

SGA Senate Meeting Minutes

6 February 2024

Invocation

The senate meeting became in session at 4:05pm on February 6, 2024 at Spindletop Museum.

Roll Call

Senators Calero Estrella, Arevalo, Eugenio, and Pugh were absent, as well as the supreme court.

Reports

Executive Branch

- ❖ President Smith and Vice President Lopez Maldonado are to draft three resolutions to be voted on in February's joint session of congress:
 - Vice President Lopez Maldonado will draft a resolution over the installment of menstrual product dispensers in the women's restrooms in the Setzer Student Center.
 - President Smith will draft a resolution for the installment of mobile device charging towers on the first and second floors of the Setzer Student Center. President Smith will also draft a bill that, if passed, will officially change the order of meetings in the SGA By-Laws.
- ❖ Spindletop is now a venue that can be utilized by student groups on campus. Students can reserve the area through LU Hub.

Senators

- ❖ Senators restated the projects that were brainstormed at the SGA Spring Kickoff meeting:
 - Senators Emily Smith, Youngeun, Calero Estrella, and Martinez will be working to implement SGA suggestion boxes in high traffic areas, aiming to increase transparency and allow students another form of communication to SGA.
 - Senators Jackson and Pugh will be working to implement a student organization workshop so that student organizations can network with each other and learn about LU hub, co-sponsorship, etc.

- Senators Arevalo and Vincent-Eze will work to get the SGA supreme court involved with the Parking Advisory Committee, which is in charge of approving or denying parking ticket appeals.

New Business

For the first part of new business, senators worked with their groups to develop their project's goal/mission, a timeline as to when they aim to complete or implement the project, and what their first step should be:

court on parking tickets

- ❖ Senators Emily Smith, Youngeun, Calero Estrella, and Martinez agreed that the goal of SGA suggestion boxes is to encourage students to raise their voice and simply have a channel to communicate their comments or complaints. They determined that this project can be accomplished by the end of March, and that these boxes can be implemented in student-centered areas such as the Setzer Student Center, the Sheila Umphrey Recreational Sports Center, Brooks-Shivers Dining Hall, and a Residence Hall. They also suggested that QR codes can be implemented in locations where boxes are not implemented. Finally, they concluded that their first step should be to contact the facilities in which boxes are to be implemented to get permission to do so, as well as getting flyers approved. After sharing these three things, the floor was open to comments from other SGA officers:
 - Senator Jacob Smith raised the question of implementing boxes in all residence halls rather than just one. Senator Emily Smith suggested that testing the waters with one residence hall was a good start. She also suggested that the box be placed in a high traffic area; for example, the Monroe Hall media room.
 - Vice President Lopez Maldonado questioned why there should be physical boxes instead of QR code flyers, to which senator Emily Smith stated that students rarely pay attention to flyers in the halls, and that physical boxes would yield the best feedback since they are also more lasting than paper QR codes. Senator Jackson stated that an A-Frame QR code could be the best of both worlds.
- ❖ Senators Vincent-Eze and President Smith discussed the idea of including the SGA supreme court in the process of accepting and denying parking ticket appeals. The goal of this project is to allow more student and SGA representatives in matters that are directly affecting students on campus, as well as adding to the responsibilities of the supreme court. Senator Vincent-Eze would like to start reaching out to Dr. Hector Flores, the ex-officio of the Parking Advisory Committee, and Mark Robinson, the Chief Financial Officer of Lamar University, as soon as Wednesday, February 7th. President Smith will also reach out to institutions that already implement their SGA supreme court in parking

matters to get more insight. That way, if possible, a resolution can be drafted and voted on by the March senate meeting. The floor was then open to comments from SGA officers, to which there were none.

- ❖ Senators Jacob Smith and Do brainstormed project ideas and agreed that they will work on fostering the attendance of athletic events, and to start, they would like to look into moving the football stadium student section and band section from the visitors side to the home side. Their goal for this project is to create a much larger sense of unity at football games, as well as having a “Sea of Red” displayed to the opposing team. As for a timeline, senators Jacob Smith and Do would like to see this done at the end of the Spring 2024 semester so that fall 2024 can be started strongly. Finally, they suggested that their first step is to reach out to athletics, specifically Alundis Pledge, who has been working to boost attendance in athletic events. The floor was then open to comments from other SGA officers, to which there were none.
- ❖ Senator Jackson concluded that the goal of having a student organization workshop is to unify and improve all student organizations with knowledge on co-sponsorship opportunities, LUHub, fundraising, and similar topics. Senator Jackson suggested implementing one as early as mid-March after spring break. The floor was then open to comments from SGA officers:
 - Vice President Lopez Maldonado talked to Kyle Fayan, director of Student Organizations, about this idea being boring for student organizations, and asked how we can make this idea more engaging. Senator Jackson suggested that keeping the event brief would help, as well as having a well organized schedule.
 - Senator Martinez questioned how often this would happen. After various comments, Senator Jackson concluded that once a semester would be optimal.
 - Vice President Lopez Maldonado asked Dr. McNeil if she thought this was a good idea, to which she responded that it is a great idea, but the event should take place in the beginning of the fall semester.

For the second part of new business, the senate investigated a resolution proposed by the Faculty Senate Academic Issues Committee stating that the change from 15 minutes to 10 minutes between classes has been harmful. The floor was open to thoughts on the matter:

- ❖ Senator Jacob Smith stated that adding 5 minutes won't hurt anything and that students have to walk extraneous distances between classes at times.
- ❖ Dr. McNeil stated that Dr. Riley, who is representing the committee has a personal agenda with addressing this issue and that adding 5 minutes is not necessary.
- ❖ Secretary/Treasurer Ogor Nwaobi stated that while five extra minutes sounds like a good idea, it can potentially affect class scheduling.
- ❖ Senator Youngeun stated that 15 minutes can be extenuous.

A motion to take a vote was put on the floor as to whether or not SGA should continue investigating the issue with the committee. With four present senators voting yes and three voting no, the decision was made to seek more information on the matter.

Senator Youngeun motioned that SGA send a monthly email to students with updates from SGA and any information that SGA would like to share with students. A vote was put on the floor, to which a unanimous yes was recorded.

Advisors Comments

Dr. McNeil informed SGA that Student Engagement is trying to get more attendance at LU basketball games:

- ❖ This Saturday, February 10th, during both games of the double header, LU is giving out 100 food vouchers as well as having a competition between student organizations to see who can bring the most people to the game. Students scan a QR code and identify with up to three organizations. The organization that has the most attendance will receive \$1000 dollars, and four more will receive \$500. This will be the same for the following weekend's basketball game.
- ❖ At the McNeese game, three buses are bringing McNeese students to LU, so student engagement is continuing to push for attendance there. The student organization with the most attendance cumulatively at all three of these games will receive \$2000. The student service fee is being used for this. LU Athletics will also be giving out door prizes, 400 T-shirts, and doing raffles. Shuttles will pick up students from residence halls and apartments around campus.

Announcements

Marketing will have a focus group to discuss their new branding campaign for fall 2024, and they would like one SGA representative on the focus group. SGA voted that Senator Emily Smith will serve in this group.

Vice President Lopez Maldonado stated that the main takeaway of the senate meeting is to take initiative on projects, especially with the first steps.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm