

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Twenty-fourth Meeting of the 27th Senate
Monday, March 18, 1991
Dallas/El Paso Room, University Center 7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order by the Presiding Officer:** Mark Burge, Speaker of the Senate
2. **Opening Call of the Roll by the Secretary:** Nandita Venkateswaran, Senate Secretary
3. **Reading and Approval of the Senate Journal from the Previous Meeting:**
4. **Special Reports:**
5. **Two Minute Speeches by the Members:**
6. **Report of the President:** Paul Hoglund
7. **Report of the Vice President:** Lee Flemming
8. **Report of the Speaker:** Mark Burge
9. **Reports of the Standing Committees:**
 - a) Academic Affairs: Michael Berry, Chair
 - b) Internal Affairs: Tiffany Russell, Chair
 - c) Student Life: Joel Richards, Chair
 - d) University Administration & Finance: Michael Rosenberger, Chair
10. **Reports of the Select Committees:** None
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:
 - Ashish Kulkarni - Bookstore Advisory Committee
 - Farrel Sharp - Bookstore Advisory Committee
 - Ashraf Dhanani - Teaching Excellence Award Committee
 - Samir Elamrani - Research Council
 - Samir Elamrani - Graduate & Professional Studies Council
 - Gene Simeon - Academic Computer Advisory Board
 - Stephen Esch - Writing Proficiency Appeals & Grievance Committee
 2. Committee on Internal Affairs:
 - Farrel Sharp - Student Traffic Court
 - Tom Daniel - Student Traffic Court

3. Committee on Student Life:
 - **None**
4. Committee on University Administration & Finance:
 - **Shaik Ahmed** - Safety Committee
 - **Tiffany Russell** - Student Court

b) Reconsideration of Presidential Vetoes and Other Legislative Business

1. Presidential Vetoes to be Reconsidered:
 - **None**
2. Committee on University Administration and Finance:
 - **SAR 27029**: CALLING FOR TAX REFORM IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
Sponsors: Lloyd Jacobson & Michael Rosenberger
3. Committee on Academic Affairs:
 - **None**
4. Committee on Student Life:
 - **None**
5. Committee on Internal Affairs:
 - **SAB 27022**: EXPRESSLY REPEALING THE BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD AS ADOPTED IN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL 27002

14. New Business and General Orders:

- a) Introduction of Presidential Nominations:
- b) Motions on Committee Bypass:
- c) Other New Business and General Orders:

15. Closing Call of the Roll by the Secretary: Nandita Venkateswaran, Senate Secretary

16. Comments and Announcements:

17. Adjournment:

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Twenty-fourth Meeting of the 27th Senate
Monday, March 18, 1991
Dallas/El Paso Room, University Center

1. Call to Order by the Presiding Officer:

The meeting was called to order by the Speaker of the Senate Mark Burge at 7:05 PM.

2. Opening Call of the Roll by the Secretary:

Senate Secretary Nandita Venkateswaran called the roll and the following senators were present: Michael Berry, Dean Draper, Scott Eastman, Eduardo Elizando, Matthew Emal, D. Lee Grooms, Kittrie Gleason, Lloyd Jacobson, Damien Kauta, Tuan Nguyen, Michael S. Oholendt, Joel Richards, Michael Rosenberger, Tiffany E. Russell, Farrel Sharp, Devi Sunderaj.

The following senators were absent: Alex Arenas, Michael Banta, William Bourque, Richard Corbello, Chris Cortes, Michael Floreani, Preeti Gandhi, Zaigham Shah.

The following senators were excused: None.

The following Executive Cabinet officials were present: Vice President Lee Flemming.

The following university officials were present: Consuelo Trevino, Director Campus Activities and William Munson, Dean of Students.

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:

None.

5. Two Minute Speeches by the Members:

Senator Eastman handed out copies of legislation passed by AAUS. He said he has contacted the National Office for a final draft on all legislation. Senator Grooms congratulated the Senate on doing an excellent job in quantity and quality of legislation this year.

6. Report of the President:

President Hogle did not attend the meeting.

7. Report of the Vice President:

Vice President Flemming thanked the senators for representing their constituents so ably. He reflected on the past year and said every administration should have a strategic sense. He said the Executive Cabinet should have focused on their goals much better than they did. Vice President Flemming congratulated the Senate on passing good pieces of legislation like the Library donations bill, the Student Regent bill and the Asian Studies bill. He noted that many senators in the past year have come and gone and he was glad to work with them. Vice President Flemming thanked everyone for his experiences in SA.

8. Report of the Speaker:

Speaker Burge said it has been a pleasure working as Speaker of the Senate this year. He said the Senate has had exceptionally good legislation this year. Speaker Burge said that although there has been some turnaround this has been a quality senate. He thanked the senators for trusting him to elect him as their Speaker at the beginning of the year. He said the Senate Journal will be compiled sometime after this meeting. He asked senators to leave a note in his box if they would like a copy of the journal. Speaker Burge said he hopes that the incoming Senate take advantage of the fact that they can move on from where this senate has left off.

9. Reports of the Standing Committees:

a) Academic Affairs:

Senator Berry, Chair of Academic Affairs, said his committee did not meet and he did not get in touch with the following:

Ashish Kulkarni-Bookstore Advisory Committee
Ashraf Dhanani-Teaching Excellence Award Committee
Samir Elamrani-Graduate and Professional Studies Council

Senator Berry suggested bypassing the following nominations:

Farrel Sharp-Bookstore Advisory committee
Gene Simeon-Academic Computer Advisory Board

b) Internal Affairs:

Senator Russell, Chair of Internal Affairs said her committee did not meet. She suggested bypassing the following nominations:

Farrel Sharp-Student Traffic Court
Tom Daniel-Student Traffic Court

Senator Russell said she also recommends bypass of SAB 27022: EXPRESSLY REPEALING THE BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD AS ADOPTED IN SAB 27002.

c) Student Life:

Senator Richards, Chair of Student Life said his committee did not meet as it had no business.

d) University Administration and Finance:

Senator Rosenberger, Chair of University Administration and Finance said his committee met and was reporting out favorably on the following nominations:

Shaik Ahmed-Safety Committee

Tiffany Russell-Student Court

Speaker Burge said the nomination of Tiffany Russell will require a vote by the Senate. Senator Rosenberger said his committee was also reporting out favorably on SAR 27029: CALLING FOR TAX REFORM IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.

10. Reports of the Select committees:

None.

11. Special Orders:

Director of External Affairs, Freddie Saucedo spoke for five minutes. He said students should write letters to legislators concerning the higher education appropriations bill in the House. Mr. Saucedo said the Student Regent bill is coming before the Senate and the House this week. He said he was sorry not to see the legislation on tax reform bypassed at the last meeting. Mr. Saucedo said a state income tax is the most logical way of raising funds. Mr. Saucedo said he was introducing SAB 27024: creating two positions for a Director and Assistant Director of External Affairs. Mr. Saucedo said some students are planning a trip to Austin during Spring Break to lobby legislators and asked if any senators were interested. Senator Berry asked him why he felt an increase in state income tax will raise funds for higher education. Mr. Saucedo said there are no funds right now. Senator Elizando asked how much the compensation for External Affairs should be. Mr. Saucedo said he has left that open. Senator Berry suggested a friendly amendment to change the last enacted clause to read 'be created and compensated.' Mr. Saucedo accepted the amendment.

12. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:

Senator Eastman introduced UB 27028: AMENDING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON TO INCLUDE SEXUAL ORIENTATION and SAB 27024: RESTRUCTURING THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

13. Unfinished Business and General Orders:

a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments:

1. Academic Affairs:

Senator Berry moved to bypass the nominations of Farrel Sharp to Bookstore Advisory Committee and Gene Simeon to Academic Computer Advisory Board. The nominations were bypassed and approved upon being put to a vote. Senator Richards moved to bypass the remainder of the nominations in Academic Affairs. Senator Grooms spoke against the motion and said he has no background information on the candidates and would rather see the nominations introduced at the next meeting. The motion to bypass failed upon being put to a vote.

2. Internal Affairs:

Senator Grooms moved to bypass the nominations of Farrel Sharp and Tom Daniel to Student Traffic Court. The nominations were approved upon being put to a vote.

3. Student Life:

None.

4. University Administration and Finance:

The nomination of Tiffany Russell to Student Court was approved upon being put to a vote.

b) Reconsideration of Presidential Vetoes and Other Legislative Business:

SAR 27029: CALLING FOR TAX REFORM IN THE STATE OF TEXAS was brought up for consideration. Senator Eastman said it is time for a change although taxes are not popular. Senator Kauta disagreed and said there is no guarantee that these taxes will go to higher education. Senator Emal said right now property taxes support 60% of education in Texas. Vice President Flemming yielded the floor to Director of External Affairs Freddie Saucedo. Mr. Saucedo said we are not debating whether or not the State should have an income tax. He said we are debating SA's position on this. Senator Gleason said it is a fallacy that money from an income tax will go to education. She said 90% of it will go towards fattening the administrator's pockets. Senator Jacobson said we are talking about two different issues here. Senator Elizando said we are not the Texas Legislature and only need to show our support one way or the other on the bill. Senator Richards moved the previous question and after a vote debate was closed. The bill passed upon being put to a vote.

Senator Grooms moved to bypass SAB 27022: EXPRESSLY REPEALING THE BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD AS ADOPTED IN SAB 27002. The motion to bypass succeeded. Senator Gleason asked why this is an important issue. Senator Grooms said SPB is presently a subunit of SA. He said this is a tie in name only. The bill ensures that SPB is an organization in its own right. Senator Grooms said SA's representation on SPB is adequately ensured by the new bylaws. Vice President Flemming asked how SPB would select its officers. Senator Grooms said in the new bylaws the meeting is convened by the outgoing Executive Director. The bill passed upon being put to a vote.

14. New Business and General Orders:

a) Introduction of Presidential Nominations:

None.

b) Motions on Committee Bypass:

Senator Eastman moved to bypass UB 27028: AMENDING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. He said this is a straightforward bill. The motion to bypass passed upon being put to a vote. Speaking in favor of the bill he said the university makes no mention of sexual orientation in its equal opportunity employment statement. He said this bill is a proactive measure and goes above and beyond what is stated by federal law. Senator Berry said TSSA has recently produced legislation to the same effect. He suggested usage of terms like 'non-traditional sexual orientation instead of gay/lesbian. Senator Russell said such a practice cannot be called non-traditional as they have been around for a long time. Senator Eastman said the bill leaves it up to the university legal department to choose the correct wording. Senator Jacobson proposed an amendment change gay/lesbian to homosexual and bisexual. The amendment passed upon being put to a vote. The bill passed upon being put to a vote. Senator Eastman moved to bypass SAB 27024: RESTRUCTURING THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. The motion to bypass failed upon being put to a vote.

c) Other New Business and General Orders:

None.

15. Closing Call of the Roll by the Secretary:

Senate Secretary Nandita Venkateswaran called the roll and the following senators were present: Alex Arenas, Michael Berry, Dean Draper, Scott Eastman, Eduardo Elizando, Matthew Emal, Michael Floreani, D. Lee Grooms, Kittrie Gleason, Lloyd Jacobson, Damien Kauta, Tuan Vu Nguyen, Michael S. Oholendt, Joel Richards, Tiffany E. Russell, Farrel Sharp.

The following senators were excused: None.

The following senators were absent: Michael Banta, William Bourque, Richard Corbello, Chris Cortes, Preeti Gandhi, Michael Rosenberger, Farrel Sharp, Zaigham Shah, Cheryl Price.

16. Comments and Announcements:

Senator Eastman said he learned a lot from the 27th Senate and thanked everyone for his experiences.

Vice President Flemming said he will be unable to attend the SA banquet as he will be in Fort Hood.

Senator Russell thanked everyone for putting her nomination through to Student Court.

Senator Richards said he would like to see money left over from Senate Funds go to putting more SA suggestion boxes on campus. Speaker Burge reminded the senators to take their name tags from the plates but to leave the plates for the next senate. He said the first meeting of the 28th Senate will be the first day after Spring Break, April 1st.

17. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 8:20 PM.