

**The University of Texas Medical Branch
Student Government Association Senate
April 7th, 2009**

AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes (3/03/09, 3/17/09)
- II. Travel Report – Amanda McGrath
- III. Student Wellness/Student Insurance – Terry Dick/Dr. Vince Loffredo
- IV. Election Certification Committee – Christof Straub
- V. United to Serve Update – Christof Straub/Vershanna Morris
- VI. SGA Meeting Attendance – Dr. Vince Loffredo
- VII. Ring Credit Hours – Amy Phan
- VIII. House Bills 1893 & Senate Bill 1164 – Christof Straub
- IX. New Items, Other Business
- X. Announcements from Senators
- XI. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services
- XII. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 21st, 2009

ATTENDANCE

EXECUTIVES – Samir Patel, Twisha Chakravarty, Christof Straub

SAHS – Hoa Amy Phan

GSBS – Luke Koong

SON – Leah Moreau

SOM – Megan German, Sharon Hughes, Vershanna Morris, Michaela Marek

EXCUSED ABSENCES – Rick Liang, Meredith Medlock, Nelum Patel, Adam Djurdjulov, Bettina Cooper, Dustin Porter, Phyllis Okolo, Samantha Dallefeld, Jeff Borgeson, Nina Williams

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES – Eric Chiang, Nisha Shah, Jennifer Todd, Meredith McGee, Daniel Ortiz, Queenie Williams, Paul Kumfa, Blair Winegar

MINUTES

- I. *Approval of Minutes (3/03/09, 3/17/09)*

Not enough members to meet quorum.

- II. *Travel Report – Amanda McGrath*

Amanda is a PA student who was the sole UTMB representative at the TAPA Conference. For the past five years UTMB has not participated but Amanda is working with the PA school to get UTMB more involved so we can better our reputation at these bi-annual conferences with other schools.

III. Student Wellness/Student Insurance – Terry Dick/Dr. Vince Loffredo

Student Wellness is possibly moving from the School of Allied Health (temporary space post-Ike) to the Trauma Center Building. The previous location in Rebecca Sealy is not an option and this new space will be right next to UTMB Employee Health. Though this proposed move does not have a set date, they have to get out of their current space by May 4th. Student Wellness wants student input about this move.

All students are required to show proof of and maintain health insurance. The Deans Council met with Dr. Loffredo to discuss new ways to enforce this. SGA needs to come up with a recommendation for them on what would best suit the students. The two options on the table (feel free to come up with more) are: 1. Students will not be able to register each semester without showing proof of insurance. This option is favored by the Deans. 2. Insurance will be mandated and included in tuition bills. If a different insurance is used then that student can come and obtain a refund with proof. Michaela and Leah said they would work on this so if you have ideas let them know!

IV. Election Certification Committee – Christof Straub

Needed people to verify election results on Wednesday... done.

V. United to Serve Update – Christof Straub/Vershanna Morris

United to Serve will be April 25th 9-11 am. It will be the same three events as last year: 1. Breakfast at Ronald McDonald House 2. Beach clean-up 3. Moody Gardens Earth Day. The Moody Gardens event will be bigger this year, so volunteer!

VI. SGA Meeting Attendance – Dr. Vince Loffredo

Noon hour activities have been addressed with the Deans so that should not be a problem anymore. SGA by-laws state what is considered an excused absence and what the consequences are if attendance is not maintained. The incoming representatives will be given an orientation so that they are also aware of these requirements.

VII. Ring Credit Hours – Amy Phan

The Balfour brochure states that 42 credit hours are required before a ring can be ordered. As a representative from a school where students are only really on this campus for two years, Amy suggested we look into reducing these requirements so students have more incentive to order rings.

VIII. House Bills 1893 & Senate Bill 1164 – Christof Straub

These two bills propose to lift the ban on concealed weapons on educational campuses. Christof has arranged a survey (see his email) to find out what students feel about this topic.

IX. New Items, Other Business

Dr. Loffredo wondered if senators who are also class officers like in SOM find it difficult to juggle their dual roles. If you have an opinion about this please talk to him about it.

X. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services

Upcoming Events:

SGA Run-off Elections – Monday, April 13th

Movie Night – Paul Blart Mall Cop – Thursday, April 16th

TGIT – Muslim Medical Assoc. Earth Day Celebration – Thursday, April 30th

XI. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 21st, 2009