

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Fifth Meeting of the 27th Senate
Monday, April 30, 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: Nandita Venkateswaran, 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: Don Easterling: SA Representative, University Library Committee
8. One Minute Speeches by the Members:
9. Reports of the Standing Committees:
 - a) Committee on Academic Affairs: Jan Burns, Chair
 - b) Committee on Internal Affairs: Tiffany Russell, Chair
 - c) Committee on Student Life: Charlie Hasselbrink, Chair
 - d) University Administration & Finance: Shannon Wilkie, Chair
10. Report of the Select Committee:
11. Special Orders: None
12. Unfinished Business and General Orders:
 - a) Presidential Nominations and Appointments: None
 - b) Other Business and General Orders:
 1. Committee on Academic Affairs: None
 2. Committee on Internal Affairs:

SAB 27001 A STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION BILL ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ELECTION CODE;
The Bylaws of the Student Program Board.
 3. Committee on Student Life:

UB 27001 A UNIVERSITY BILL CREATING AN AD HOC UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE A FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STUDENT-OPERATED RADIO STATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON;
UB 27002 A UNIVERSITY BILL INCREASING POLICE PROTECTION
UB 27003 A UNIVERSITY BILL MAKING UPDATED CAMPUS CRIME REPORTS EASILY ACCESSIBLE
 4. Committee on University Administration and Finance:

UB 27004 A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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 30th, 1990
Dallas-El Paso Room, University Center 7:00 PM

1. Call to order by the Presiding Officer:

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Burge at 7:04 PM.

2. Call of the roll by the Secretary.

The following senators were present: Berggren, Berry, Burns, Corbello, Cortes, Eastman, Eskridge, Gandhi, Grooms, Hasselbrink, Hussain, Karim, Kothari, Nguyen, Oholendt, Richards, Rosenberger, Russell, Shah, Sharp, Talley, Zarka.

The following senators were excused: Cooley, Sunderaj, Wilkie, Wong.

The following senators were absent: Chargois, Dockery, Dunnigan, Floreani, Kelly, Saeed.

The following senators were late: None

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

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:

The President was unable to attend due to illness.

5. Report of the Vice President:

Vice President Flemming reiterated that the Athletic Marketing and Advisory Board was a promotional organization designed to boost ticket sales. He informed the Senate that during his meeting with Bobby Rice the past week he discussed another location for ticket sales as well as the possibility of students obtaining an additional ticket at half-price for their guests. Vice President Flemming said the Student Foundation is an organization to be used to establish tradition at the University as well as raise money for various student run projects. He spoke about the Student Leader Action Board which is an organization to get campus leaders together to discuss campus issues. He said he had sent out a letter to all the organization heads last week and was getting a slow but positive response from them. The second issue he spoke on dealt with a candidate to head the Affirmative Action office. He said that this candidate assisted the University President and dealt with discrimination, minority and racial issues. Vice President Flemming said the process of selection was still incomplete and they were looking at one more candidate on May 3rd. The last issue the Vice

President spoke about was the meeting of the Board of Regents and other concerned officials to approve Marguerite Ross Barnett as the new president of the university on May 1st. He said President Heglund and he were invited to a luncheon on May 2nd contingent to the appointment of Dr. Barnett at the May 1st meeting.

Senator Berry asked if the Affirmative Action candidates were regular staff personnel and if the positions were still vacant. Vice President Flemming said yes to both questions.

Senator Burns asked when it would be officially known who the new UH President will be and asked about the pressure Dr. Barnett was facing from her own university. Vice President Flemming replied that it would be probably be May 1st and that Dr. Barnett hopes to be here.

Senator Burns also asked who the system Chancellor is.

Speaker Burge replied that Dr. Alexander Schilt is the Chancellor.

6. Report of the Speaker:

Speaker Burge first spoke about absence policies and said he hoped to meet with the Senate Executive Committee this week to review the excuse absence forms turned in by the senators and would accordingly change the record on those absences which were excused.

Vice President Flemming asked if absences could be excused if the forms were turned in after the meeting. The Speaker replied that, as per the SA bylaws, senators had up to five class days after the meeting to turn in their excuses.

He also said there would be a stricter absence policy for the summer and fall. He informed the senators that a total of six absences, whether excused or not, were sufficient grounds for dismissal. Also, two consecutive unexcused absences were grounds for immediate removal. The next issue Speaker Burge spoke on was the senators queries on how to write legislation. He assured the senators that the actual writing is not difficult, instead it is the research that takes more work. The Speaker encouraged the senators to utilize their free time between finals and summer to put together legislation on issues important to them. He also said that he and the Speaker Pro Tem could assist the senators in this matter. Speaker Burge concluded by reminding the senators that good legislation was all the more important as it was a good chance for SA to make a strong impression upon the new UH President.

7. Special Reports:

Don Easterling, an SA representative on the University Library Committee shared information about the committee with the senators. He highlighted the common problems faced by students while making use of the library. Mr. Easterling said that UH was touting itself as a top research institution, yet it did not consider a research library as a top priority. He said that since 1983-'84 the M.D. Anderson Library's annual budget had increased by only 3%. In contrast the average annual increase in journals had been 10%. This effectively meant that the buying power of the library had been brought down by 50%. Mr. Easterling said that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provides a figure at which the libraries in the State of Texas should be funded. Mr. Easterling listed the figures of some libraries that have budgets over 4 million dollars, and how much they receive compared to the Coordinating Board figures: UT-Austin- 132%, UT-Arlington-142.6%, Texas A&M-103.3%, University of North Texas-112.7%, Texas Tech.-116%, University of Houston-93%. He said that other than UT-Austin and UT-Arlington, the other Universities do not receive as much funding as the University of Houston does and are probably more underfunded than the University of Houston is. Mr. Easterling urged the senators to find out what is wrong. He said Dr. Marguerite Barnett had informed him that the M.D. Anderson library is ranked 108th out of 108 libraries in the Association of Research Libraries. He said that if the University of Houston put itself at 100% of the Coordinating Board's figures, it would have \$700,000 more in its base budget. Mr. Easterling informed the senators that the library is going to cancel \$80,000 worth of journals and \$70,000 worth of books are not going to be ordered this year. He commended the team at the library for being named among the top three most efficient libraries. Senator Grooms asked how the ranking was measured. Mr. Easterling said it was on the basis of six

categories including staffing, funding, journal acquisition etc. He also said the computer system was obsolete and would cost \$1.1 million to replace. He said a 'well-funded library pays for itself' by increasing productivity. In outlining what SA could do for the M.D. Anderson library, Mr. Easterling encouraged the senators to educate themselves on the problems facing the library and to work with the faculty senate in writing legislation on the library. He said Dr. Barnett places the library as a top priority and SA should make it one of theirs as well. He asked the senators to consider writing a bill to create a university policy guaranteeing the UH libraries 100% base funding. This would send a strong message to the administration that the 'students of the University deserve and want a top priority library.'

8. **One Minute Speeches by the Members:**

Senator Grooms informed the senators that there were copies of information on how to write legislation written by Senator Hasselbrink on the table.

9. **Report of the Standing Committee:**

1) *Academic Affairs:* Senator Burns, Chair of Academic Affairs reported that they did not meet since there was no legislation in committee.

2) *Internal Affairs:* Senator Russell, Chair of Internal Affairs said her committee met and reported favorably on SAB 27001: TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE SA ELECTION CODE, as well as the new Student Program Board Bylaws. In a point of information, Senator Berry asked the Speaker if the legislation passed by Internal Affairs will be presented before the Senate. Speaker Burge replied that it would as the committee had just reported out on it.

3) *Student Life:* Senator Grooms reported that the committee met and reported favorably on UB 27001: TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE REVISION OF THE SA ELECTION CODE; and tabled UB 27002: INCREASING POLICE PROTECTION and UB 27003: MAKING CRIME REPORTS EASILY ACCESSIBLE. Senator Grooms mentioned that Senator Sharp was doing a lot of research on these two bills.

4) *University Administration and Finance:* Senator Berggren said that they had not elected a vice chair yet. UB 27004 was tabled until further research.

10. **Report of the Select Committee:**

None

11. **Special Orders:**

None

12. **Unfinished Business and General Orders:**

a) *Presidential Nominations and Appointments:*

None

b) *Other Business and General Orders:*

Senator Grooms moved to consider UB 27001: CREATING AN AD HOC UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STUDENT-OPERATED RADIO STATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON. Senator Grooms spoke in favor of the bill. He stated that they had changed the makeup of the committee to include only one SA representative, empowered the committee to select its own chair, and set a time frame for the committee's report to be submitted. Under general debate Senator Eskridge asked if the time limit was too long and who would

be using this station. Senator Grooms said the time frame was made keeping in mind the shuffling caused by the appointment of the new UH President and although open to all students this facility was most often going to be used by RTV students. Senator Cortes stated that the time limit was set keeping in mind the process of forming a committee, voting a chair in, deciding funding, dispersion of funds, and problems of operation. Senator Rosenberger inquired if it was going to be an extension of KUHF and how much it was going to cost the University. In a point of information Senator Eskridge stated that it is the purpose of the committee to determine those facts. Senator Burns suggested a moderate change in the time frame as the committee did not need ten months to work on the project. She said they could obtain information from other schools, KUHF, etc. Senator Richards pointed out that the reason for the time frame was so that the committee would not be established until the bill was signed which depended on the president of the university. Senator Berry stated as the author of the bill that he had researched it and in reference to KUHF he said that funding was not a problem for them as they had a national charter with a classical music organization. He also said Rice University had sources that UH could not tap. He noted that a student station could buy bands from KUHF without having to invest in a new transmitter. Senator Berggren proposed an amendment to strike the last part of the enacted clause and replace it with a provision that the committee report back no later than eight months after the bill has been signed. The amendment received a second. Senator Grooms spoke against the amendment saying that an attractive package had to be presented to the office of the President without making it seem like they were pushing too hard. Senator Richards moved the previous question on the amendment, the motion received three seconds and passed. The amendment failed. Senator Eskridge moved to close general debate. It received three seconds and passed. In a direct vote UB 27001 passed. Senator Grooms moved to consider SAB 27001. There was no general debate and the bill passed. Senator Grooms moved to consider to consider the SPB Bylaws. Senator Grooms spoke in favor and pointed out that these bylaws were updated so that they could be placed in SA records. The SPB bylaws were put to a direct vote and approved.

13. **New Business and General orders:**

a) *Presidential Nominations and Appointments:*

Vice President Flemming acting for President Hoglund introduced the nominations of Alfredo Saucedo for Director of External Affairs and Eric Owens for Student Court Justice. Senator Grooms asked if President Hoglund wanted these nominations to bypass committee. Vice President Flemming said that he did. Senator Berggren moved to bypass both nominations. Senator Grooms spoke in favor of the motion. Senator Richards spoke against it noting that he knew nothing about the two candidates. He asked if someone in the Senate could provide him with the information. The motion to bypass passed with a two-thirds majority. A motion to approve the nomination of Freddie Saucedo was put forth by Senator Grooms. Senator Grooms spoke in favor. Senator Richards spoke against the nomination and pointed out that the Senate was not a 'rubber stamp for the president.' In general debate Vice President Flemming informed the Senate that after interviewing ten applicants he and President Hoglund chose Freddie Saucedo as they felt that he knew the right direction for SA and would work well with the rest of the cabinet. Senator Grooms said that the Senate needs to decide where to draw a line. He said 'advise and consent' meant that either they took Lee and Paul's word or else they did not. Senator Richards said that if there is some information the senators have on the candidates it should be brought forward. He also recommended that the nomination go back to committee. Senator Berry asked the senators to bear in mind that they were setting a precedent. Senator Eskridge pointed out that they were getting bogged down in bureaucracy and that it was ridiculous to push the nomination back to June. He also brought it to the Senate's attention that the State Legislature was going to be debating new legislation and therefore it was important that the position be filled immediately. Senator Sharp asked where Mr. Saucedo was from. Senator Berry replied that he was from San Antonio. Senator Grooms then pointed out that the Senate could not afford to lose a vital month between now and the next meeting by not approving the nominations. Senator Burns called the previous question. It received three seconds and the debate was closed by a two-thirds majority. Senator Berry moved for a roll call

vote to approve the nomination. Senator Talley asked if the motion was to approve of the nominations as a block or individually. After it was determined that the motion was to approve of the nomination of Alfredo Saucedo only, the roll call vote went as follows:

Senator Berggren	Y	Senator Kelly	Not present
Senator Berry	N	Senator Kothari	Not present
Senator Burns	Y	Senator Karim	Y
Senator Chargois	Not present	Senator Nguyen	Abstained
Senator Corbello	Y	Senator Oholendt	Y
Senator Cooley	Not present	Senator Richards	N
Senator Cortes	Y	Senator Rosenberger	Abstained
Senator Dockery	Not present	Senator Russell	Abstained
Senator Dunnigan	Not present	Senator Saeed	Not present
Senator Eskridge	Y	Senator Shah	Not present
Senator Eastman	Not present	Senator Sharp	Y
Senator Floreani	Not present	Senator Sunderaj	Not present
Senator Gandhi	Y	Senator Talley	Y
Senator Grooms	Y	Senator Wilkie	Not present
Senator Hasselbrink	Not present	Senator Wong	Not present
Senator Hussain	Y	Senator Zarka	Y

The nomination was approved by a two-thirds majority.

Senator Grooms moved to approve the nomination of Eric Owens. It received a second and Senator Grooms spoke in favor of the nomination. Senator Berry urged the senators to vote in favor of the nomination only if they knew Mr. Owens, else he asked them to abstain or vote against the nomination. He told the senators once again that he thought they were setting a bad precedent. Senator Richards called the previous question. It received three seconds, and passed. Senator Grooms moved to call a Roll Call vote on the nomination of Eric Owens for Student Court Justice.

Senator Berggren	Y	Senator Kelly	Not present
Senator Berry	N	Senator Kothari	Not present
Senator Burns	Y	Senator Karim	Not present
Senator Chargois	Not present	Senator Nguyen	Abstained
Senator Cooley	Not present	Senator Oholendt	Y
Senator Corbello	Not present	Senator Richards	N
Senator Cortes	Y	Senator Rosenberger	Y
Senator Dockery	Not present	Senator Russell	Abstained
Senator Dunnigan	Not present	Senator Saeed	Not present
Senator Eskridge	Y	Senator Shah	Not present
Senator Eastman	Not present	Senator Sharp	N
Senator Floreani	Not present	Senator Sunderaj	Not present
Senator Gandhi	Abstained	Senator Talley	Y
Senator Grooms	Y	Senator Wilkie	Not present
Senator Hasselbrink	Not present	Senator Wong	Not present
Senator Hussain	Abstained	Senator Zarka	Y

The nomination of Eric Owens failed.

Senator Sharp asked if the nomination had been 'shot down.' Speaker Burge said that Eric Owens would have to be renominated or the Senate would have to rescind its vote.

Under the procedures outlined in Title 1, Section 3 of the University of Houston's Students' Association Code, Senator Berry submitted on May 1, 1990 the following explanation for his vote:

"Due to the controversial nature of my actions at the April 30th Senate meeting, and what I consider to be the misinterpretations of them, I feel it is in order that I explain my rationale in voting against the nominations of Alfredo Saucedo to the position of External Affairs and Eric Owens to the post of Student Court Justice. My opposition was not in any way directed toward the nominees, instead it was aimed at the nomination process of bypassing committee which was chosen.

I feel the purpose of a mandatory approval by the Senate of such nominations is designed to serve as a "check" for the President's nominations; otherwise, Senate approval would be nothing more than a useless formality. Thus, in order for the Senate to make a proper decision, it must be fully informed about the nominee. Since the Senate operates under the age-old "advise and consent" concept (Title 1, Section 32A), I find it difficult for the Senate to give its advice and consent on an issue that it has not reviewed, which is the expressed purpose of the Internal Affairs Committee. While I feel, through my personal observations of both Mr. Saucedo and Mr. Owens, that each candidate would do a super job in their respectively nominated positions and I do not question their competence, I felt a serious precedent was at stake. The request to bypass these nominations was on the basis that their sought positions needed to be filled immediately; however, this is true of almost every nomination that the President will make, as most committees and individual positions operate on a continual basis and rarely recess for long periods of time. If a precedent of sending these nominations to committee before their approval by entire Senate was not set at the beginning, it could lead to serious problems in the future. Although the act delaying the approval of these individuals, which I advocated, sacrifices a month of their work, it sets a precedence for an entire year, if not longer. I acted according to what I perceived the magnitude of such a precedence to be. While mine has not been a popular move, I feel it has exposed a serious issue which our Senate must address.

I congratulate Alfredo Saucedo on his nomination and subsequent approval and I wish him the best in his new capacity as Director of External Affairs. I sincerely regret that Eric Owens was not approved and must wait to be approved to the Student Court. I also regret that the Student Court will be without his capable services until his approval. Yet, I do not regret my aforementioned actions, as they were based on a principle I feel is more than this individual circumstance: that the Senate fulfill its responsibilities and make only informed, educated decisions. And when this unfortunate situation is forgotten, hopefully the precedent it set will not be."

14. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:

Senator Nguyen introduced SAR 27005: CALLING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC CHINA FAST, TO BE HELD MAY 13, 1990.

Senator Berry introduced SAR 27006: RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSE ETHNIC GROUPS ON CAMPUS BY NAMING A DAY IN THEIR HONOR and UB 27006: REQUIRING THAT TEXTBOOKS PRICED MORE THAN FORTY DOLLARS BE PLACED IN M.D. ANDERSON LIBRARY FOR PUBLIC USE.

Senator Nguyen introduced SAR 27007: CALLING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER TO PURCHASE AND PLACE AN ADDITIONAL MICROWAVE IN THE UNIVERSITY CENTER UNDERGROUND DINING LOUNGE.

Senator Berggren introduced UB 27005: CREATING A PLACE ON CLASS REGISTRATION FORMS FOR AN OPTIONAL DONATION TO THE UH LIBRARIES.

Senator Nguyen moved to bypass SAR 27005. It received a second and Senator Grooms spoke in favor. Senator Berry noted that May 13th was the date on which the Chinese students were massacred.

Senator Rosenberger pointed out some misspellings. Senator Berggren asked what steps were being taken to inform people that SA was commemorating the day. Senator Nguyen stated that there would be an advertisement in the Daily Cougar to that effect. In response to a query by Senator Sharp he said the Chinese Students Association will place the ad. SAR 27005 passed unanimously.

Senator Nguyen moved to bypass SAR 27007. Senator Zarka asked why it was not named a University Bill. Speaker Burge said there was no need for this resolution to go up to the UH President's desk. Senator Sharp asked when the UC Policy Board met. Senator Berry said it met every Wednesday. The motion to bypass committee was approved. Speaking in favor of the resolution, Senator Nguyen informed the Senate that after research he found that it took 6:20 seconds on an average for a person to get to use the existing microwave. He stressed that it was a growing problem. During general debate Senator Gandhi proposed an amendment that a microwave be added in the Satellite. The amendment was seconded. Senator Grooms proposed an amendment to the amendment to add to the 1st whereas clause to include University Center Satellite. The motion was seconded. Senator Rosenberger proposed an amendment to the previous amendment. The Speaker informed the Senate that it was against Robert's Rules of Order to do so. Senator Grooms requested the senators to vote the amendment to the amendment down to include Senator Rosenberger's point. Senator Richards moved to previous question on all pending amendments. The motion received three seconds. The debate on all amendments was closed. The amendment to the 1st whereas clause was passed after a direct vote. The amendment proposed to the second to the last whereas clause was also passed after a direct vote. Senator Richards said that there was need for more than one microwave. He proposed an amendment to change the second to last resolved clause to include 'and/or two additional microwaves...', and to include the Satellite in the 1st whereas, and also to change the title to include University Center Satellite. Senator Richards then asked that the 2nd and 3rd clause be changed. Speaker Burge suggested that the senators might wish to consider sticking to the original bill as they were getting a 'little bogged down.' Senator Berggren suggested that they continue. In a point of inquiry Senator Talley asked how many senators formed quorum. Speaker Burge said that 17 senators are needed for a quorum if someone calls for it to be determined. Senator Berggren then said that those senators who were not interested ought to leave. Senator Richards suggested that they continue with the debate. Senator Grooms requested that the Speaker read to the Senate the amendments in their present form. After the Speaker did so, Senator Grooms proposed a secondary amendment that the second whereas clause read '...few exist to meet the needs of the students' and the third whereas clause read 'microwaves' instead of 'microwave.' Senator Sharp requested that the Speaker read the amendments again to the Senate. In response to a point of inquiry by Senator Gandhi, Speaker Burge said to refer to the committee legislation to make the corrections would require a majority vote by the Senate. At this point Speaker Burge asked Speaker Pro Tem Berry to come forward and take the chair. After being recognized by the chair Senator Burge said the reason he believed Senator Nguyen wanted to bypass committee was so that the problem regarding the microwave in the UC could be solved quickly. In a point of parliamentary inquiry Senator Grooms asked if a second had to be solicited before there was any debate on the secondary amendment. Speaker Pro Tem Berry replied in the affirmative. There was a call for a second which was unanswered and the secondary amendment died. Speaking in the general debate on the original motion to amend Senator Burge said putting in any such amendment defeated the purpose of the bill. A new bill ought to be written to include all the other suggestions. Speaker Pro Tem Berry then moved on to a direct vote on the amendment. Upon a request for clarification by Senator Rosenberger, Speaker Pro Tem Berry said they were voting on the original amendment to the resolution. The amendment was voted down. Senator Richards moved the previous question on the original resolution. The resolution in its original form passed with a two-thirds majority. Speaker Pro Tem Berry yielded the chair back to Speaker Burge.

15. **Comments and Announcements:**

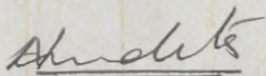
Senator Grooms said that he disagreed with Senator Berry on the issue of bypassing committee on the

nominations, but he still discouraged the senators from indulging in this action too often. Senator Nguyen stated that the reason he had been late or absent this month was due to a required class. Speaker Burge informed the senate that the new bills would be sent to their respective committees. Senator Berry stated that he voted against the nominations not because he disputed the ability of the two candidates, but because normal procedure was not followed. Senator Grooms said that he was disappointed that Eric Owens would not be given the opportunity to do the job of Student Court Justice. Senator Rosenberger said that it was irresponsible of the Senate to think about establishing a radio station when they didn't have enough funds for the library. Senator Berggren asked that the senators do some research before making any rash statements.

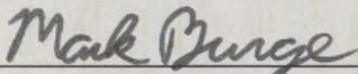
16. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 9:15 PM.

APPROVED AS AMENDED BY THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ON JUNE 4, 1990



Nandita Venkateswaran, Senate Secretary



Mark Burge, Speaker of the Senate