

**The University of Texas Medical Branch
Student Government Association Senate
February 17th, 2009**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes (02/03/09)
- II. Students for UTMB – Brian Masel
- III. Student Parking – Michaela Marek
- IV. UT SAC – Christof Straub
- V. Day on the Hill – Bradley Carpenter (Christof Straub)
- VI. SGA Spring Elections – Christof Straub
- VII. New Items, Other Business
- VIII. Announcements from Senators
- IX. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services
- X. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009

ATTENDANCE

EXECUTIVES –Samir Patel, Eric Chiang, Christof Straub

SAHS – Amy Phan

GSBS – Nina Williams

SON – Leah Moreau, Meredith Medlock

SOM – Samantha Dallefeld, Daniel Ortiz, Sharon Hughes, Vershanna Morris, Michaela Marek, Adam Djurdjulov, Dustin Porter

EXCUSED ABSENCES –Phyllis Okolo, Twisha Chakravarty, Nisha Shah, Jennifer Todd, Nelum Patel, Jenny Jeffers, Jeff Borgeson, Luke Koong, Rick Liang, Meredith McGee, Megan German Adam Djurdjulov, Queenie Williams, Paul Kumfa

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES –

MINUTES

I. Approval of Minutes (2/309)

Dustin made a motion to approve the minutes, Sharon seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously

II. Students for UTMB – Brian Masel

Brian (SOM 2) spoke to SGA about getting UTMB students involved in voicing their support for, and concern about, UTMB to legislators in Austin as well as during the Board of Regents hearing on Friday, February 20. He is working with our state representative (Craig Eiland) to organize a trip of UTMB students to Austin at some point in March/April during which students would talk to legislators and lobby for UTMB. Brian is organizing

student speakers for the public Board of Regents. SGA agreed to support him in his efforts in several ways: SGA members from different schools have agreed to speak before the board, Dr. Loffredo has agreed to speak to the Deans of all four schools to inquire about their absence allowances for student that want to attend the meeting. All volunteer speakers are supposed to get together on Thursday, February 19 to streamline their efforts.

Follow up: Dr. Loffredo has received a written note from the Provost stating that all SGA members have permission by their respective deans to attend the public hearing on Friday. SGA members are supposed to inform their faculty ahead of time that they will be missing work/school.

III. Student Parking – Michaela Marek

Michaela presented a letter to SGA that was drafted by the parking workgroup following a conversation with Mr. Cristelli about the current parking situation on campus. The letter states the current status quo for student parking and requests several changes to the status quo to improve the student parking situation on campus. SGA members are supposed to read through the letter and provide Michaela or Christof with suggestions to improve the letter. The letter will be sent to President Callendar and the provost. Daniel suggested that we conduct a student survey to have a better idea how many people are affected negatively; the group as a whole agreed to not include such a survey with this letter but rather adjust and improve our yearly student survey with student parking related topics.

IV. UT Systems Student Advisory Council Report – Christof Straub

Christof briefed SGA about the final recommendations that were passed by the Student Advisory Council.

V. Day on the Hill - Bradley Carpenter (Christof Straub)

A request was presented to SGA by Bradley Carpenter, current president of the UT-Austin Graduate Student Association and incoming chair of the UT systems Student Advisory Council. The request was made to gauge interest in an annual UT System wide event during which students would get together with legislators and lobby for student related policies. SGA members stated that it is hard for student from UTMB to attend events in Austin, especially this year when many students will already miss several days of school due to the Board of Regent public hearing, the AMA/TMA day on the hill, and the potential trip to Austin for UTMB related issues.

VI. SGA Spring Elections – Christof Straub

The schedule proposed last week was moved a week so that election day does not coincide with the same day as Lobby Day (April 7th).

VII. New Items, Other Business

Christof raised concerns about the current financial awareness of SGA in regards to their budget. It became aware that all members of SGA are not well informed about the current budget, student fee spending, etc. Dustin made a motion that the budget committee proposals will be held before the entire SGA until the budget committee has standing members that have a firm grasp on the financial situation of SGA. The motion was approved. It was further decided that in the next SGA meeting the entire group will look at the current financial situation and come up with ways to ensure that future SGAs will have adequate awareness of the budget.

VIII. Announcements from Senators

IX. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services

X. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009