Hogleund, Mikal Belicove, or himself. Vice President Flemming concluded his report by announcing his intentions of restarting the Student Leaders Action Board (SLAB) with a few revisions.

VI. Report of the Speaker:

Speaker Burge informed the Senate that Standing Committees will be appointed this week. Interest Inventory Forms were then passed out and Speaker Burge asked that the Senators fill them out and turn them in at the end of the meeting. Speaker Burge then informed the Senate that each member is required to be on at least one committee but not more than two. He then outlined the four Standing Committees: Academic Affairs, Internal Affairs, Student Life, and University Administration and Finance. He asked Senators to mark whether they would be interested in serving as chair or vice chair of the four Standing Committees. Speaker Burge said that nominations for Standing Committee chairs will be announced at next week's meeting. He then informed the Senators that the last meeting of the temporary Select Committee will be this Thursday, April 19, at 2:45PM in the Conference Room. Speaker Burge reminded the Senators that they do have mail boxes and encouraged them to check their mail prior to the Senate meetings. He told the Senators that he hopes to be introducing a nominee for Senate Secretary at the Select Committee meeting. Speaker Burge concluded his report by stating that the Senate will not be voting on legislation concerning the live mascot tonight but rather the purpose of the question & answer session is simply to inform in the hopes of generating future legislation.

7. Special Reports:

a) Katie Traverse - Campus Security: With the unanimous approval of the Senate, Ms. Traverse was given five minutes to address the Senators about Campus Security. Ms. Traverse began her report by thanking the Senate for recognizing the seriousness of the campus security issue. She then informed the Senate of the Freddie Saucedo mugging/shooting. Ms. Traverse stressed that this was not an isolated incident and presented to the Senate her petition with 219 signatures that calls for 1) Permanent armed security in each of the residential lots; 2) Police officers patrolling the interior of the campus; 3) Increase in the number of call boxes; 4) Clipping of the hedges in the quadrangle; 5) Better lighting in the dark lots. Ms. Traverse concluded her special report by urging the Senators to help make campus security a top priority at UH.

b) The Live Mascot Issue - Presentation and a Question & Answer Session: Speaker Burge informed the Senate that both the Anti-Live Mascot and the pro-live mascot sides will be given five minutes to present their respective views, followed by a 20 minute question & answer session. Sean Hawkins read a prepared statement presenting the anti-live mascot side (see attached statement). Ben Noble, UH Alumni, then presented the pro-live mascot side. In his address, Mr. Noble pointed out that he was a member of the Cougar Guard (1949-50) and that he has seen UH lose five major traditions - two due to the Administration and one may be removed by people who do not even know what they are talking about. Mr. Noble went on to point out that each Shasta has been domesticated for three generations prior to coming to UH. Jerry Chrisman, President of the UH Ambassadors, continued by stating how he believed in the University and that it is not cruel to have a live mascot. Mr. Chrisman stressed that the efforts of the animal rights activists are misconcentrated; instead of complaining about the Shasta issue, maybe they should go to the basement of S&RII to see the animal experiments.

20-Minute Question & Answer: Representing the anti-live mascot side was Frank San Miguel Jr., Sean Hawkins, and David Wasson. Representing the pro-live mascot side was Jerry Chrisman, Regina Shore, and John Higgins. Senator Eskridge asked the pro-cougar side if they were aware of the cost of maintaining a cougar in a new facility. Ms. Shore replied that the cost with the new facility will range between \$6500-7000. Senator Dockery asked the pro-cougar side if tradition was enough justification for obtaining another cougar. Ms. Shore replied that no, tradition by itself is not justification. Senator Richards asked what the life expectancy of a cougar is. Ms. Shore replied that in the wild, the average life expectancy is 9-10 years whereas life expectancy in captivity for cougars is 18 years. Senator Rosenberger asked Sean Hawkins how a cougar dies in the wild and if starvation is

considered a natural cause of death. Mr. Hawkins replied that man is the number one predator for cougars and yes, starvation is considered a natural cause of death. Senator Rosenberger pointed out to the Senate that not one Shasta has died of starvation. Senator Berry then referred to the letter from the Association of Students for Animal Protection which states that if the cougar is not replaced then the \$130,000 will be transferred to the library. Mr. San Miguel replied that he was told by Mikal Belicove that this was true. Mr. Belicove, a spectator in the back of the room denied this, prompting Mr. Higgins to reply that the money raised for a live mascot must, by law either be spent for the purpose for which it was contributed or be given back to the contributors. Senator Floreani asked about the use of sedatives. Ms. Shore replied that Shasta was never drugged unless it was for veterinary services. Mr. San Miguel said that as a Daily Cougar reporter, he talked to Fred Soifer, DVM about the drugging of the animal and Dr. Soifer had no comment. Senator Berggren asked if anyone was a member of the Cougar Guard and if our cougar represented a domesticated or a wild cougar. The pro-cougar side replied that two of them were members of the Cougar Guard and Ms. Shore further stated that Shasta is a wild animal. Senator Gandhi asked the pro-cougar side to describe the condition of the cage and the exercise routine. Mr. Higgins replied that the current cage is too small and that Shasta was taken out everyday for 1 to 3 hours. Senator Shah asked why the pro-cougar side want a cougar so badly. Ms. Shore answered that a cougar is beneficial in that it can, and has been, used to teach others about the plight of the cougar. Senator Grooms then asked the anti-cougar side why there has not seemed to be a lot of interest in getting rid of the cougar when we did have one, yet there is so much interest now when we do not have a cougar. Mr. Hawkins replied that he was as active as he could be when we did have a cougar. Senator Eastman asked the anti-cougar side about the referendum that was held last semester. Mr. Wasson replied that only a few people voted and the way the ballot was set up, it offered three yes answers and only one no answer, which seems to be "bogus". Mr. Wasson continued by stating that having a live cougar had no impact on his decision to attend the university. Senator Grooms then stated that approximately 2000 people voted in the Shasta referendum which is more than the vote that put this Senate into office. Senator Oholendt asked if there is a student organization that was going to buy a cougar. Mr. San Miguel replied that there is no such student organization. Senator Cortes pointed out to the anti-mascot side that the cougars we get are domesticated and never know their natural habitat. Mr. Hawkins replied that cougars are still wild animals. Senator Sunderaj asked both sides to comment on the incidents of maulings. Ms. Shore replied that although there have been people bitten, there have been no serious injuries. Mr. Hawkins replied that there is a city ordinance that prohibits wild cougars in the city limits yet since UH is state property, it is exempt from such an ordinance. As a point of information, Senator Cortes informed the Senate that his cousin was one of the students bitten, yet it was not the cougar's fault, his cousin stepped into it. Senator Burns asked the pro-cougar side how much money they need for a new cage, how much they have raised to date, and how long it has taken them. Ms. Shore replied that they have been raising money for a new cage on and off for two years and have managed to raise approximately \$20,000-25,000. Ms. Shore also stated that they have not been able to approach alumni since Shasta died last July. Senator Hasselbrink asked why Shasta's former veterinarian opposed the ownership of a new mascot. Ms. Shore replied that the veterinarian had always felt that wild animals should not be held in captivity. Senator Kothari asked about the media advantages of having a live mascot. Mr. Higgins replied that Shasta goes to sporting events and alumni banquets. Mr. Chrisman replied that the live mascot is a focal point in the university. Senator Dockery raised a point of information that tradition does not make it right. Speaker Burge ruled that Senator Dockery's statement out of order because it was not a point of information, but an opinion. Speaker Burge informed the Senate that the 20 minutes allotted for questions had run out. Senator Richards moved to extend the question & answer period for five additional minutes and the motion was seconded. Under general debate, Senator Burns stated that she opposed such an extension because many of the Senators have already made their minds up. Senator Dockery said that he would like to hear what Mr. Chrisman has to say. In direct vote, the measure fell one vote short of a two-thirds majority, but Speaker Burge voted to create a majority, and the measure passed. Senator Dockery then stated that a live mascot is not justified because it is traditional because slavery was also traditional. Speaker Burge asked Senators to keep their comments as questions to the panel. Senator Richards

asked the pro-cougar side why they wanted a cougar. Ms. Shore replied that they want a cougar for more than just tradition's sake. Senator Gandhi asked that if one of the main reasons for obtaining a live mascot is for instructional purposes, then isn't it hypocritical to talk about the suffering of these animals while they are carried on a chain. Ms. Shore informed the Senate that having a live mascot increases awareness because people are better able to relate to it. Mr. Hawkins suggested that money raised for a live cougar be put into a program that promotes awareness such as the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition. Senator Wilkie asked what the \$120,000 cougar cage was going to be like. Ms. Shore replied that the new cage was going to be 4 times larger inside and outside than the present cage. Vice President Flemming asked if the cougar is an endangered species. Mr. Higgins replied that the cougar is not endangered, but it is a protected animal. Senator Talley asked if Texas A&M were having the same problems with their mascot. Ms. Shore replied that they were not. Senator Berggren asked if the pro-cougar side knew the square footage of the new cage. Ms. Shore said that she did not. Senator Kelly asked on what condition would another cougar be secured. Ms. Shore replied that a cougar would only be purchased if another cage was built. Senator Dunnigan then asked if a cage would be built before getting another cougar or visa versa. Mr. Higgins replied that if it was decided to get another cougar, they would then build the cage first. At the conclusion of the question & answer session, Speaker Burge apologized to all those Senators who did not get an opportunity to get all their questions answered but reminded the Senate that he must first chose those Senators who had not spoken over those who had.

8. One Minute Speeches by the Members:

President Hoglund thanked the speakers and Yahya Saeed for putting together this presentation. President Hoglund also noted that the one reason the Senate follows parliamentary procedure is so that the Senators can learn it.

Senator Russell asked if the one minute speeches were limited to one per Senator. Speaker Burge replied no, a Senator can speak as often as she would like as long as its only for a minute at a time.

Senator Sunderaj stated that the Senate should give the Speaker respect and listen to what he says when ruling on matters of procedure.

Senator Dockery asked if it was possible to turn the air down. Speaker Burge replied that it was not.

Senator Eastman informed the Senate that legislation will be introduced concerning campus security and he was in favor of it. Senator Eastman also informed the Senate that he was in favor of a live mascot on campus.

Senator Wilkie pointed out the irony in the concern for campus security yet many are in favor of spending \$7000 for an animal that mauls students.

Senator Grooms stated that there are other major traditions at UH and encouraged Senators to support the RHA Beauty Bowl Game and Casino Night.

Senator Berry stated that funds are a major issue at UH and that \$30,000 was raised in a short period of time for a cage yet the library can not seem to raise \$1,000. Senator Berry also asked the Senate to begin considering to bypass UB27003.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

Standing Committees have not yet been appointed.

10. Report of the Select Committee:

Speaker Burge reported that the Ad hoc committee reported out favorably on SAR27004 and referred UB27001 to the future Student Life Committee.

Senator Grooms asked about the status of the SPB Bylaws. Speaker Burge replied that the Bylaws were referred to the future Internal Affairs committee.

11. Special Orders:

None

12. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

a. Presidential Nominations and Appointments:

Speaking in favor of the nomination of Yahya Saeed was President Hogleund who stressed the importance of reporting out favorably tonight since the workload of the Director of Personnel is falling on the office. President Hogleund also stated that he would not have chosen Mr. Saeed if he felt he was not qualified. Senator Eastman spoke against the nomination and stated the importance of looking at the past record of Mr. Saeed and urged the Senate not to act as a rubber stamp. Under general debate, Senator Richards moved to allow Mr. Saeed to address the Senate and it was seconded. There was no debate on the motion and it passed unanimously. Senator Berry asked if there was a time limit. Speaker Burge replied that the motion carried no time limit. Senator Grooms moved to establish a time limit of not more than 10 minutes and it was seconded. Senator Grooms offered his reasoning that a 10 minute time limit would keep the Senate from wasting time. The motion moved to a direct vote and passed. During his Senate address, Mr. Saeed outlined the duties of Director of Personnel as stated in the constitution. Mr. Saeed also informed the Senate of qualifications which include 1) Membership in SPB, CEO, and SA over the past three years; 2) President of Pakistan Students Association; 3) Senator for two years and chair of Academic Affairs committee; and 4) Knowledge of SPC and AFB and UH Administration. Concerning the allegations made at the previous Senate meeting, Mr. Saeed countered by stating that Academic Affairs met 13 times last year; his absenteeism rate was only 20%; and he co-authored 5 pieces of legislation. Mr. Saeed stated that he saw the allegations as a personal attack on his character and asked why did not a single Senator who felt they had questions not come by the SA office last week. Senator Grooms stated that the Director of Personnel does not have a Vice-Chair to fall back on and asked Mr. Saeed if he felt he could not do the job, would he resign. Mr. Saeed stated that he was dedicated to the position and did not need anyone to fall back on. Under general debate. Senator Grooms said that he did not mean anything as a personal attack and that he felt Mr. Saeed was more than competent. Senator Wilkie stated that she did not mean anything as a personal attack and thanked Mr. Saeed for speaking before the Senate. Senator Richards moved previous question, it received three seconds and passed unanimously. Senator Wilkie called for a roll call vote on the advise and consent of Yahya Saeed as Director of Personnel.

Senator Grooms	Y
Senator Dockery	Y
Senator Sunderaj	Y
Senator Cortes	Y
Senator Richards	Y
Senator Nguyen	Y
Senator Karim	Y
Senator Berggren	Y
Senator Wong	Y
Senator Rosenberger	Absent

Senator Eastman		N
Senator Shah		Y
Senator Burns		Y
Senator Talley	Y	
Senator Hasselbrink		Y
Senator Hussain		Y
Senator Kelly		Y
Senator Kothari		Y
Senator Russell	Y	
Senator Gandhi		Y
Senator Chargois		Absent
Senator Floreani		Y
Senator Zarka		Absent
Senator Saeed		Y
Senator Sharp		Y
Senator Dunnigan		Y
Senator Oholendt		Y
Senator Eskridge		Y
Senator Berry		Y
Senator Wilkie	N	
Senator Corbello		Absent
Senator Cooley	Y	

Under the procedures outlined in Title 1, Section 3 of the University of Houston's Students' Association Code, Senator Wilkie submitted on April 19, 1990 the following explanation for her dissenting vote:

"My vote to reject the appointment of Mr. Yahya Saeed as Director of Personnel was cast only after deliberate investigation and careful scrutiny of Mr. Saeed's record as senator and chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs for the 26th Senate.

In an address to the 27th Senate on 16 April 1990 Mr. Saeed stated that as chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs he personally conducted 11 meetings and was absent from 2. The Senate Journal, the official record of this legislative body, contains record of only 4 of those meetings dated 4/20/89, 6/26/89, 8/14/89, 11/6/89. While I do not doubt Mr. Saeed's word, I realize that he failed to perform his duty to file committee meeting reports as outlined in Chapter 6, Subchapter 3, Clause 3D of the SA Constitution.

In addition, according to the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs for the 26th Senate, Mr. Karl Barrus, Mr. Saeed failed to attend approximately 20 of the 25 scheduled Executive Committee meetings -- a breach of Chapter 6, Subchapter 3, Clause 3E. Mr. Saeed failed to address this issue in his defense to the 27th Senate.

Lastly, on at least one occasion the general body of the Senate was forced to remove legislation from Mr. Saeed's committee because it was not considered in a timely manner. Again, Mr. Saeed made no attempt to explain his negligence.

Because past record is most often the best indicator of future performance, and finding Mr. Saeed's record sorely lacking regardless of his justifications, I was forced to vote a conscionable no and urged my fellow senators to do likewise"

b) Other Business and General Orders:

Senator Grooms moved to consider SAR27004: A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CHANGE IN THE TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION CODE - SECTION 54.503 PART F. The motion was seconded and Senator Grooms spoke in favor by stating that the same motion was passed at the Texas State Students Association conference and that the resolution serves to make SSFPAC a more viable force. A direct vote was taken and the motion passed.

13. New Business and General Orders:

a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments:

President Hogle nominated Michael Berry for Undergraduate Council and Mary Valle and Mark Brokowski for Co-Directors of Public Relations. Speaker Burge referred these nominations to the Senate Select Committee. President Hogle also nominated Tom Creel for SSFPAC and asked that his nomination be bypassed since SSFPAC is scheduled to meet this Wednesday and Friday. Senator Hasselbrink asked if nominations could be made without receiving applications. Speaker Burge stated that the Senate will hold off discussion of Tom Creel until an answer is verified.

b) Other New Business and General Orders:

Senator Berry introduced UB27002: A UNIVERSITY BILL INCREASING POLICE PROTECTION. Senator Berry also introduced UB27003: A UNIVERSITY BILL MAKING UPDATED CAMPUS CRIME REPORTS EASILY ACCESSIBLE. Senator Berry moved to bypass UB27003 and it was seconded. Senator Berry spoke in favor of the motion by stating that campus security is a serious problem and needs to be dealt with immediately. Senator Eskridge spoke against the motion by stating his uncertainty on how this bill will curtail crime. Senator Eskridge suggested taking a week to do more research. Under general debate, Senator Grooms agreed with Senator Eskridge and requested more time to research this bill in committee. Senator Richards stated that he was in favor of the bill because it would help hold the UHPD more accountable for crime on campus. Senator Hasselbrink stated that he too was against bypass because he would like to make the bill more specific. Senator Burns asked how accessible is the information currently and she yielded the floor to Senator Berry. Senator Berry replied Lt. Wigtil is the only person who can release statistics. Senator Richards asked if Senator Berry was out of order because he answered the question five minutes ago. Senator Grooms asked if these locations had been contacted about wanting to release this information and keep it on hand. Senator Grooms yielded the floor to Senator Berry. Senator Berry replied that no they have not. Senator Richards asked if it was appropriate to have Senator Berry speak. Speaker Burge said that yes it was since he had yet to speak in general debate. Senator Eskridge stated that the fact that UB27003 was a simplistic bill could hurt it. President Hogle suggested that UB27003 move to committee in order to give Senator Berry more time to contact these places. Senator Berggren moved previous question and it received three seconds and the motion to bypass failed. Speaker Burge referred UB27003 to the Student Life committee.

15. Comments and Announcements:

Senator Richards asked when the Senate will move back to Tom Creel's application. President Hogle replied that he has the application. Speaker Burge stated that the Senate will go back to the discussion of Tom Creel. Senator Grooms moved to consider Tom Creel for SSFPAC and bypass committee. After a second to the motion, Senator Floreani called previous question and it received three seconds and passed. There was no general debate and the nomination of Tom Creel went to a direct vote and passed. The Senate then returned to Comments and Announcements.

Senator Grooms explained his reasons for voting in favor of a roll call vote, stating that he does not see how Senators can oppose a roll call vote yet feel that they are accountable to their constituents.

Senator Richards asked if SSFPAC monies go for campus security. Speaker Burge said that no they do not.

Senator Hasselbrink pointed out that some Senators seem to be painting Senator Wilkie as the bad guy but Senator Hasselbrink said that a Senators' opinion should be able to be expressed freely. Senator Hasselbrink also informed the Senate that he has heard rumors of the possibility of impeaching

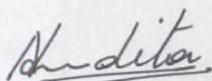
Senator Wilkie but stated that Senator Wilkie's opinion was based on facts she came up with and was in no way a personal attack. Senator Hasselbrink urged the Senate to keep its personal relations upbeat and asked members not to vote against a motion simply because it is tied to a particular person.

Speaker Burge asked Senators to please pass up their interest inventory forms.

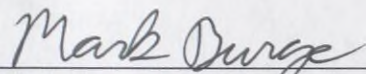
16. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 9:05PM.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ON APRIL 23,1990



Nandita Venkateswaran, Senate Secretary



Mark Burge, Speaker of the Senate