

SGA Meeting Minutes (Joint Congress)

Date: 04/15/2021

Call to order by Klay Davis at 6:01 pm

- Sixth meeting of joint congress.
- American pledge of allegiance stated.
- Land acknowledgement read.

Opening remarks

1. Hunter Heck, Student Body President:

- Joint Congress is a collaborative meeting for all student senators across the TTU system.

Open Forum:

- **Dr. Carol Sumner, Chief diversity Officer**
 - Creation of a Forms Portal: Veteran students had issues having their forms uploaded to receive their benefits.
 - First time veterans can upload their documents and see that their forms are correctly uploaded and processed.
 - LGBTQIA - First Gen Summit - recognize first generation students on campus and further graduate education
 - Allship and Coconspirators - April 21, 2021
 - Book club partnership with libraries, institution of women and gender studies to learn more about Ella Baker and the Black Freedom movement.
 - Document regarding mental health
 - Underrepresentation minoritized students are disproportionately not seeking mental health. We are trying to create more opportunities for students to access mental health resources.
 - National Survey of Student Engagement (national survey across colleges and universities every 2 years) is being conducted - every "odd" year.
 - Faculty search committee training is being conducted
 - Introduced in Spring of 2019
 - Every faculty member that is serving on a committee will be a part of this
 - It is about creating an experience and culture that promotes the inclusion of diverse scholars.
 - Working on the Big 12 Athletic conference to address issues of student athletes.
 - Texas Tech is opening a black cultural center. It is not a space for black students only, but instead a place where black culture is promoted - where all students can learn about black scholars and researchers.
 - We as student senators have the opportunity to voice representation and advocate for our constituents.

- **Dr. Lori Rice-Spearman, President of TTUHSC**
 - Mourning the loss of Red Raiders who have passed due to COVID-19.
 - Introduce Dr. D'Agostino
- **Dr. Darrin D'Agostino, Student Provost**
 - Addresses the importance of mental healthcare, our role in patient interactions, and the COVID pandemic.
- **Kristen Kilpatrick, Student Body President for Angelo State University**
 - Just recently completed the 29th annual Rammy's award
 - Ram's against drunk driving initiatives, initiatives in the work for drunk driving and awareness week
 - Exploring peer-mentorship programs for undeclared students
 - Initiative to have winter clothing available for student body
 - Making plans for being back in person in the Fall
- **Hunter Heck, Student Body President at Texas Tech University**
 - Highlighted Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, mental health initiative, and COVID responses.
 - Offering free menstrual products in gender-inclusive restrooms on campus, beginning the Fall
 - Implemented restorative-justice curriculum (conflict resolution that focuses on reconciliation and healing rather than punishment)
 - Expand equity and inclusion identity trainings
 - Edited funding policies to better fund organizations that represent underrepresented minorities
 - Added the land recognition at the start of all senate meetings
 - Add mandates for mid semester grade requirements to mitigate students getting all of their grades at the end of the semester.
 - Maintained the mask mandate of the course of the spring semester
 - Expanded voter registration in the 2020 election
 - Big 12 on the hill event - advocate for higher education cost mitigation and mental health expansion
- **Jessica Tom, TTUHSC el Paso, SGA President**
 - Book club discussion and campus engagement with end of the year event
 - Commitment to support black voices on campus and continue keeping social distancing this year
- **Marcus Gonzales, Student Body President at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**
 - Passed 30 pieces of legislation
 - Focus on mental health and resources and offering a transition to Headspace App to replace the TAO method
 - Standardized patient population diversity expansion - address lack of POC in the training for all health sciences students, so expansion of standardized patients
 - Election day instated as a university holiday
 - Passed a piece to establish a founders day - increase incorporation of all of the other campuses communities

- Edit the distribution of senators to better reflect off campus distanced students and the various schools at the HSC
- **Brooke Walterschied, Student Reagent**
 - Words of encouragement to all senators for their activities over this past year.

Senate Resolutions:

Senate Resolution 6.01 (Texas Tech University System)

- Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate regarding the house committee on appropriations regarding support for increased TEXAS grant funding.
- Move to suspend the rules of the senate – Andrew Ibrahim
 - Second – Austin Phillips
- Move for third reading and final passage - Andrew Ibrahim
 - Second - Ebere Nwachukwu
- Discussion
 - Brooke Walterschied - Talked to Vice chancellor Brown and found that this is the place that students can make the most impact at the state level.
 - Jordan Bell - Echoes the similar sentiments of Brooke to demonstrate the need for this piece to pass
- Outcome – Motion passed with 98% support from student senate

Senate Resolution 6.02 (Texas Tech University System)

- Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate regarding the effects and concern of mental health and mental health resources offered by the Texas Tech University System during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Motion to suspend the rules of the senate – Austin Phillips
 - Second – Darbi Williams
- Move for third reading and final passage - Austin Phillips
 - Second - Kora Kolle
- Discussion - none.
- Outcome – Motion passed with 98% support from student senate

Senate Resolution 6.03 (Texas Tech University System)

- Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate supporting the 87th Texas State Legislature's approval for the partnership between the Texas Tech University System and Midwestern State University System.
- Motion to suspend the rules of the senate – Austin Phillips
 - Second – Kora Kolle
- Move for third reading and final passage - Austin Phillips
 - Second - Kimberly Laker
- Discussion - none.
- Outcome – Motion passed with 91% support from student senate

Senate Resolution 6.04 (Texas Tech University System)

- Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate expressing gratitude and appreciation to all COVID-19 frontline workers both in the United States and Texas Tech community
- Motion to suspend the rules of the senate – Mabry Payne
 - Second – Adeola Omoloja
- Move for third reading and final passage - Mabry Payne
 - Second - Abdallah Yazadi
- Discussion - none.
- Outcome – Motion passed with 98% support from student senate

Open Forum:

- None

Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Austin Phillips
- Second: Abdallah Yazadi
- Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 pm