

**The University of Texas Medical Branch  
Student Government Association Senate  
April 21, 2009**

**Executive Members:**

**President** – Michaela Marek  
**Vice President** – Brian Lobo  
**Treasurer** – Jenni Bartlotti  
**Secretary** – Adriane Haragan  
**Senate Chair** – Christof Straub

**Senators:**

**School of Allied Health Sciences**

- Hoa Amy Phan
- Nelum Patel
- Emily Boughal
- Lorin Qualls
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Alternate)

**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

- Nina Williams
- Luke Koong
- Christof Straub
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Alternate)

**School of Nursing**

- Meredith McGee
- Emily Davis
- Wallace Huynh
- Carrie Pyron
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Alternate)

**SOM 1 Senators – Class of 2012**

- Sean Moran
- Samantha Dallefeld
- Megan German (Alternate)

**SOM 2 Senators – Class of 2011**

- Sharon Hughes
- Michael Boyars
- Catherine Foster (Alternate)

**SOM 3 Senators – Class of 2010**

- Adam Djurdjulov
- Queenie Williams
- Bettina Cooper (Alternate)

**SOM 4 Senators – Class of 2009**

- Dustin Porter
- Paul Kumfa
- Blair Winegar (Alternate)

**Agenda**

1. Introductions and Brief Description of Meeting Process
2. Approval of Minutes (March 3, March 17, and April 7, 2009)
3. United to Serve Update – Christof Straub
4. Parking – Michaela Marek
5. House Bills 1893 & Senate Bill 1164 – Christof Straub
6. New Items, Other Business
7. Announcements from Senators
8. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services
9. Next meeting: May 5, 2009

**Attendance**

**Executives** – Christof Straub, Michaela Marek, Brian Lobo, Adriane Haragan, Jennifer Bartlotti

**SAHS** – Nelum Patel, Emily Boughal, Lorin Qualls

**GSBS** – Nina Williams, Luke Koong

**SON** – Wallace Huynh, Emily Davis

**SOM** – Sean Moran, Samantha Dallefeld, Megan German, Sharon Hughes, Michael Boyars, Catherine Foster, Dustin Porter

**Excused Absences** – Hoa Amy Phan, Bettina Cooper, Adam Djurdjulov, Carrie Pyron

**Unexcused Absences** – Paul Kumfa, Blair Winegar, Meredith McGee,

**Minutes**

**1. Introductions and Brief Description of Meeting Process – Christof Straub**

The attendance policy was discussed, and it was made clear that the Provost has cleared the noon hour for student meetings. If faculty must be contacted to ensure attendance, Dr. Loffredo will contact them about scheduling conflicts. Video conferencing was discussed for the students planning to do rotations in Austin. SGA orientation was discussed to go over the SGA Constitution with the new senators. Meeting procedures were briefly discussed and voting procedures were clarified for the new senators.

## **2. Approval of Minutes (March 3, March 17, April 7 2009)**

Leah motioned to approve the minutes, Sharon seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

## **3. United to Serve Update – Christof Straub**

United to Serve is this weekend (April 25-26). Announcements to promote the event are going to be in the Student News and Notes. Sign-up procedures for the weekend were also discussed. Christof stressed the importance of getting better publicity about United to Serve next year to ensure a better response. The following projects for the weekend were discussed:

- Vershanna Morris was not present at the meeting to present the information she had regarding the event at Moody Gardens. Mike Cromie told us that Vershanna talked to Moody Gardens, but was unable to attend the meeting today due to conflicts. Megan German talked about the opening of the rain forest at Moody Gardens, but needs to talk to Vershanna regarding the details.
- Michelle Nelson spoke about the Beach Cleanup from 9-11 near East Beach on 4/25.
- Sharon Hughes talked about providing breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House from 9-11 on Saturday morning. Last year, not many families were present to partake in the food, so Sharon suggested to make cinnamon rolls and buy breakfast foods that people could grab on the way out. (Sharon Hughes – cooked breakfast last year, were not many families at the house from 9-11.

## **4. Parking – Michaela Marek**

Michaela talked about the letter she and Christof wrote to Mr. Cristelli (who is in charge of parking at UTMB) several months ago regarding improvements in student parking, and their subsequent meeting with him. She also talked about the SAHS student complaint regarding garage parking. Mr. Cristelli will be at the next SGA meeting to discuss these issues further. There has also been a letter sent to Dr. Callender, but we have not received a response. Other issues regarding parking were brought up, such as the UTMB police running license plates on cars parked in the garage, and construction trailers parked in student parking. Mr. Cristelli will address these issues at the upcoming meeting.

## **5. House Bills 1893 & Senate Bill 1164 – Christof Straub**

The results of the online survey were discussed (162 students opposed to concealed handguns, 100 support concealed handguns). The strength of the survey was brought up by Sharon, since only 13% of our student body participated in the survey. Dustin brought up the fact that UTMB might be a special case regarding concealed handgun laws because of the presence of the TDC wing of the hospital (state of Texas will not allow firearms near prisoners).

It was discussed whether SGA should take a stance regarding the proposed Bills. Dustin moved that we should write a letter to the Vice Chancellor of the UT system based on the results of the survey. Discussions continued regarding whether the survey should be repeated. Leah wants to send out another survey and get more support on campus. Dustin later made a motion to amend the motion already on the board to make the letter include a representative SGA opinion. Sharon seconded the motion made by Dustin. In the vote regarding support of concealed handguns on our campus, 12 voting senators were against allowing handguns, and 1 was for allowing concealed handguns. In the vote regarding storage of handguns in residential buildings on campus, 12 were against allowing storage of handguns, and 1 was for allowing storage of handguns.

The discussion concluded with Mike Cromie talking about the lights lining the sidewalks outside the student center. Several do not work, but the appropriate people have been notified, and the issue should be resolved soon. The emergency blue-light booths are now functioning. He also clarified that the campus escort service only works on campus. The UTMB police cannot take you to your home off campus.

## **6. New Items, Other Business**

Leah talked about the new options for class rings available by Balfour. The new designs were presented. Students will have several new options in ring style. Leah has received over 100 emails in response to the ring design changes. We are hoping for a better response to ring sales this year (only 2 were sold last year). All proceeds from the rings sold go towards the SGA budget.

Mike Cromie and Dr. Loffredo are working on planning a “Transition Dinner” for the new senators. They are also hoping to invite the deans of all the UTMB Schools as well as Dr. Callender. We are hoping to get SGA a bigger voice on campus.

## **7. Announcements from Senators**

Samantha Dallefeld brought up the student housing problem (especially the fraternity houses that have not been repaired post-Ike). Plans made by UTMB regarding student housing not known. Michaela offered to email Mr. Cristelli about some of the questions brought up about housing, so he could address those at the next meeting, in addition to student parking. Dustin also mentioned that many interviewees ask about student housing at UTMB, and because we don’t have much to offer, we are losing good students to other schools that have better housing options.

## **8. Announcements from Student Life/Student Services**

### Upcoming Events:

Movie Night – Paul Blart Mall Cop – Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

TGIT - Muslim Medical Assoc. Earth Day Celebration (Joes) – Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

ULAMS – Cinco de Mayo TGIT (Tuesday) – May 5<sup>th</sup>

TMA – Pub Trivia TGIT (Thursday) – May 14<sup>th</sup>

Ericka Hailey received a letter from the Bazel Group – “The Blanks” (from the TV show *Scrubs*) have offered to perform for \$10,500 plus hospitality charges. Mike thinks this would be cool for the students, but might not be possible financially. The fact that Levin Hall doesn’t hold that many people was also discussed. No plans were made to pursue this event.

## **9. Next meeting: May 5, 2009**

***“On my honor, as a member of the UTMB community, I pledge to act with integrity, compassion and respect in all my academic and professional endeavors.”***

The SGA Senate meets regularly on the first and third Tuesday of every month (unless otherwise notified).