



# STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SENATE JOURNAL

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE STUDENT SENATE

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The first meeting of the tenth session of the Student Senate of the University of Houston Students' Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the San Jancinto Room of the University Center by President FINE. The minutes were approved as written.

All Senators were present.

### Election of the Speaker

President FINE opened nominations for the election of the Speaker for the Senate. Senator SALINAS nominated Senator HERRINGTON.

Senator KEITH nominated Senator BOYD. He said that he has the experience needed for this office. He has served two terms as Senator, longer than those nominated.

Senator EURESTE said that Senator HERRINGTON would do an effective job, the Senators could work with him on a good friendly basis.

Senator JIMENEZ nominated Senator SALINAS.

Senator SALINAS declined the nomination.

The floor was opened to questions to the candidates.

Senator ROBICHAUX asked the candidates the time they could give to the job.

Senator BOYD said that he is carrying 11 hours now. He added that he has been putting in 6-8 hours a day in the Senate offices while he was Chair of Rules.

Senator HERRINGTON said that he has the majority of the afternoons off to devote to the Senate.

Senator GUERIN stated that Section 101.03 of the bylaws said that Senators can be impeached. He asked the candidates if they would introduce the motion of impeachment against any Senator that came under the impeachment statute.

Senator HERRINGTON said since the rules was made it should be inforced, in the past it has not been kept. He admitted that he was hazy about the whole impeachment situation but until the rules is changed it should be inforced or it is a waste of time.

Senator BOYD said that the committee chairs should check on their committees. The Speaker should keep track of Senators absences and get in touch with the Senator so that they can become aware that they have missed too many meetings. When they hit the number of meetings required for impeachment proceedings the Speaker should inform the person and give them an opportunity to turn in the excuse.

Senator GUERIN said that the Speaker shall coordinate all committees of the Senate. He asked each candidate how he will increase the coordination.

Senator BOYD said that more communication between committees is needed. The Speaker should talk with the chairs at least once a week to see what is happening in the

committees. The Executive Committee should spend more time coordinating and collaborating between themselves. The Speaker's responsibility is to help the various committees.

Senator HERRINGTON said that he agreed with Senator BOYD. The Speaker should keep track of all that is happening in the committees. He should be there whenever they need help, the committees and the Senate.

Senator GUERIN asked Senator BOYD if there is any way that the Speaker can help alleviate the feeling of the committee members (non-chairs) of their feelings of uselessness.

Senator BOYD said that all Executive Committee meetings are open to all Senate members. He suggested a typed newsletter for all the Senators from the Speaker to inform them of what is happening in all the committees.

Senator NELSON asked whose responsibility this newsletter will be.

Senator BOYD said that the committee chairs can come up with the information and the Speaker will put it together with the Department of Information and the Vice Chair.

Senator ELLEDGE said that tenure is an important issue currently on campus. He asked how there can be student input on the tenure decisions.

Senator HERRINGTON answered that this is currently a delicate issue. He said that a type of hearing can be established that will evaluate what is going on currently and then move from there.

Senator BOYD said that this is an important issue. The Senate should do research by evaluating the procedures taken in other colleges and departments. They can then evaluate the discrepancies, make a list of them and take them to the academic committee, the University Council. He said it is important to first find the discrepancies and the policies that exist in other colleges.

Senator ELLEDGE asked the candidates about their feelings toward ARA.

Senator HERRINGTON said that the students are getting shafted. The Senate should start investigations and hearings on the food prices and discrepancies in hiring and present these findings to the university.

Senator BOYD said that the Senate should work with the University Center Policy Board to hold meetings with ARA. We should also start a letter writing campaign to find the discrepancies between our and other campuses. After the information is obtained it should be released to the student body as a whole. He said that the key is research, the facts are needed first so the Senate can have a good basis.

Senator HOLBROOK asked how the candidates feel about the salary of the Speaker.

Senator HERRINGTON said that it doesn't make that much of a difference on how he will do his job as Speaker.

Senator BOYD said that in May he will lose his current source of funding. He will look for another source of income. If he can find one he will give the Speaker's pay back to the Senate or to charity.

Senator JIMENEZ asked the candidates how they would get more minority faculty.

Senator BOYD said that through Senate Resolutions the Senate can push on the administration. He added that the Faculty Senate, Senate Resolution and the Academic Council are the keys to academic changes. The Senate should get the faculty to agree that they want this change.

Senator HERRINGTON said that the initial movement should come from the Senate in the form of an investigation committee.

He added that they can investigate each department independently and put pressure on the faculty and students. This will make the administration see that they want more minority faculty.

President FINE then called for the vote.

Senator BOYD received 21 votes, Senator HERRINGTON 13 votes, with one abstention, and one vote for both Senator MARTIN and Senator COLLIER.

Senator BOYD was elected the Senate's new Speaker.

#### President's Report

President FINE said that he is vetoing Senate Bill 19097 because its hastily written wording only further confuses the inequity it hopes to rectify. He said that first of all, Section 1 of the bill, which permits authorized representatives to file for candidates, makes no provision for such authorization. The Election Code currently requires candidates to authorize their representatives at the time of filing. Using this lone definition, one can conclude from Senate Bill 19097 only that authorized representatives would authorize themselves at filing. He said that such nonsense is obviously prime material for contesting elections, and if the past is any indicant you can bet the question of what constitutes authorization will arise. He added that since no elections are scheduled before October, the provisions of Senate Bill 19097 are by no means urgent. He asked the Senate only to act reasonably when legislating, and to refer the concept behind Senate Bill 19097 to the Rules and Judiciary Committee for more thorough consideration.

President FINE said that the University Center Policy Board met last Thursday, April 4. Chairbody Louie LeBlanc appointed a committee to evaluate University Center personnel and make recommendations to the UC Director by early summer. Selected for the committee were Johnny Boyd (chairperson), Rick Brass, Dennis Keith, and Louie LeBlanc. Also chosen was a new Space Allocations Committee to review the present situation with campus organizations. The members are Brass (chairperson), LeBlanc, Boyd, Steve Roche, Judy Markoe (non-voting), and President Fine.

Results of the Program Council Officers' selection Committee were announced. The new PC officers are: Robin Hurley-President, Dennis Keith-Vice President, Kathy Schlicht-Secretary, and Alice Collette-Treasurer.

#### Appointments

President FINE said that he was making the following appointments: Mike Martin-Treasurer, Robin Collins-Attorney General, Ruben Cano-Director, Department of Ethnic Affairs, Marionette Mitchell-Director, Department of Information, Ed Martin-Director, Department of State Affairs, Robin Pearch-T&S Advisory Board and Allison Korn, T&S Advisory Board.

#### Vacancies

President FINE announced that there are the following vacancies: University Center Policy Board (2), Director, Department of Women's Affairs, Director, Department of Research, Religion Center Policy Board (3), Cheerleader Mascot Selection Board (3)

Student Life Council (1), Loans & Scholarships Committee (4) and University Admissions Committee (2).

Appointment of the Committee Chairs

President FINE announced that he had made the following committee chair appointments: Rules and Judiciary-Senator NELSON, Fiscal and Governmental-Senator EURESTE, Student Life-Senator HANSEL, Educational Affairs-Senator COLLIER, and External Affairs-Senator SALINAS.

Rules appointment

The floor was opened to question to Senator NELSON.

Senator HERRINGTON said that it has been the past tradition of the Senate when the President makes appointments to committee chair to appoint experienced Senators not those that were just elected.

President FINE answered that this was the policy of the last President. He does not believe in a seniority system.

Senator JIMENEZ asked for a five minute recess and this was approved by the Senate.

Senator GUERIN asked Senator NELSON if she was willing to keep constant records. Senator NELSON said that she believes that records should be kept and should go through the Speaker.

ROBIN COLLINS, S.A. Attorney General, said that Senator NELSON is a classmate of his and is very conscientious.

The appointment of Senator NELSON to Chair of Rules was approved 32-0.

Student Life appointment

The floor was opened to questions to Senator HANSEL.

Senator HOLBROOK stated that a person with more experinece would do a better job since this is Senator HANSEL's first time in the Senate.

Senator ROCHE said that the main criteria for a chair position is the amount of work the person is willing to devote to the Senate.

Senator MERCADAL asked who else applied.

President FINE said that Senator GUERIN also applied but he felt that the committee needed a shot in the arm and not get bogged down like it has in the past.

Senator GUERIN asked how Senator HANSEL could give the committee a shot in the arm. Senator HANSEL explained that she took a defunct Hospitality committee of Program Council and turned into an active committee. She said with student life there are different areas on campus that the committee can get something done about.

Senator HERRINGTON asked for her experience in student government.

Senator HANSEL replied that she was not really ever been in student government, but she does agree with President FINE that the government is actually a student lobby group. She added that she thought that one of the qualifications for the position is to know your way around campus. She stated that she had been here for five years and knew her way around pretty well.

Senator FRIEND said that there is no justification for this appointment, Senator GUERIN is qualified and has done a good job.

Senator HOLBROOK said that he would like to see the appointment go unannounced till next week.

Senator GUERIN asked how she felt about absences, a proposed quorum for the committee and her involvement in Program Council.

Senator HANSEL replied that recording absences is necessary, if you slack up then you can't get the people together. She added that her chair in Program Council ends April 18. A quorum of four sounds good and she said that the meetings would be flexible so all could attend.

Senator ROBICHAUX stated that Senator GUERIN did a good job with the resources he had, and added that he would like to see him as committee chair.

The appointment of Senator HANSEL failed by a vote of 11-17.

#### Fiscal appointment

The floor was opened to questions to Senator EURESTE.

Senator GUERIN asked how he felt about records keeping.

Senator EURESTE said that he had kept the records himself and that if Senators don't come to the meetings they should be reprimanded.

The appointment of Senator EURESTE was approved by a vote of 34-0.

#### Educational Affairs appointment

The floor was opened to questions to Senator COLLIER.

Senator EURESTE moved for acclamation, but there was an objection. Senator KEITH called the question.

The appointment of Senator COLLIER was approved by a vote of 26-2.

#### External Affairs appointment

President FINE asked the chair to withdraw the appointment of Luciano Salinas to the Chair of External Affairs. The appointment was withdrawn.

#### President's Report Continued

President FINE yielded the floor to Pete Williamson head of the Students' Protection Agency. He gave the new Senate a summary of what his department is involved in today. He said that litigation is in process, they have challenged the constitutionality of the non-resident tuition law. He said that the Attorney General has filed a petition to appeal the current case to the Supreme Court of the U.S.

ED MARTIN Director of the Department of State Affairs said that there should no more hikes in student service fees, the next hike should be in tuition. He said that students should join together and help lobby against any further hikes.

Introduction of Legislation

Senator COLLIER moved for suspension of the rules to introduce University Bill 20005, A UH BILL TO AMEND THE ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY.

Senator FRIEND said that this bill allows students to press charges against the faculty.

Suspension was granted 21-0.

Senator HERRERA introduced Senate Resolution 20001, A SENATE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BOYCOTT AGAINST GALLO WINE BY THE UNITED FARM WORKERS. It was sent to External Affairs.

Attorney General's Report

ROBIN COLLINES, S.A.'s Attorney General, said that there is currently a problem in Student Court and University Court. He said that the Student Court hears cases on the jurisdiction that S.A. assigns the court, but the court has no jurisdiction over the faculty or staff. The University Court is governed by the Student Policy guidelines but the student policy has no provisions of the federal bill of rights and no power of injunction. He said that he would like the Senate to consider this because student government is important. He added that the situation of the UH is not as good as in other places. He asked the Senate to consider: (1) give the student courts jurisdiction over the administration, faculty and staff and (2) sanctions against them. He asked that all Senators think about these positions.

Senator NELSON asked how they would amend the constitution.

ROBIN said that the student life policy needs to incorporate into it bill of rights concepts. Discrimination according to race, creed, color, sex are not covered in the policy.

Senator NELSON asked the procedure that will have to be taken.

ROBIN said that there needs to be a constitutional change and the Student Life Council needs to amend the Student Life Policy.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Russell  
Senate Secretary