



Student Government Senate  
Texas State University

LBJ Student Center | Teaching Theater – 7:00 PM  
Eighth Session  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Student Government Senate Agenda

### I. Call to Order

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. Roll Call

### IV. Orders of the Day

### V. Approval of Minutes

### VI. Guest Speakers

Student Body President Introduction of guest speaker

A) Dr. Denise M. Trauth, President Texas State University

(20 Minutes) 10 min address/10 min questions

Dr Trauth gave her annual addresses to the student government. Here she expressed her belief that Student Government is the first avenue for students to address their concerns to the administration. She further discuss the efforts made this summer in addressing diversity as well as safety and security. The Student Government leaders worked with the county to expand voting possibilities on campus. The events that occur on TXST campus occurs with the backdrop of the greater national context. Dr. Trauth believes the topics and issued being addressed at the national level set the tone for our campus. Regardless Dr. Trauth wants us to work to ensure that TXST is as productive of a campus as possible. An example of her efforts to do so include publishing a joint statement between the Student Government and Administration that discussed unity, inclusivity, and the denouncing of bigotry. The denouncement of white supremacy is an important act for both Dr. Trauth and the student body. Further, a “Stay Informed” website has been created to allow more efficient and transparent communication from the administration. This site will address updates and changes occurring on campus and throughout the Bobcat community such as: construction updates, new recreation deals, and new amenities. The change that Dr. Trauth is most excited for is the addition of 17 new degree programs, with many launching this year. Dr. Trauth wanted to express her gratitude to the Student Government for their efforts and work done for the student body. This was followed by 10 minutes of open questions.

- 1) Besides words, what actions are being taken at TXST to denounce white supremacy on campus?
  - a) We are launching a basis response protocol to allow students reporting "non-criminal" forms of bigotry and hatred, the immigration lawyer has become a



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full-time employee, and the university has taken steps to bring in a more diverse pool of faculty applicants.

- 2) What steps are being taken to look at UPD regarding the over policing of student of color?
    - a) President Benbow will be meeting monthly with the Chief of UPD to discuss and remedy the types of actions that occurred in May of this year. It will be an ongoing dialogue
  - 3) Would you consider the changes regarding Meal Plans (unlimited swipes vs. Guest Passes) an upgrade or downgrade, and why?
    - a) The goal in changing over to the current system was to offer more choices and make meal plans as affordable as possible. The changes were the outcome of meeting those goals. For a more robust conversation regarding the matter, Dr. Trauth recommends Student Government further discuss the matters with Chartwells.
  - 4) How would you rate the current campus climate and what would you do to improve it?
    - a) This is a hard question as there is a wide spectrum of students experience, both in regards to happiness and safety. Yet we are making steps to improve the climate for those feeling unhappy with it, such as the previously mentioned efforts from Question 1.
  - 5) How do you see the future of voting on campus and how does the university hope to improve voting opportunities? Will the university be looking into becoming a certified voting center?
    - a) The current effort is the transition of our previously Ad-Hoc taskforce into a full time committee whose primary focus is to register and mobilize voters.
- B) Cindy Williams, President Alumni Association and Ernie Dominguez, Immediate Past President Alumni Association
- 1) Mrs. Williams: The Alumni Association is looking to update students on the new changes made to the TXST Alumni Association, such as the new Alumni Association desk in the LBJ Welcoming Center. Further, the board of direc-



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tions have voted to welcome all graduates of TXST into our Alumni Association. Finally, in response to the requests made by students there will be a new, more casual ring ceremony.

- 2) Mr. Dominguez: Gave a presentation on the Board of the Alumni Association. It is looking to engage Alumni's in 4 ways through: volunteers, experiences, philanthropy, and communication. Alumni Associate has worked to function more effectively and efficiently for TXST graduates, such as discontinuing annual dues, welcoming all graduates, broadening alumni engagement, transitioning from utilizing regional chapters led by paid staff, and launching formal regional events. Throughout these upcoming months these reforms and changes will be initiated. This was followed by open questions:
  - a) How can Student Government best assist the Alumni Association?
    - i) Communication and input, as well as establishing a stronger relationship so that they can better meet the desires of the students.
  - b) Did the Alumni Association have an input on the Throwback Uniforms for football.
    - i) Dr. Trauth answered the question: It was a combined effort between the Athletics department and Alumni Association.

## VII. Public Forum

## VIII. Vice President's Report

- A. VP Thompson update on some initiatives and procedures. All questions and discussions are to be made at the podium to streamline efficiency.
- B. The free Menstrual Hygiene pilot program is being launched across 7 campus buildings by the end of the month.
- C. He also met with director of Bobcat Bounty to discuss the new ideas and initiatives given by senators.
- D. Finally, He is working to setup a proper disposable method for the waste removed during the River Clean-ups.

## IX. Cabinet Reports



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- A. House Leader Gurung: House meeting have been moved to Grad Commons in Alkek 3.10. All future meeting are to be held in this location and the schedule these meetings are on the Student Government website.
- B. Senator Gonzales: He is stepping down from Dir. Student Advancement to transition to the position of Community Outreach Pro-voce Director. This means that the position for Dir. Student Advancement is now vacant.
- C. Senator Florence: Update on Freshman leadership Council held elections last week and is already working hard on new pieces and things are moving along in a productive manner.
- D. Senator Wicker: The Task Force on Safety is looking for a diverse group of applicants to be able to begin business. This task force is open to all student and she encourages all that my be interested to apply. She has also begun communication with the Health Center and she is looking for feedback so that she can rely the voice of the senate and students to the Health Center.
- E. Senator Nieves: Star Brand applications are now open on the Student Government webpage. For details on the process he will be available after this Senate session.

### **X. President's Report**

- A. President Benbow stated that all members of the Senate need to look at sign up for the scheduled outreach meetings being held with the student body. This is an opportunity to talk with our constituents.
- B. There are also 3 events to sign up for senators to participate and be involved with students.
- C. Senate commission and committee meetings are being canceled this upcoming week so that all senators are free to meetup to discuss changes to the Student Code and Student Government Constitution.

### **XI. Old Business**

- A) S.R. Free Speech and Expression Protection Resolution
  - 1. This legislation will work to restore protections established under the 1st amendment and reduce the degree of censorship practiced at TXST. Its main goals are to: 1) make it easier to defend one selves against accusations that are victimless in nature, ones that cause no tangible harm and 2) addresses, clarifies, and streamlines the provisions

offered to students who place a Request of Space (guaranteeing their requests are given a space) to facilitate open dialogue.

2. This legislation will not conflict with policies established the newly passed SB18. This legislation will only apply to students, not outside groups. This will allow students to engage in discussion without engaging in censorship that gives students the ability to express themselves. The changes will provide a protection to students looking to spread information via flyers or handouts when their actions are strictly spreading speech and there is no tangible outcome from the speech. This legislation specifically addresses flyers with a 'call to action' by looking at the outcome of the call. Calls to action with no tangible outcome will not be addressed under this legislation but if there is a credible and tangible outcome from the speech then their actions may be found punishable. This legislation is intended to offer students a method of self-defense under the 1st amendment.
3. Amendment made by Senator Nieves to correct minor grammatical and syntax errors, the removal of the definition of political activism, finally the changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Be It Resolved to set a Content Neutral Criteria to define what qualifies as an “unusual circumstance”
  - a) Amendment Voted by Voice- Passed
  - b) Piece tabled so that it may be further discussed and referred to the Student Services committee and Ad-Hoc committee for review until the 23<sup>rd</sup>

**B) S.B. Textbook Lending and Affordability Act**

1. This piece establishes a Textbook lending program to alleviate the burden of cost associated with required textbooks. This program would work on a first come first serve basis.
2. Piece Passed
3. Amended to strike line 55- Voted by Voice- Passed

**C) S.R. The Living Wage Act**

1. 1. Aims to create a livable wage for the student workers of TXST.
2. 2. Amended to define Student Worker- Voted by Voice- Passed
3. 3. Piece Passed

**D) S.B. Budget Authorization Act of 2019**



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e) ~~XII. New Business~~

- A) ~~S.B. Student Labor Relations and Representation Act~~
- B) ~~S.B. No Free Labor Act~~
- C) ~~S.R. The Affordable Homework Resolution~~
- D) ~~S.B. Standing Rules Update Act~~
- E) ~~S.B. Nomination Review Clarification Act~~
- F) ~~S.S.R. Establishing the Student's Rights Committee~~
- G) ~~S.S.R. Confirming Mrs. Alison Castillo as a Justice of the Supreme Court~~
- H) ~~J.R. Confirming Mr. Joshua Clarke as a Justice of the Supreme Court~~
- I) ~~S.S.R. Confirming Matthew Gonzales as Director of Marketing and Outreach~~

~~XIII. XIII. Adjournment~~

~~A) As the evening progressed senators were unable to remain in chambers and Senate count fell below quorum. Meeting adjourned at 10:02.~~