

Texas A&M University
64th Session of the Student Senate
Committee Reports
September 21, 2011

Academic Affairs

We had our first Academic Affairs meeting on Monday September 12, 2011 at 8pm in the SGA Office. The following members were present:

Brody Smith
Mark Womack
Jessica Castilleja
Rito Herrera (AA Advocate)
Daryl Melancon
Jackie Murad
Chris Espaza
Crystal usher (Exec of AA)

Our agenda was as follows

Summer Developments discussion and announcements:

- Jaime Grunlan and the Seven Solutions
- Our new chancellor- John Sharp
- S-RATE is dead
- The International and Cultural Diversity Credit is still on hold for action until the THECB unties our hands and this holds with SB 64-02 as well
- We now have a new Associate provost for Undergraduate Studies- Dr. Leisa Crupton Young.

The bills in committee discussed:

- SB 64-05 The Academic Calendar Bill- passed unanimously out of committee with no modification and should be added to next week's agenda
 - SB 64-10 The Student Success Bill remains in committee for further discussion and additions
 - SB 64-11 The Degree Plan Initiative Bill remains in committee for further additions
- I discussed two meetings that I had on September 8 with Pam Matthews which contents can be found by simply reading SB 64-11 and I also met with Beth Tebeaux in regards to cramped classes and she advised me to meet with Brian Perkins the new AAC in the Faculty Senate which I have done and reported to Crystal Usher. We will be having a meeting with Karen Watson on Monday Sept 26 at 2:30pm in Rudder Tower in regards to THECB and the implementation of new programs here at Texas A&M (like Loftin's afore mentioned law school from the summer).

We went over and discussed the goals for the fall in the following topics:

1. The textbook initiative with SS was discussed and reviewed via the handouts provided

- by VP K. Womack who will be getting us more info from Flatworld
2. The Degree Plan Initiative will be pursued through Dr. Young's office and an appointment is being sought at this time
 3. FYGE/Q-Drops- we discussed q-drop extension and the addition of the three underlying q-drops to be used freely by students along with the possibility of getting rid of FYGE.
 4. Fast Tracks will need to be researched and pushed in advising offices and NSC's
 5. Double majors will need to be researched. Last effort was done in 62nd Session and this will be starting point for promotion in university.
 6. Cramped Classrooms- we discussed different buildings we knew of that had unused lecture halls that we need to question the Registrar about (Kyle Field, Read, Interdisciplinary Sciences building)
 7. Differential Tuition - Mays, Arch, Vetmed, and Engineering all have it but students across the university still need to have a say and we will be getting data on this.

Academic Affairs Committee Meetings will take place on Wednesdays when Senate is not in session at 9pm in the Koldus Governance Room.

Appropriations

No report.

Community Relations

Committee Report from last week: Contacted by the BCSAA about adding a new student representative to their board. Will be working closely with Ryan Davenport in selecting a student for the committee.

Committee Report from this week: Had contact with Jess Fields about coming to speak at this week's meeting. Brought in Brazos County voter registrar Kristeen Coe in conjunction with VP of LR Bryce Bender to deputize voter registrars in Brazos County.

Committee will meet at Tuesday at 7:45 at Rudy's on Harvey since no legislation is on the table for this week.

Constituency Affairs

At the last C.A. meeting we discussed goals that we had for the committee. Caucus Leaders were informed about opinion booths and their responsibilities in that task. Several members wanted me to ask Rachele about getting money from appropriations. (I realize this will now have to be in the form of an appeal as we missed the dead line) We discussed subcommittees and the organization of the committee. We talked about why some students have a negative view of senate and some of the things that we could do to change that. One Idea was to write bi-weekly articles for the Batt (with approval of the Speaker). The Committee is still experiencing difficulty communicating on the Google groups and if anyone is a member of the committee and is not receiving emails from me they need to let me know. We are still in the process of working out a meeting time that works for everyone.

Legislative Affairs

We had our first meeting of the year last Sunday, September 10th in Koldus 146. Some of the things we discussed were goals for the future and structure, as there were no bills in committee to discuss. We are trying to recruit students from outside of senate to serve on my committee since our numbers are very small, and so far we've had one non-senator in attendance. The next meeting will be within the next week, and I will send out an e-mail with the time and location by Friday. If you're not part of my committee, e-mail me at katherine.nydegger@gmail.com and I will let you know where and when we will be having our meeting. Thanks and gig 'em.

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Katherine Nydegger
Legislative Affairs Chair
64th Texas A&M Student Senate
tel: (210) 422-3266

Rules and Regulations

The RR committee looked at three different bills this past week. Speaker Wilson gave us the City Council Representative bill, The Committee Transparency Bill, and the Senate Legislation Bill. We discussed the possible outcomes these changes will make to our body and changed the bills that reflected the outcomes we had hoped for. Although we only looked at two of pieces of legislation in this past meeting, there is still more research to improve the College Station student position. We spoke about the ways our committee will be moving outside of senate in order to be a resource to the student body. This goal that we adopted will assist in the RR committee coming out of the governance room. We hold our meeting in the off week of senate meeting on Wednesday at 8:00pm. My email is pboehm125@gmail.com, please contact me at any time with your questions, comments, and concerns.

Student Services

No report.