



STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION SENATE JOURNAL

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Sixth Meeting of the Fall Senate
November 6, 1989
Dallas/EI 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, Browne, Danke, Hasselbrink, Hicks, Karim, Miklos, Owens (At Large), Owens (HFA), Parker, Potter, Saeed, Spacek, Wuthrich, Zarka, and Urban

The following Senators were late: None

The following Senators were excused: Kratzer

The following Senators were absent: Harper, Israel, Marino, Mason, Patel, Sharma, Ware, and Wilson

The following Executive Cabinet members were present: President Belicove, and Vice President Butt

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 began by updating the Senate on several student concerns.

President Belicove has been researching the problems halting renovations of the South Campus Recreational Project. He read an excerpt from a letter which was sent to Dr. Smith. The letter described the process of renovation. He added that several people living in the Residence Halls had visited him recently asking about the status of the project. President Belicove assured the Senate that he would update them on future developments regarding the South Campus Recreational Project.

President Belicove informed the Senate of several Committees he will be serving on this year. 1) As a member of the Academic Council, he has been chosen to serve on the Academic Council Sub-Committee on Core Curriculum. This Committee will examine the current status of the University of Houston Core Curriculum. He added that they will meet on Friday, November 10, 1989. In addition, he told the Senate that the curriculum status is a matter that will effect many students not only this year but for years to come. In addition, President Belicove encouraged all Senators to write or meet with him and inform him of concerns pertaining to Core Curriculum. 2) He informed the Senate that the University of Houston's food contract with ARA dining services is currently up for renewal. He will be serving on the committee along with Student Program Board Director, Alex Abraham, and President of the Residence

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Halls Association, Lee Grooms. They will examine the relevant issues of food service on the campus. Again, he encouraged all Senators to voice any suggestions pertaining to the ARA Food Committee. 3) President Belicove received a report from Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Roland Smith. The report described a campus wide problem solving/Ombudsman network. The network, once implemented, would help with problems. President Belicove submitted the Ombudsman Proposal to the Student Life Committee.

On a closing note, President Belicove hoped that the Senate would carefully examine the issues which were presented in his report. He added that any questions, or suggestions pertaining to any of the committees he is presently serving on will help the University of Houston Campus.

5. Report of the Vice President:

Reminded the Senators of the new Legislative Intern Program. He told the Senators to contact Bruce Ciloski, the Director of Personnel or Vice President Butt, if they were interested in the Interim Program. Vice President Butt noted that the Legislative Interim Program would enable the next Senate to be more aware of the Legislative process within the Students' Association. He also added that William Munson is looking for volunteers for the traffic court. If anyone is interested please contact Vice President Butt during his office hours.

6. Report of the Speaker:

Speaker Danke began by mentioning an upcoming Senate Bill pertaining to the creation of Ad-Hoc Parking Hearing Boards. He noted that there are about 2,000 backed-up traffic cases. If the Ad-Hoc Hearing Boards were organized, the traffic cases could be disposed of more efficiently. He announced that if anyone was interested on serving on the Hearing Boards, the next meeting was on Wednesday, November 8, 1989 at 3:00 p.m. in the Castellan Room. Speaker Danke urged the Senate to pass the Senate Bill.

The Police and Parking advisory Board met on Friday, November 3, 1989. Two recommendations were made at the Board meeting 1) After discussion from an earlier meeting, Dan Booth came up with a concept to establish a lot on the north east corner of the Elgin-Cullen Boulevards (near the Burger King). Mr. Booth confirmed that the lot would not interfere with the plans for the George Bush Library. The Police and Parking and Advisory Board endorsed the concept 2) The funding for the proposed lot would come from the Parking Reserves. The earliest the lot would be opened would be in late April. He reminded the Senate that the Police and Parking Advisory Board was making a difference on campus.

Speaker Danke also serves on the The Orientation Advisory Committee. If anyone has advice or suggestions pertaining to Orientation, please contact Speaker Danke. This would help the Dean of Students Office in organizing the event in the future.

Speaker Danke warned the Senators about the safety of the mail boxes located in the Students' Association office. Numerous documents had been reported missing from the boxes. He reminded all to check up with others to make sure the mail was received by the intended person.

Pertaining to the Election Code, Speaker Danke reported that Stanford University computed all election results on Macintosh Computers. Speaker Danke met and discussed the business with Dr. Roland Smith. Dr. Smith said that the Students' Association could possibly use the Student Affairs computers for the Election. He added that this idea would decrease election costs. In addition, President Belicove agreed to write a letter to Stanford University asking for advice on the issue.

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Speaker Danke spoke on the Ombudservice at the University of Houston. He explained that the Dean of Students is trying to make the program an expert system. This program would help out the students to feel like their much more a part of the University.

Agenda Item of the Week:
Study!

7. *Special Reports: None*

8. *One Minute Speeches by the Members.*

Senator Miklos - Told the Senate that he was pleasantly surprised to see President Belicove opposing the University Administration's decision pertaining to Shasta issue. He also noted that every member of the Administration is employed by the students. With this in mind the students on campus should have a major voice on the campus.

Senator Browne - Commended President Belicove and the Executive Branch for distributing fliers, informing students of Proposition 21, throughout Campus dining areas. He added that the fliers stirred up a lot of discussion and prompted students to vote. He thanked William Munson for his work in the Halloween Architecture Party.

Senator Potter - Informed the Senate on the upcoming Senate Resolution pertaining to the ticket prices of football games. She apologized for the typing mistakes and thanked Speaker Danke for his help in typing the Resolution.

9. *Report of Standing Committees:*

1. **Academic Affairs** - Yahya Saeed, Chair - Met quorum and reported out favorably on Maury Blackman and on UB26009: A UNIVERSITY BILL PROVIDING FOR UP TO TEN HOURS OF PASS/FAIL FREE ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

2. **Internal Affairs** - SENATE BILL ESTABLISHING A BUDGET FOR THE 1990 STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS. in Committee. He added that the committee wanted to bring down the total expenditures. Chair Browne reported out favorably on SB26008: A SENATE BILL REGARDING FUNDS FOR THE ANNUAL DEANS-SENATORS RECEPTION (TO BE HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1989). Amanda Vavilala and Jason Wilson were sworn into the Hearing Board by Chair Browne.

President Belicove asked what other people were in committee. Senator Browne informed President Belicove that Eric Grimm and two assistants to the Election Commissioner positions were in committee and action was not taken because of phone problems on campus. In a point of information, President Belicove told the Committee that they should have sent a letter informing the appointments of the upcoming meeting.

3. **Student Life** - Rekha Sharma, Chair - Vice Chair Hicks reported out favorably on UB26002: A UNIVERSITY BILL CHANGING THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR PARKING LOT CLASSIFICATION CHANGES. The committee also announced that UB26011: A UNIVERSITY BILL CHANGING THE PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY COUGAR.

4. **University Administration and Finance** - Robert Miklos, Chair - Chair Miklos reported out favorably on UB26013: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A NEW PERMANENT GRADUATE ADVISOR IN THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

10. *Report of the Select Committee: None*

11. *Special Reports: None*

12. *Unfinished Business and General Orders:*

- a. **Presidential Nominations and Appointments**

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Senator Saeed moved to consider Maury Blackman to the Library Committee. Senator Karim seconded the motion. Senator Browne moved to amend the motion to approve all nominations as a block, as suggested by the committee reports. The motion on the floor was to approve Maury Blackman, Library Committee and Amanda Vavilala, Hearing Board. A vote was taken and they appointments were approved unanimously.

b. Legislation

Senator Miklos moved to consider UB26013: A UNIVERSITY BILL ESTABLISHING A NEW PERMANENT GRADUATE ADVISOR IN THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE. The motion was seconded by Senator Browne. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos explained that this Bill states that no money will be taken from Financial Aid Department. Instead, the Bill asked for new money for the position of Graduate Advisor in the financial aid office. After no objection, Speaker Danke struck the "Resolved" and replaced them with the word "Enacted." In General Debate, Senator Hicks said he was in favor of the introduced bill and he was glad to see that a Senator was willing to make corrections on the Bill. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously.

Senator Saeed - moved to consider UB26009: A UNIVERSITY BILL PROVIDING FOR UP TO TEN HOURS OF PASS/FAIL FREE ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSTIY OF HOUSTON. The motion was seconded by Senator Karim. After no general debate, a vote was taken and the Bill passed favorably.

Senator Hicks motioned to pass UB26002: A UNIVERSITY BILL CHANGING THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS FOR PARKING LOT CLASSIFICATION CHANGES. The motion was seconded by Senator Owens (At Large). In general debate, President Belicove asked to see a copy of the Bill. Senator Saeed requested that Committee Chairs photo copy legislation and pass it out to the Senate. Senator Karim asked the Senate how to debate a Bill when none of Senators have a copy of the legislation. President Belicove read the "Enacted" of UB26002 to the Senate. Speaker Danke asked the Vice Chair Hicks if the proposed legislation met with the standards of the Campus Planning Committee. In a response to Speaker Danke, Senator Hicks said he was not sure if the Bill met with the standards. He also addressed Senator Saeed by voicing that each Senator should have kept the copy of the Bill in their individual Senator folders. President Belicove said the legislation was a good Bill and it allows the students to be aware of why parking lot are changing. Senator Owens (At large) said that he resented the fact that the Student Life Committee as a whole was considered irresponsible. After no further debate, a vote was taken on UB26002 and it passed unanimously. As a point of information, Senator Urban asked the Senate if they were going to pass a bill which might not meet the regulations of the Campus Planning Committee. President Belicove noted that Senator Urban had a good point, but if Administration had a problem with the bill, then the Students' Association could make the appropriate changes. Senator Wuthrich also added that the lot across from Melcher, is presently displaying a sign informing that construction will be underway soon. This sign was sufficient because it allowed the people a chance to know about parking changes. Senator Parker told the Senate that the committee did not check with the Campus Planning Committee because it is up to the University to meet with the recommendations that the Student Life Committee put forth.

Senator Hicks moved to discharge from Committee UB26011: A UNIVERSITY BILL CHANGING THE PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE DAILY COUGAR. Senator Miklos seconded the motion to discharge UB26011. As speaker in Favor of discharging the Bill, Vice Chair Hicks explained that he did not receive a copy of the Bill from the Committee Chair. However, he felt that since there was so much unrest dealing with the Daily Cougar, he wanted to release the Bill for the Senate to discuss. A vote was taken to discharge UB26011 and it passed. As property of the Senate, Senator Miklos moved to pass UB26011 favorably. This was seconded by Senator Browne. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos spoke on the legislation. He explained that the student body is capable of choosing the Editor of the Daily Cougar. It would allow the students to get the best qualified Editor . Furthermore, he explained



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that if people trusted the student population more, there would be less apathy because more power would be in the hands of the majority (the students). As Speaker Against, Senator Owens (At Large) felt that subjecting the future Editor-in-Chief to an election would dissuade some students, because they do not want to campaign for their position and undergo scrutinization. In General Debate, Senator Urban agreed with Senator Owens comments. She added that the student may look outstanding on paper, but how would the student body know this if the applicant was busy issuing fliers instead of focusing on the main issue, the future of the *Daily Cougar*. In addition, she added that the position should not be a popularity contest. Qualified people may not want to run for Editor-in-Chief if they have to go through this process. Senator Hasselbrink felt that if the Editor-in-Chief would have to run in the Spring Election, another form of government would emerge. Since the *Daily Cougar* also reports on the elections, there could be a strong possibility of favoritism. He also pointed out that a Student Publications Committee exists and students are involved with the selection of the Editor-in-Chief. In turn, this is student representation. In a final note, Senator Hasselbrink felt that the *Daily Cougar* is a media outlet for students to voice their concerns and that the newspaper is a source of practice for Journalism students. Senator Hicks told the senate that the *Daily Cougar* is a paper for the University. He felt that as Editors of the *Daily Cougar*, the writers do not have to answer to anyone. As a result, the students have to put up with them, even if they are unpopular to the General Population on the University. President Belicove wanted to clear up a few misconceptions. 1) A candidate does not have to be popular to gain office. 2) Anyone can interview the nominees to find out how he or she feels about an issue. 3) With the student service fee support the *Daily Cougar* is not allowed to endorse political candidates for public office. Senator Owens (HFA) agreed with Senator Owens, Hasselbrink, and Urban on their comments. She informed the Senate that SSFPAC could only give Student Publications Committee only one fourth of their budget. The Committee raises the rest of their money from advertising. She felt that any changes pertaining to the Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Cougar* should occur in the Student Publications Committee. Vice President Butt voiced his concerns with the qualifications of the candidate and the election becoming a popularity contest. He stressed that the freedom of press is very important to any newspaper. Senator Spacek asked what qualifications, and who would interview them. President Belicove answered according to the Student Publications Committee, announcements have to go into the *Daily Cougar* a specified number of weeks prior to the interview process of the candidate. If someone is interested in becoming Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Cougar*, they would fill out an application in the Student Publication Office. The application informs the candidate of the requirements for the position. Some of these requirements are: The student is enrolled at the University of Houston, must have a certain grade point average, and in addition, the student must have taken a certain amount of courses within the School of Journalism. President Belicove further explained that the application as well as a portfolio of the students' work is submitted. After this process is finished, the Student Publications Committee decides on the appropriate candidate for the position as Editor-in-Chief. Senator Miklos motioned to amend the Bill by adding another enacted: "That applicant for Editor-in-Chief must be a student currently enrolled at the University, have worked one year at the *Daily Cougar* and possessed a 2.5 grade point average. The motion to amend was seconded by Senator Wuthrich. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos told the Senate that this amendment would solve the problem of having someone that is popular, but is unable to run the paper properly. He explained that with the requirement of having the candidate working a year at the DC would qualify them to run the paper because of experience. As speaker against the amendment, Senator Owens told the Senate that the amendment has not changed the Bill. Echoing Senator Hasselbrink, if the Editor-in-Chief was elected by the student body, freedom of the press would be violated and in essence would be a Governmental agency. This defeats the purpose of having a Student Publications Committee. Senator Barrus agreed that something needs to be done about the problem, but the cost of running for the office could become very costly. Instead of having the Editor-in-Chief run in a direct election, restructure the Student Publications Committee. On a final note he asked the Senate, "Why not have the Director of Student Programming Board and the Council of Ethnic Organizations run for

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election?. These organizations also receive money from student services." Senator Saeed made a motion to call the previous question. A vote was taken and the motion to amend the Bill failed. In General Debate on the original Bill, Senator Miklos referred to the Founding Fathers and enforced the fact that more decision should be given to the students at the University of Houston. Senator Spacek added to the debate that the proposed bill did not solve the problem, but rather gave the problem to someone else. Senator Saeed called the previous question and it passed. A direct vote was taken on UB26011 and the Bill failed.

Senator Browne motioned to consider SB26008: A SENATE BILL REGARDING FUNDS FOR THE ANNUAL DEANS-SENATORS RECEPTION (TO BE HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1989). Senator Owens (HFA) seconded the Bill. As Speaker in favor, Senator Browne read the bill to the Senate. He explained that the \$296.70 allotted for the event sounded high, but it had to be catered by ARA Campus Dining Services. He explained that the purpose of the Bill was to allot money for the function. After no objection, Speaker Danke change all "Resolved" to "Enacted." As Speaker Against, Senator Urban felt that spending that amount of money (\$296.70) on a function that the Senators do not know if they could attend seemed useless. In General Debate, Senator Miklos remarked that if one could attend or not is secondary. Most important is that the Senate must plan the function and hope that everyone would be able to attend. Vice President Butt felt the reception was an excellent idea. He explained that this would give the Senators a chance to communicate with the Deans. In addition, he commended Speaker Pro Tempore Marino on a fine job. Senator Hicks told the Senate that if his Dean was attending the Reception, he would definitely attend. Senator Spacek expressed that since two weeks notice was not given, her Dean might not be able to attend. In a point of information, Senator Browne told the Senate that the invitations had already been sent out. Senator Urban felt Speaker Pro Tempore Marino should not have sent the invitation without the approval of the Senate. Speaker Danke informed the Senate that the reception did not have to get the approval of the Senate. The purpose of the Bill was to inform the Senate of the funds invested in the Deans Reception. Senator Saeed moved to call the previous question. After three seconds a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Senator Miklos motioned to consider SB26009: A SENATE BILL CREATING AD-HOC HEARING BOARDS FOR TRAFFIC TICKETS. The motion was seconded by Senator Saeed. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos expressed that with the overload of hearings, creating a hearing board for traffic courts would be an excellent program to get people involved with the parking situation and at the same time get the ticket situation settled. After no further debate, a direct vote was taken and Senate Bill 26009 passed unanimously.

13. New Business and General Orders:

a. Presidential Nominations and Appointments

President Belicove put forth the nominations of Steve Rathod, Traffic Court, UAF, and Russel Buenteo, Undergraduate Admissions Review Committee, AA. In regards to SSFPAC nominations, President Belicove announced that he was sending out memos to the Organizations on campus in order to ensure quality people on the committee.

b. Other New Business and Appointments

Senator Miklos motioned to form a select committee to review the Constitution. The committee would investigate and revise the current Constitution so that it would be easier to understand. The Committee would consist of Chairs, Vice Chairs and others interested in revamping the Constitution. The motion was seconded by Senator Browne. In addition, all appointments would be made by Speaker Danke. As Speaker in favor, Senator Miklos told the Senate that the Constitution was long, lengthy, and difficult. He felt that the eighty-two page document should be shortened so that the Senators and others could utilize it to the Advantage of the Students' Association. In General Debate, Senator Barrus added that if eight Senators would join the Committee, the document could be divided into ten pages for each Senator. Senator Browne informed the Senate of the typing errors which plagued the document and suggested that maybe the Committee should rewrite the Constitution. Senator Urban asked when this job of

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investigating should be completed. Senator Browne informed Senator that the project should be completed by the next election in April. A direct vote was taken and the motion to form a Select Committee for the revision of the Students' Association Constitution passed unanimously.

14. Introduction and First Reading of New Legislation:

Senator Potter introduced SR26008: A SENATE RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON VERSUS UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS FOOTBALL TICKET PRICING. A recess was taken to read the Senate Resolution because of added friendly amendments by Senator Hicks. After adjourning, Senator Potter moved to Bypass and consider SR26008. The motion to bypass was seconded by Senator Saæed. As speaker in favor, Senator Potter told the Senate that she does not know anyone willing to pay \$25 to attend the football game. As Speaker Against, Senator Miklos told the senate that although he agreed with the reason for the Bill, he did not like the way it was written. He added that the Athletic Department should attempt to achieve profits form the students attending the games In General Debate, Senator Hicks disagreed with Senator Miklos saying that they would get more money in the long run if everyone was requireed to pay a set fee for entrance into the games Senator Hicks called the previous question. There were three seconds. Speaker Danke called for the vote. However Senator Miklos called for quorum. After calling the roll, the Senate Secretary announced that quorum was not met. The Senate meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

15. Comments and Announcements:

16. Adjournment:

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