

2/8/2006 Meeting Minutes

1) Swearing in of new Senators

2) SSFAB new chair: Josh Peschel

"I have many new ideas and I look forward to working with yall"

3) Rebecca White from Graduate Student Council

Director of Research Week 2006

Takes place in 6 1/2 weeks, March 27-31 2006. Both undergraduate and graduate students participate in research projects at Texas A&M. Showcases student research on campus and allows the community to see the depth of the research done at A&M.

Mission Statement: To recognize and celebrate student research at Texas A&M by providing an opportunity for students to present their research.

Schedule

Monday

Graduate Research Appreciate Day

Tuesday

Graduate competition day

Wednesday

Undergraduate Research Appreciation Day

Friday

Closing ceremonies

Key Note speaker: Jorge Cham

A total of 441 students participated last year in the poster and oral competitions. Total of 134 undergraduate students. Maximum award of \$15000 to be awarded.

Total number of judges were 147 for last year, not enough for in field, heavily recruiting faculty and staff judges. Graduate Presentations must have a PhD in that field. Abstracts due on February 26, 2006. Judge Registration opens February 10, 2006 and volunteer registration opens February 20, 2006. for more information visit <http://srw.tamu.edu> or email at srw@tamu.edu

4) Senator Campbell and Senator Sears

Fees Voting Method Bill

Would stricken the line in the by laws stating that fee increases will be voted on by a roll call, would help to clarify the bylaws

Passed

5) Senator Campbell and Senator Faulkner

Operations and Constituency Affairs Committees SOPs Bill

Defining the Operations and Constituency Affairs SOP

Tabled until next meeting

6) SCONA representatives

March 2-4, topic is over world economics

Join other delegates from around the country, listen to speakers, break into groups and make own policies and the winners will have theirs published in magazine. Learn a lot from peers. Headliner speaker is the General Sanchez, Doctor Ray professor at West Point, Al Reese, Former Student, talking about oil impacts, Chancellor of Texas A&M talking about global economy, Pete Laney, Former Speaker of the House.

7) Senator Murray

Support for Road Improvement Grant

All of student government will apply action to the improvement of South College Road, Amendment: Took out "that" after "Let it be Enacted".

Referred to the External Affairs Committee

8) Scott Smith moves to sing happy birthday to Ovie for his 20th birthday. Ovie is the Director of Administration. He maintains the order of the meeting and keeps roll

9) Speaker Will Hailey

African American Summit this weekend, talks about the state of the blacks in Texas A&M. Summit held all around campus, dinner Friday night, Commons will be selling "Soul Food". Inspiration Award: for high school teachers who made an impression on you in high school (in Texas), we will recognize them for their influence at an award ceremony. For every graduation, there will be an award (May, August and December) Teaching Award: keep in mind about excellent faculty, email Jim Carlson for nominations.

February 20: Open Forum hearing for tuition, no time nor place available right now. Talking about differential tuition.

International Week: February 27, cultural displays in the MSC, showcasing the different cultures of Texas A&M. 27 will also be the opening ceremony at 11:30 in the Flag Room. International Buffet at March 1, tickets available at the MSC Box Office, second floor of MSC at 7:30 p.m.

Senate Week: Wednesday through Tuesday next week, give out information about Senate, need Senators from 11-1 each day. Absence forgiveness.

Vacancies open, remind your friends

Mandatory development day: February 19

Senates role in organizations for budgeting of recognized organization: Will be naming committee for overseeing the budgets.

10) Speaker Pro-Tempore Amanda Lanning

Have vacancies in Liberal Arts, Education, Science and Veterinary Medicine

Remember to file for Senate if you want to be in the Senate next year

Can write comments online on why Senators voted the way they did for each Bill/Resolution

If you have introduced legislation in open session, email Amanda so she can add it.

Wants to put more stuff on the Senate web page, wants students to get a feel about what Senate is. Thanks and gig'em.

11) Chair Scott Smith

Bike Task Force has begun again. Will be auctioning abandoned bikes to raise money to help improve the task force. Evans Library is about to switch to self checkout. West Campus Library has made open study areas, expanding to include all microfilms. You can also get online and see different newspapers from around the world. Expanding laptop checkout. Want to donate extra food to food banks. Rumor of two more parking garages, for every million dollars used for building parking garages, the parking permits will rise \$25. Next meeting will be February 19.

Senator Longbottom (Physical Plant Committee Chair): Compiling report right now, contact him slongbottom@tamu.edu to report to administration

12) Chair Frank Barat

Next meeting, February 19, at convenient time. A group has been working on differential tuition, meeting with administrators to get a guidance on what needs to be done. If you try to register during the summer, there was a change in the add/drop system to make it easier for freshman to register, current students won't have luxury of add/drop during the summer. Developing course guide, like the pickaprof website, but free. If you have ideas, email Allison Mortman at AllisonMortman@tamu.edu

13) Chair Jeff Murray

Have been working on the Bryan housing bill, ordinance should be out next week. If you have voiced concerns about the 2818 Luther Intersection, will be on agenda tomorrow night at the City Council Meeting. Deciding whether it will be a permanent block or not. Will be putting a light up at Hollerman/2818 intersection.

14) Chair Corey Nichols

New committee member. Redoing manual. Next meeting this Sunday at 4 at the SGA couches. Should have updated bylaws by this coming Friday.

15) EDO Jennifer Faulkner

Corey Thurman(Director of Fundraising): First fundraiser, hosting 42 tournament. Host in the Sbisa flag room, tournament with \$5 entrance fee. Date will be March 30, from 5-7 p.m. Just checking for interest level. Need about 5-7 volunteers.

Kara Hinsley (Director of Social Activities): Dodge ball tournament, beginning of March. Relay for Life, 24 marathon, have teams that raise money for cancer research. March 31-April 1.

16) Whip Kristina Campbell

Next caucus leader/liaison meeting will be next Sunday at 8 p.m. Absences will be counted. Will have cookies.

17) Residence Hall Progressive Policy Bill

Need more beds for males on campus. Less women are applying. Want to give people more options.

Actual proposal:

All halls will have the option to vote on the 24 hour visitation
Mosher and Aston would be co-ed by floor
Neeley would be co-ed by floor
Hobby would be co-ed by room
Davis-Gary would be all singles building
58% of students want this
57% want more co-ed housing opportunities
Aston Poll: 91% in favor of 24-hour visitation, 61% in favor of co-ed housing
Progressive Policy Committee has a stack of surveys
All freshman registering now for housing are aware of what each dorm offers as housing
Students are wanting to live in more real world conditions
Will still have escort policy
Parents are in support of this change

Benefits:

Increased bed space for male residents
Increased on campus living retention rates
Realistic living in a "real world" environment
Increased level of mature skills
People will have more options
Increases involvement in residence halls
Promotes more realistic views of opposite sex
Mixing of different personalities and experiences
Moved for emergency legislation, Passed
Bill passed

18) Announcements

Choral Activities: March 3-4 Concert
Medical Excuse Policy passed faculty and Dr. Gates signed
Academy for Future Leaders, open session will be February 23, 5:30-8, discussing strategic issues, need to RSVP
Housing Issue in Bryan: Will step up efforts with students as soon as ordinance is known, need to make constituents aware
File for elections
Speech tomorrow for the Black History Month
Governor appointed student liaison to the regents
LEGALS are holding a mock trial to compete at a regional tournament
Council for Built Environment Forum is next Wednesday, February 15, from 3-4:30
Working on university excuses to include death of friend