



## SGA Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2025

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### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by President Sahil Tonk.

### Guest Speaker

- **Matt Hernandez, M.Ed., MPH**, Senior Director in the Office of the President, presented on university initiatives for first-generation learner achievement.
  - The initiatives are a direct response to SGA Resolution 2406, which called for comprehensive support programs for first-generation healthcare students.
  - A workgroup has established official definitions for "First-Generation," "First-Generation Post-Baccalaureate," and "First-Health" students to unify data collection and resource allocation.
  - Mr. Hernandez announced a new scholarship for first-generation students, with applications due October 3rd.
  - He also announced "**FIRST at TTUHSC**," a month-long celebration in November to support the first-generation community, which will include a micro-credential program titled "First-hand Success Navigator."
  - In response to a question from **Faiad Alam** regarding the recent loss of federal funding for the "Siempre Adalante" mentorship program, Mr. Hernandez acknowledged the frustration but affirmed the university's unwavering commitment to student achievement and finding new ways to support mentorship initiatives.

### Officer Updates

- **President – Sahil Tonk**
  - Announced the upcoming system-wide Joint Congress on October 4th; attendance is not mandatory but is highly encouraged and offers a significant number of points.
  - Confirmed that all senators have now been assigned to their respective campus, committee, and legislation channels on Discord.
- **Vice President of Communications – Bennett Schackmuth**
  - Announced that the SGA Instagram and Facebook pages are actively posting again and encouraged senators to follow and share the content.
  - Stated he is finalizing committee assignments for the few remaining senators.

- **Vice President of Operations – James McGowan**
  - Reminded senators to submit absence requests at least 24 hours in advance, noting that grace will be extended for early meetings but the rule will be strictly enforced later.
  - Confirmed that senator points and attendance trackers are up-to-date in the Google Drive.
  - Thanked everyone who completed the Senator Orientation Evaluation.
- **Vice President of Finance – Alexander Hayek**
  - Announced that the Special Projects Fund (SPF) is now open for applications from student organizations with limited funding.
  - Plans to meet with the Finance and Scholarship committees to begin work on the org mentorship program, fundraising, and scholarship ideas.

## Committee Updates

- **Community Service – Chair: Kayla Martinez**
  - No new updates; will be meeting with the VP of Operations soon to plan for the year.
- **Operations – Chair: Amber Jones**
  - No new updates; reminded senators that the committee is available to assist with drafting and reviewing legislation.
- **Scholarship – Chair: Suha Garasia**
  - Met with the VP of Finance and is scheduling committee meetings via a Discord poll to begin fundraising work.
- **Finance – Chair: Ryan McWilliams**
  - No new updates; plans to meet with the VP of Finance soon.
- **Social – Chair: Annaliese Schultz**
  - The committee's next out-of-senate meeting will be on October 2nd at 5:30 PM.
- **Public Relations – Chair: Sarah Neal**
  - Shared a link for senators to fill out the "Member Monday" form to be featured on SGA's social media.

## Legislation Overview

- No legislation updates

## Open Forum – Legislative Proposals

- **Jordan Bishop** noted an error in the Member Monday form, and **Bennett Schackmuth** confirmed it would be fixed. Jordan also clarified that her previous proposal for resource sharing was intended to be combined with Adele Wilson's proposal on satellite campus inequities.

- **Ty Kaatz** proposed a special project to advocate for more keys to the anatomical models in the medical school's dry lab to improve access for independent study.
- **Sahil Tonk** announced two proposals submitted via email:
- A congratulatory resolution for Dr. Zach Sneed's induction into the National Academies of Practice.
- A call to action for a pinning ceremony for graduates of Healthcare Administration and other health professions programs.
- **Sahil Tonk** proposed a call to action to increase access to research opportunities for students across all TTUHSC schools.

## Post Open Forum

- **Sahil Tonk** assisted senators in locating the legislative proposal form within the Google Drive.

## Announcements

- **Keri Shiplet** announced the **Leadership for Learners** professional development series, beginning September 30th. Attending four sessions qualifies students for a digital badge.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Dhwanni Chaturvedi, seconded by Steven Daley, Meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.