

Student Government Association Senate  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
Session Agenda

I. Call the meeting to order 5:04

II. Roll Call

Aflord- Absent

Billiot-Absent

Cannon-Here

Cao-Absent

Crenshaw-Absent

Fretz-Here

Jackson- Present by Proxy

Johnson- Here

Jones- Absent

Karkoutli-Present by Proxy

Lair, B- Here

Lair, C- Here

Leblanc- Here

Melancon-Absent

Mott- Here

Ngo-Absent

Owen- Absent

Pitalo-Here

Phillips-Here by Proxy

Rusnak-Absent

Smith Bradley- Here

Smith Brendon- Here

Snow-Absent

Stackhouse- Here

Stevenson- Absent

Stewart- Absent

Thamard- Absent

Vitali- Here

Williams- Absent

Yarbrough- Here

Cognevich- Here

17/31 present we meet quorum

III. Approval of the Agenda

Cognevich VPLA- I want to amend the agenda to add Bangledshi Night Bill and Joint Resolution to the agenda, even though it did not pass through committees in time.

Fretz GAL- Is that the one's we have not voted on yet? How can we have it on the agenda if we have not voted don them yet? Oh wait I apologize that one is fine I see it now.

Cognevich VPLA- That's the one's I thought you said your committee voted on?

Fretz GAL- Well we got two new bills in our emails so I wanted to make sure that it isn't the new ones.

Cannon Second

IV. Approval of the Minutes- approved

V. Communications and Announcements (3 min; non-SGA-related)

No communications or announcements.

VI. Committee Reports (3 min + 3 min Q&A)

a. Governance- no report

b. Rules- Leblanc COLA- we met quorum and voted even though the vote was turned in late

c. Finance- no report

d. Student Affairs- Cannon COS- met via text and met quorum and voted yes on the agenda.

Cognevich- Appoint Haley Fretz GAL as temporary pro tempore

Vitali second

VII. Other Reports (6 min + 3 min Q&A)

a. President- Bourgeois- Hello Everyone hope you are having a good week, I went to the Council of Student Body Meeting and the only announcement from that is we do a service project in the Spring, this year is a school supply drive through the Student Defense fund, the coordinator will come pick up the supplies the week of March 11th, the person who is coordinating is the President at South Eastern. Donate things highschoolers would use was the recommendation, so notebooks, looseleaf, pens and pencils. I am also encouraging you to go to ULS Day , Joy will talk more about that in her report.

b. Vice-President- Maddie Roach VP- Finally have a reserve number, budgets have been finalized \$416,675.59 this is for one time expenditures large capital projects. Like dorms to PAC sidewalk. Front of the library expensive large projects. Operating account \$13,540.68 this is for our normal bills.

c. Speaker of the Senate- Cognevich VPLA- committees need to meet a little bit faster, try to have bills on the agenda even though they are not perfect or without a sponsor so we can still see them and vote. So just assume there is a sponsor, just to keep things up to date. More bills have come through we have a few thanks for those pushing for bills and sponsoring. If you have a large capital project to alter the campus please come to me first before going to facility services or the president. We are putting facility services committees soon if you are interested let me know.

Leblanc COLA- are these bills coming through being sent without senators?

Cognevich VPLA- yes

Leblanc COLA- I thought we were advocating for senators to reach out for bills or for students to reach out for senators, instead of coming straight to you

Cognevich VPLA- That would be great if that would happen.

Leblanc COLA- I thought that's how it is supposed to be

Ballard Adv- Point of information, they normally come to [SGA@UNO.EDU](mailto:SGA@UNO.EDU), and then I send them out to Wesley. I can't make people talk to senators first, and if senators aren't doing the work for people to come to them about bills, I can not help that.

Cognevich VPLA- Also, people who have asked me about being interested in money, I do send them to senators. But most of the time I get people who go on the website and pre write the bills, and they get sent to me to find a sponsor.

Leblanc COLA- Well if they do all that there is also a link around there with all the senators right. And it is updated, is it our fault that they don't look for our names on the website?

Ballard Adv- I don't know why it matters if someone wants money from us and we have thirteen thousand dollars to spend do you really think we should say no find a senator first as the official response.

Leblanc COLA- Well my only issue is when we get the bills they aren't completed per say and so we vote on them incomplete.

Cognevich VPLA- Bills that are incomplete you are correct we cannot officially vote on them, if it is missing a sponsor name, no big deal, if it is worded poorly or formatted wrong, no big deal that's a friendly amendment. If there is no quote attached that is a big deal, we need that to go through finance. It does not have to be on the agenda, I'm just asking to still look through them so when it comes time to vote and make decisions we get through it faster. And when people do pick it up to sponsor we can then pretty it up. Let's put it this week, if it doesn't have a sponsor before the meeting time this week, then it does not have to hit the floor because it is incomplete. I'm just asking to work through it.

TIME. 3 minutes for questions.

d. Vice-President of Programming- Jayln Johnson VPP- I just want to update you on SAC events. Yesterday we had a spa day from 12-2, tomorrow is a galentine's event a message in a bottle you stop by and pick one up. Friday our shirt contest ends for subcauf, we are thinking about extending the deadline to submit a shirt design, if you win, you get a \$25 gift card and VIP access to subcauf , and then we are in the parade tuesday and we are excited. I read the minutes last time, if you have any questions about subcauf you can ask me, we are going to meet with alumni association to get all the details in order and about shirts.

Leblanc COLA- If i remember we were told there will be changes to subcauf, can you just reinforce and tell us what is changing?

Johnson VPP- Subcauf is not unlimited, we had a problem previously with people coming with trashbags and leaving with loads of crawfish, so this year we are giving 5 tickets for a tray of crawfish if you want crawfish over the 5 servings you have to purchase additional tickets. We are also partnering with alumni so they will cover the costs of a lot of stuff.

Leblanc COLA- Was that an issue in the past with them, I though since you guys buy a lot it was encouraging people to take it because we didn't want to waste any crawfish.

Johnson VPP- There's a difference between taking a trash bag and leaving then sitting down and enjoying it. You are taking a lot before other people get a chance to enjoy the crawfish. This year we will have vegan options. Provided by dining. Alumni is partnering a lot with vendors. SO from 3-5:45 it will be geared towards students so SAC will be running it. 5:15- 5:45 is a kickball game alumni vs students. We are looking for a band to take over from 6-8.

Fretz GAL- Where is this going to be at?

Johnson VPP- Quad

Fretz GAL- Quad?

Johnson Vpp- right in front the library but further back by swampball.

e. Advisor-Ballard we do have budgets. It is exciting the budget i know i told yall i was worried, we hit our budget no worries about having to add money. Next Tuesday is the UNO Parade, my favorite day of the year. If you want to see me make a fool of myself at 12:30 next Tuesday, we will have an official viewing spot with snacks. Once I get the official spot I will email you the spot. Hope to see you there. ULS Day is March 31st. ULS day is the day where all the ULS schools show out for legislatures. You may not be able to talk to a legislature. This is during the budget season so it is important to show legislatures why higher education is so important. I would like all of you to come 2nd. Most of you i thought might be interested i assigned you a legislature. These people will be paired up to email the legislature, its a hey i am a student at UNO and education is important, we should keep schools. Those are my major updates. There are 5 spots left for Barkus if you want to come volunteer. Fun Fact: Thanks to the committee for catching the 30 day rule. It is okay because of catering but normally not okay.

Smith Brendon COBA- Where is ULS DAY?

Ballard Adv- Baton Rouge Capitol Building, we provide transportation, and a UNO Polo.

Fretz GAL- What is the time?

Ballard Adv- 11-2. We leave here at 9:30 and get back at 3:30. The President sends out an email to excuse your absence on that day in any class you might miss.

Smith Brendon COBA- March 31st?

Ballard Adv- Yes

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a. Bangladeshi Night Bill- Bessie Lair COE- This is a bill to allocate \$227.50 from the [Senate Operating Account or Senate Reserve Account] to assist Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) in Bangladeshi Cultural Night 2020 which will be hosted on March 7, Saturday, 2020 from 6PM-10PM in the UC Sen Ted Hickey Ballroom (Room 203).the Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) are registered with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership; the Bangladeshi Cultural Night 2020 is necessary to the UNO community because it aims at promoting a multi-cultural environment among the UNO Community. The event helps people from other nations attending the program, to understand the diverse Bangladeshi culture supporting diversity;the Bangladeshi Cultural Night 2020 will acknowledge the contribution of SGA for sponsoring the event space in our flyers and social-media advertisements;Bangladeshi Night is the biggest annual event of BSA at the University of New Orleans. In this event, BSA@UNO will celebrate the unique and vibrant culture of Bangladesh by hosting a cultural show and Gala Dinner. Traditional food of Bangladesh will be served to provide the attendees with a taste of the delicious cuisine of our country. Diverse culture of Bangladesh will be represented through popular Music, Dance, Drama, Fashion Show, and many more cultural activities performed by the Bangladeshi students at UNO. There will be a Game Show where the audience can participate. The event is open to the public;

The original amount changed to \$2,764.50 due to need of a stage for performances

Lair, B- The amendment is to change the room to accommodate catering, it is in the alumni center and a stage because the alumni center does not have a stage for performances, and a banner for the stage. All that together will be \$2,764.50. The amendment is written as, " Bangladeshi Student Association originally reserved the space for Bangladeshi Cultural Night in the UC

Ballroom for \$227.50 and later had to change the venue to Homer L. Hitt Alumni Ballroom to be able to accommodate home made Bangladeshi food by catering company which is \$1,689.66 and the alumni center will cost \$300.00, and the Homer L. Hitt Ballroom does not have a stage for performances which is \$556.20, the banner is \$218.64. The total number is now \$2,764.50.

Questions:

Fretz GAL- So the room is how much?

Lair, B- It went from \$227.50 in the UC to \$300 in the Alumni Center.

Fretz GAL- The stage is how much for the rental?

Lair, B- \$556.20 that is for the stage and the stairs

Fretz GAL- The banner cost how much?

Lair, B- \$218.64

Fretz GAL- Okay I am not getting the extra money.

Cognevich VPLA- you forgot food

Lair, B- The food is \$1,689.66 from an outside company.

Fretz GAL- Thank you i did not hear the price on that one.

Leblanc COLA- What was the reason for the room changing?

Lair B- The UC would not accomodate outside catering and we would have to get Chartwells food, and it is not authentic so we decided to move the venue to accommodate authentic bangladeshi food.

Cognevich VPLA- POI to Joy- If I remember correctly, Last year before chartwells, if they decided not to make the food they could wave it?

Ballard Adv- It is fully their discretion if they want to wave it.

Leblanc POI- to Joy- I thought it was just a first right of refusal?

Ballard Adv- Yes, in several buildings but not the UC they own the building.

Fretz GAL- I am not concerned again, this is a lot of money for Joy to have to order and we are behind the date, we originally passed it with 227.50 not 2 thousand, so i am not sure this is plausible. Is this okay?

Ballard Adv- I looked at the food contract early so it is okay, banners are the only thing I don't know what all I can get. If I can't get it you will get the money back.

TIME Extend for 3 minutes

Second

Billiot COLA- The stage rental, does the performance require a stage?

BSA Rep- Yes we have some acting and singing, to make the program beautiful, we decided to get a stage?

Billiot COLA- The stage is how much?

BSA Rep- \$556.20 but it is the stage and the stairs and everything that comes with it.

Fretz GAL- Did the previous location have a stage that's why you need one now?

BSA Rep- yes that is why we need one because the stage makes the performance beautiful and everyone can see.

Fretz GAL- How many people are you expecting ?

BSA Rep- 118? Or 180? Couldn't make out the number.

Billiot COLA- did you check with the theater department for a stage?

Jalyn VPP- the theater department usually doesn't rent stages especially in spring because it is play season.

Discussion for bill:

Opposition:

Move to vote

Vote on amendment:

We cannot vote. We do not meet quorum therefore we took a 10 minute recess to reconfigure quorum.

10 minute recess: second

Back from recess:

Roll call to see who is here to see if we meet quorum:

Aflord- Absent

Billiot-Here

Cannon-Here

Cao-Absent

Crenshaw-Absent

Fretz-Here

Jackson- Present by Proxy

Johnson- Here

Karkoutli-Present by Proxy

Lair, B- Here

Lair, C- Here

Leblanc- Here

Melancon-Absent

Mott- Here

Ngo-Absent

Owen- Absent

Pitalo- Here

Phillips-Here by Proxy

Rusnak-Absent

Smith Bradley- Absent

Smith Brendon-Absent

Snow-Absent

Stackhouse- Here

Stewart- Absent

Thamard- Absent

Vitali- Here  
Yarbrough- Here  
Cognevich- Here  
16/28 here we meet quorum again  
Vote on amendment:  
Billiot- yes  
Cannon- yes  
Fretz-yes  
Jackson- yes by proxy  
Johnson-yes  
Karkoutli- abstain by proxy  
Lair, B- yes  
Lair, C- yes  
Leblanc- yes  
Mott- yes  
Pitalo- yes  
Phillips- yes  
Stackhouse - yes  
Vitali- yes  
Yarbrough- yes  
Cognevich- yes

15 y 1 ab 0 no

Vote on bill as amended:  
Leblanc COLA  
Billiot second  
Billiot- yes  
Cannon- yes  
Fretz-yes  
Jackson- yes by proxy  
Johnson-yes  
Karkoutli- abstain by proxy  
Lair, B- yes  
Lair, C- yes  
Leblanc- yes  
Mott- yes  
Pitalo- yes  
Phillips- yes  
Stackhouse - yes  
Vitali- yes  
Yarbrough- yes  
Cognevich- yes

15 yes 1 abs 0 no

b. Joint Resolution Re: Driftwood

Cognevich VPLA- is there a structured debate for resolutions?

Joy Ballard- Yes but you can suspend roberts rules to speak freely is you would like

Leblanc COLA- Wait why are we suspending Roberts Rules?

Cognevich VPLA- We are not joy was just making a comment she was just saying what senators are allowed to do.

Christine Bourgeois P- Same resolution i have read last meeting I emailed it , it is suggesting a hiatus for driftwood , you had the week to go out and form an opinion for the suggestion.

Mott COE- How are students supposed to publish information without it being Administration ran? Because there might be things the administration will not want to discuss or write about that students do and want to talk about.

Christine- This is just a hiatus suggestion, it can be amended for time and things if we want it shorter, this is not an end to the driftwood just a break so they can get their things in order as far as finances and budgeting.

Cognevich VPLA- is anyone aware of other forums that students have to publish other than the kiosks?

Roach- Will it still be online?

Christine- The resolution calls for a cease completely, but we can amend to have it just for paper driftwoods not online. Or just paper distributions

Billiot COLA- when will the hiatus begin?

CHristine- Start of the fiscal year

Fretz GAL- I spoke with joy earlier, can the newspaper come talk to us about these issues?

Christine- I wanted to motion to table this until our next meeting, or suggest a motion, i will rephrase, to table because since I can not table, I was able to talk to the chief of driftwood and their advisor, it was a productive conversation about going forward, I don't know how to say this in order to be correct. I wanted to have an open discussion so we can freely discuss.

Leblanc I motion to suspend robert's rules for this situation only.

Many seconds no one announced their title for record.

Billiot oppose- I feel like we do not need to have an open discussion we need to table it until we can meet with driftwood and have further information.

Hand vote for being in favor of robert's rules.

It was struck down

Cannon motion to table until further notice

Billiot Second

TABLED

X. Nominations and Appointments

XI. Open Forum (12 min; for the betterment of SGA)



Bourgeois- I want to apologize for this being messy. The stand for the resolution was because the administration wanted a response on the finances of Driftwood. I wanted to hear and meet with the driftwood, we had an hour meeting and there has been a lot of miscommunication with a lot of people with finances. We need to gain a solid foundation about the debt and the progress of the driftwood and where they think their next step should be.

Billiot COLA- Thank you for the update, it will give us more time to speak to constituents, and we will have a more informed response.

Leblanc COLA- I did speak to students. I got a lot of feedback, a lot of people were saying "What is driftwood?" which is shocking because we have the little blue kiosks all around that say driftwood on them with the newspapers inside of them. I got feedback about the front pages, they like those because of the drama. They like the puzzles in between classes. I am torn between the two because I read the driftwood. We are seeing newspapers dying all over the country.

Cannon COS- Thank you guys for heritage ball and black homecoming week. Everyone had fun and it was great.

Lair, C- How do you guys feel about setting up a mentor program with SGA. Like older senators being paired with newer senators and help them get acclimated and used to SGA and the meetings and writing bills.

Cognevich VPLA- that would be great, we don't have a lot of old senators though. Just reach out, if you want to actively work on that please do.

Mott COE- I want to talk about campus safety with the recent break ins. It seems to be a city wide problem, is UNO actually doing anything besides hiring more police officers? Because it is still happening and seems like the responses and security aren't being fast enough for the amount of break ins happening.

Cognevich VPLA- a couple of things on that. Dr. Nicklow said license plate readers on who comes and goes at all entrances. This doesn't prevent crime but is visible. Something that a lot of people have a hard time understanding is police aren't here to actually protect you, they will respond to the idea that they will patrol more and be visible to deter crimes from happening. I know there has been talk from students. Maybe there should be an initiative to police department or ask them to let people know faster if their vehicles are being broken into on campus. Many people's cars were totaled from rain damage because of the time discrepancy.

Christine- To clarify about Dr. Nicklow's response they are cracking down on security, they are putting new cameras up for security. I will meet and talk to Dr. Nicklow and Dr. Golz about security as well as text book issues. With that being said, I am upset with the reaction time of the break ins. Cars are registered at the university for a reason, and there shouldn't be an 8 hour delay of letting people know their cars have been broken into.

Fretz GAL- I also take classes at SUNO and they also have many broken into cars, SUNO is doing way more than UNO they are beefing up security at entrances to buildings and parking lots. It is not someone at UNO at least I think it is not it is someone in the city.

Motion to adjourn billiot

Second fretz

XII. Adjournment