

SGA Special Session Minutes

Wed, 6/17 5:00PM • 2:22:55

- VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, it is now 5:05 and I call this meeting to order. Joy, do you mind substituting as a clerk and doing roll call.
- Clerk: Roll Call
- VPLA LeBlanc: Yeah, so if your name didn't get called just yet, it's because you're not officially a senator just yet. Give me one second I'm going to fix all of that. So that way we have everything moving going forward.
- Clerk: With 13 present, out the 14 sworn in senators. So, we need quorum.
- VPLA LeBlanc: I'm going to change the agenda up a little bit. With this, we will have to do a motion and then a second. Right, Joy?
- Advisor Ballard: That is correct.
- VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, so I cannot make that motion. So, I'm going to ask if Mike Billiot, if you can make the motion to amend the agenda to move the nominations and appointments up to section four. And we're going to move the old business up to Section five, and everything else will just slide down accordingly.
- Senator Billiot: Okay, I will move at this time to amend the agenda. This is Michael Billiot Senator for the College of Business. I'm moving to amend the agenda to move the nominations and appointments up to section four to move the old business up to section five and everything else will just slide down accordingly.
- Senator Bourgeois: Second, Christine Bourgeois College of Business.
- VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, the motion has been moved and properly seconded. Are there any objections?

All right, with no objection, the motion carries. So, now we will have we're going to start with Ms. Trineishia Noble. In the nominations and appointment that she wants to introduce herself, and just let us know a little bit about her

Trineishia Noble: So, my name is Trineishia Noble. I will be starting again on this fall in human resources and marketing. I started, UNO, maybe a year ago. And I didn't really like in my first semester, so I kind of just took a break. And I'm back because I really want to get a bachelor's and I wanted to give you a second chance. Is there any questions you may have for me?

VPLA LeBlanc: Um, I guess we can just start off by saying, you know, why are you wanting to join senate and just give us a little bit about what school you come from and what were you involved in at that institution?

Trineishia Noble: Yes. So, I was actually at Delgado Community College as well graduated with my associates. And my very first year there, um, a friend of mine actually had me come and help out with an event at their organization with Student Government. And once I did that first event, I just stay as a volunteer and then I join their senate and I worked my way up. I went from senate secretary to Student Government President. And there I felt like for me, I felt like SGA was a good place for me to be because I learned leadership skills. I actually felt like I came more out of my shell because when I'm with my family and friends, I'm very quiet and reserved, but when I'm out, you know, in school or public I get kind of quiet. So, I think I came into my own as just being a good person just outgoing and a better leader with student government.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, does anyone have any questions for Trineishia at this time? If you do, you can unmute yourself. Make sure you state your name. And what college do you represent?

Senator Bellow: No questions from me. This is Alex Bellow. I represent Interdisciplinary Studies. Just Welcome. Welcome back to UNO, and welcome to the SGA.

Trineishia Noble: Oh, thank you. I'm glad to be here.

VPLA LeBlanc: We're glad to have you. Okay. Thank you, Trineishia. We're going to now ask Marvin Bryant. If he would like to share a few words.

Marvin Bryant: Good evening, everyone. If you don't know my name is Marvin Brian, Jr. and I have an interest in SGA because I believe SGA is the best organization on any institution's campus that can help increase change wherever it's needed. A little bit of history on myself. I served in the SGA at the previous institution of Baton Rouge Community College and my alma mater of Lee Magnet High Schools I was in the SGA there as well. Do you have any questions about credentials anything your curious about?

VPLA LeBlanc: So, I guess if you want to share with us a little bit about, you know how long you've been at UNO. What were, or anything you've been involved in here, as well?

Marvin Bryant: My first semester was in the Fall of 2018. And I've been a student ever since. I started the club Encore with the help of my friend Bryce. And we recently had our inaugural show Opus that we plan to have every year, hopefully going bigger and better each time.
And so far, that's probably the biggest thing thus far.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, does anyone have any questions for Marvin. Any question?

Senator Bourgeois: I do, Christine, College of Business. Um, hi, Marvin. I wanted to ask if you had any specific things that drove you to want to be a senator or anything, you're looking forward to doing. I meant to ask for Trineishia, but I was not unmuted and then we kept going. So, I'm sorry.

Trineishia Noble: Oh, actually, I didn't hear the question she asked. I'm sorry.

Senator Bourgeois: Yeah, just if you had a thing you were looking forward to doing. I'm presuming you become a senator. I'm like, any specific reason other than what you stated. Why you joined? if there's anything you're looking forward to being a part of ?

Trineishia Noble: Again, yeah, just becoming a better leader. And also, I mentioned to Desmond, that I wanted to start a mentorship program. I know that he said something about there'll be a mentorship program where you can come in and they'll be mentors to help you navigate SGA but I was wondering if there was also maybe a mentorship program that will help you when you first start UNO just something that kind of helps you or guide

you along the way, but it won't be so confusing or hard to get adjusted from just going to a regular Community College into a University.

VPLA LeBlanc: Marvin, your next step for the question.

Marvin Bryant: I would like to help anywhere I can, if needed. I think having as much substantial help in numbers is better. Then going at it alone. I learned that through my experience and previous student organizations and also with Encore, it's better to work with as many people as possible, you will hit bumps along the way. But if the overall mission is achieved, then I think that should bring about satisfaction.

VPLA LeBlanc: Great. Um, are there any more questions for the two candidates for Senate. Oh, I don't think they said this Trineishia Noble is wanting to be nominated in to serve as a senator for the College of Business Administration, and Martin Bryant for the College of Liberal Arts. Just so everybody knows what's going on. But are there any more questions or okay?
With being no more questions. I'm going to place Marvin and Trineishia in the waiting room. There will be a discussion that's going to take place. And once that discussion is over the vote and then you guys will be welcome back in, let you know the final result of your vote. So, give me one second.
Okay, great. With both of them being in a waiting room.
Brendan, do you have something to say?

Senator Mott: I am Brendan Mott, Sophomore at Large. I have a motion to slate.

VPLA LeBlanc: A motion has been put on the floor to slate. Is there a second?

Senator B. Lair: Second, Bessie Lair, College of Engineering.

VPLA LeBlanc: Are there any objections? Are there any objections to the motion to slate?
With no objection, the motion has been properly called and seconded. And we will go ahead and vote on them together.
So, a motion to slate just so everybody's aware is basically putting the two candidates up for a vote together. And we just did that and there were no objections, which means that the motion passes, and we will be voting on them as one vote.

Okay, so we will actually be doing a roll call vote. I don't know why everybody looks like they're pause right now. But Okay. Um, Joy. Would you mind doing the roll call vote for Trineishia and Marvin.

Clerk: Roll Call Vote
With 13 yes, 0 abstention, and 0 no this passes.

VPLA LeBlanc: All right, wonderful. Now, I realized I did make a mistake. I wanted I should have asked if folks wanted to talk a little bit about them first, but I didn't I apologize for that. Joy, would it be okay? If anybody speaks about them now even though the vote has already gone through.

Advisor Ballard: Sure, if anyone has any concerns they want to bring up, that's fine. We will all get used to the system eventually.

VPLA LeBlanc: We will. Anyone has any concerns, comments? Anything like that about the two candidates.
Okay. No concern, no comments. Okay. So, I'm going to let them back in. I will read the news, and everybody can say, whatever. Okay. Trineishia, Marvin, are you still there? Are you are you back?

Marvin Bryant: Yes, I'm here.

VPLA LeBlanc: Trineishia?

Trineishia Noble: Yes, I'm back.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, so the senate did vote, and we voted in favor for you guys to join Senate so congratulations.
All right. So now that we have the nominations and appointments taken care of, we will now move into swearing in senators.
So, with that being said, I will go ahead and call or like to call for a recess for about five minutes to swear in these folks. And then we will return at about 5:30pm.
Yeah. So, if anyone would like to just leave out for a second or you don't have to, we will just swearing these folks and then we will come back and probably be sooner than after and I would say about 5:28 we should be done with the swearing in.

*****Recess to Swear in Senators. Minutes Not Taken*****

VPLA LeBlanc: I'm going to take us out of recess. We're going to now go back to our regular meeting at 5:28 PM. And now Joy, if you want to update us on the roll call,

Clerk: So, we now have 21 senators and 17 are present.

VPLA LeBlanc: Great, we meet quorum. All right, so moving along to approval of the minutes. We currently do not have any minutes at this time. We're going to skip that one and go to communications and announcements for anyone. You each have three minutes to speak. And these communications and announcements are not SGA related. So, if there's anything else related to the university, the community, the country, the state, you can let us know. This now, before you speak, if I could ask everyone that would like to speak to just raise your hand in the section or use some sort of icon so that I can see. Okay, I see the President of SAC Jaylan Johnson.

VP Johnson: Oh, hey, you guys. So um, last Tuesday, I started a petition, because there's something that happened on campus with racial slurs. I don't know if you've seen it, but it went around, and we got about 520 signatures. And tomorrow we're meeting with the President to follow up at 10 AM. And I wanted to invite some of you guys if you wanted to come.

VPLA LeBlanc: Jaylan, if you can just say, put your email in the chat box so that everyone can see that and email you if they would like to attend. Wonderful.
Are there anymore? I see Alex raised his hand.

Senator Bellow: Yes. I wanted to follow up with Jaylan and ask Is this a virtual meeting? Or did you all decided to meet in person? So, if you can do it as a virtual meeting?

VP Johnson: It is virtual.

Senator Bellow: Thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc: My apologies. Does anyone else have any questions for Jaylan?
If you do, you can, you can speak up, because I can't see everybody. And that will be fine. Okay, Christine, so your hand up. Thank you, Jaylan for that. And again, Jaylan's email is there So if you can just email her about that she will be able to be happy to get with you on that. I'm sure what.
Christine. You have something to share then Mike.

Senator Bourgeois: Yes. And just to clarify, we're in communications and announcements.

VPLA LeBlanc: Yes, we are. So, this is non-SGA related in your three minutes.

Senator Bourgeois: Christine Bourgeois College of Business just wanted to really quickly let you all know if you didn't read your email, didn't see it yet that the library is open and there's only been about a handful of people here. But if any of you are around You know, it's open the first two floors open, and just spread the word. Let people know that, you know, because I don't if it's just because people are moved and it's a summer or what but just wanted to make sure that the words getting out there.

VPLA LeBlanc: Wonderful. Um, okay, Mike,

Senator Billiot: Um, a quick question actually, this is SGA related, but I need we all need the answer?
Um, I know that positions have changed in the groups, I need to know if I'm the person who is to be taking time right now or is someone else?

VPLA LeBlanc: Oh, for the purposes of this meeting, I was just taking the time because we did not have the, you know, everybody's not confirmed yet with all of that that will happen during the Fall. But if you'd like, you can just go ahead and take the time for me, that would be great.

Senator Billiot: Sure. I'll continue to serve in that role, and until someone else is sworn into it.

VPLA LeBlanc: Wonderful. Thank you appreciate it.
Okay. Are there any more communications and announcements that are not SGA related?

Okay, with hearing none, we will move right along on the agenda to committee reports. Because we do not have any committees at this time, Joy, is it okay that we move past that? ... Okay, great. So, we're going to move past that. Are they any and we're going to move to other reports? Does the President have a report?

President Romero: Not really, things have been going pretty smoothly for the summer. We've been having exec meetings. I was sworn into an advisory council for the ULS system which is just all the you ULS systems school presidents that are part of it. We've been meeting and it's been great so far this summer. I'm so glad to see everyone. Hopefully y'all read the resolution. I know people ask me questions so I know this isn't much and I know there can be so much more done, but virtually we are trying our hardest for action so yeah, that's it. Oh, and thanks for the senators who came and tabled today for the virtual student organization fair. It was really really appreciated. That was a Brendan, Bessie and Clotilde. So, thank you. That's all. Any questions?

VPLA LeBlanc: You have to use the rest of your time first.

President Romero: Oh, I yield the rest of my time for questions.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, does anyone have any questions for the President
Don't all speak at once now.

All right, with no questions. You are good to go. Next we're going to move on to Vice President. Does Vice President Jayson have any comments for us at this time. I don't think he is in.

Okay, great. Okay. So, we're gonna move along to who is next? Oh, me.

I just want to say thank you to everyone who I have talked with, I think I've talked with pretty much everyone, every senator who's on this call at this time, we had our one on ones and it was very informative. I got a lot of information from you all. And the Fall is gonna look really good if we're able to get on this campus and stay here. You know, let's just keep hope alive that we will. Things will get better before we get here. But I appreciate everything. I appreciate you guys taking the time to have those one on one conversations with me. And you guys are very open with me. I'm assuming everyone was very honest with me. Just really quick, I know, you know, I'm new to this. As of right now under my under my table here I'm shaking like a leaf. But, um, you know, I'm very excited about this, and I'm very excited to see what's in store for this SGA for this upcoming year. Let me let you guys know this now this Senate will be run unlike any other Senate that we've ever had, because one thing that's on my forefront is respect

and decorum. We will be respectful to one another. And the everyone's views will be heard. Whether you disagree with them or not. We will respect them. one another at all times.

Okay, that's my quick dad spiel. I'm moving along. Does anybody have any questions or comments for me at this time? I yield the rest of my time for questions. Sorry.

Okay, with no questions or comments for me, we will move along to the Vice President of Programming President of SAC.

VP Johnson: Hey, I have no updates.

VPLA LeBlanc: I do have a question for you though. Are we still doing a possibility of having a protest?

VP Johnson: Um, that wouldn't be technically with SAC. But it's a possibility on the table.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, um, Does anyone else have any questions for her
Okay, we're gonna move to our wonderful advisor Joy Ballard. Any question? I mean, any announcements or anything?

Advisor Ballard: Yeah, I don't really have to report very much. Thanks to all of y'all who came to our Ignite Leadership Retreat. I had a lot of fun getting to talk to y'all more and getting to know some of you better. I hope that we can continue that spirit as we keep moving forward. Also, thanks for how quickly y'all have acted and made things happen and gotten this written and meeting and I just I'm really thankful for the group that we have put together. Y'all have done an outstanding job and I am very proud to get to be your advisor and help represent y'all to the administration. That being said, I do hope that I get to see you soon. Be on the lookout for updates from me on how we will be moving into our new phase as we get to this back into campus. For now I am still working from home Monday through Thursday. So, if you need anything from me just shoot me an email, and I will get back to you. I yield my time for questions.

VPLA LeBlanc: Does anyone have any questions for the advisor at this time?
Hearing none, we will move right along to new business. Whoo hoo. Everybody's pumped to hear about what's going on in new business.
In new business, we have the Resolution to Condemn Actions of Racial Injustice and in Support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Will the principal author and sponsors unmute themselves please?

So, I'm going to share my screen with you all of the resolution, give me one second. So that everybody will see it at one time

Senator Bourgeois: I can also I mean; I don't know if anybody's allowed to share it if it's just sharing the resolution.

President Romero: Yeah. I have it up Desmond, if you want to if someone wants to make me a cohost.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, I just made you a cohost. Do you know what's going on here?
Okay, great. So, Senator Bellow how this goes. You are the sponsoring senator. So, you have six minutes to introduce the resolution. And then following those six minutes, there will be a 10-minute Q and A for anyone who has any questions for you at that time.

Senator Bellow: I'm Senator Bellow representing the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. I am the sponsoring senator of this resolution. I agreed to sponsor this resolution after having read it because I believe like Julianne that it is not much, but it is a start. And so, as we begin conversations around this resolution, I do want to communicate that. I believe this is a start and that we need to be intentional about, you know, seeking more from the administration as relates to support for the for the Black community on campus. Um, I met with Vice President LeBlanc whatever day this week, and I did raise a concern about the inclusion of the UNO PD, in this particular resolution. My concern was and so you all know, I just I just completed my first semester at you. And so, I don't have any long-standing history with UNO. Personally, I have not had any bad dealings with UNO PD, and I have not heard of any problems with UNO PD. So my concern with including them in this resolution for a for this de-escalation training was, it could, it could appear to be antagonistic against them when they've done nothing in my, to my knowledge to have warranted being included in this matter that has arisen out of hate speech from a possible incoming student. So that's one concern that that that I want to be addressed, and an acknowledgement that it's a beginning but certainly nowhere near the end of what I believe we need to do as the Student Government Association, in the representation of racial minorities on our campus. This is my first meeting. So maybe I say, I yield the rest of my time, because I know I don't think that was six minutes.

President Romero: Yeah, I'll go to address some of those things about the police. So one reason why we did decide to add UNO police officers was in open forums and stuff, like pretzels with the president and pizza with the president, stuff like that students did say that they felt

racially profiled by police before, and students have said that so well taken that into consideration. This resolution. Yes, it's in response kind of to the racial slurs that happened, but it's also in response to everything going on in this country. I think in order to make our Black and Brown students feel safe on campus, and to make sure that we've done everything we could, that's why I wanted or that's why I made sure to include that. I'm reading on that point I have in my hand, it's like a chart. You all can't really see it probably. But I will just read it. It says there's 8 different police I guess you would say de-escalation tactics.

It is called use of force project and in New Orleans the police which includes UNO Police So, within their training, they actually have use of force policies that way more broaden than most cities. So, we require de-escalation as a city. We have a use of force continuum. We don't allow chokehold and strongholds We don't shoot at moving vehicles and they have the duty of it to intervene, and....

Senator Billiot: Excuse me, Julianne, that has been six minutes for the introduction. There is also a 10-minute question and answer session unless someone wants to move to extend.

VPLA LeBlanc: Moving on now, we're not going to extend the intros section. We're going to move on to the Q and A. We're not going to start the time because this being president speaking, I want to make sure that Alex has enough time to answer any senators' questions? So, Julianne, you make proceed.

President Romero: Thank you all. I'm so basically UNO police, or police in New Orleans, doesn't require any warning before shooting whenever they're required to do de-escalation. And they're aren't required to exhaust all other means before shooting, which, honestly, are the two most important things on this use of force policy. You should warn someone before you shoot (one you shouldn't shoot people) but two, you should at least do that. So just to make sure that they, the police on campus are required to at least do that. And then also, since students have reported being racially profiled by the UNO police, I want to make sure that they do racial sensitivity training, which is also wanting to be a requirement for students, faculty and staff. That's all. Hope that answers your questions Alex, or your concerns.

Senator Bellow: Yes, as long as we have reasons for including them, I'm completely fine with that.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, so Alex, does that mean you are going to be taking away your amendment that we discussed? All right. Okay, so now, there's any senators have any questions for the sponsoring senator Alex Bellow about the resolution of one of my last.

Senator Bryant: I have one if I might ask. Has there been any filed reports?

VPLA LeBlanc: Sorry, point of order, Marvin, when you speak, you first see your name and the columns that you represent. Thank you.

Senator Bryant: Thank you, Marvin Bryant College of Liberal Arts. Has there been any filed reports on racial profiling against UNO police? So that way there's data and statistics to back up the request for de-escalation training.

Senator Bellow: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Bryant, for your question. I personally am not aware of filed reports. I will yield. And you all, please forgive me if I'm not doing this correctly. I will yield to President Romero. Because she brought up the instances of racial profiling. So, President Romero, do we know if there are filed reports of this?

President Romero: Oh, I don't know. All I know is like I said the t pizza with the president where we sat and talked to Dr. Nicklow about the police on campus, but I'm not sure. Joy I guess I'll yield my time that's yielded to Joy to see if there's like, I don't know if there's like a way we can like look at reports, like publicly.

Advisor Ballard: Yes. So, I'm currently trying, I am pulling up the were you and I was required to report crime. However, I'm not sure that they are required to report incidents that are filed. I am looking. Also, as a point of information. The question time is to the authors or sponsors of the bill and Julianne is an author, so she doesn't have to have time yielded to her.

VP Johnson: I have a suggestion. Can I talk?

VPLA LeBlanc: You are an author so you can actually.

VP Johnson: I also want to take into consideration like just because like racial incidents happen doesn't always mean that they report it. Like sometimes people just internalize stuff and that's it.

Advisor Ballard: I second what Jaylan says. For sure. Also looking at the website, I only see robberies and assaults. I can look into this more if you need me too.

Amaya Felix: Okay, um, Hi, everybody. My name is Amaya. I'm a I'm the PBSU president. I'm on that topic. I just wanted to say like, I understand UNO police hasn't been antagonists. But that is their profession. And the police in today's world is known for antagonizing us in the black community, so I will rather put this in effect before it becomes too late in, we say, Oh, we should have done that when it's too late. So, yeah.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay. Marvin, you may speak.

Senator Bryant: So Marvin College of Liberal Arts. Is it possible to, um, also request that that students can have the option to also report incidents such as that not just, you know, assaults and crimes and stuff like that, but giving them the option that there is a space for them to actually report if you've been racially profiled by the UNO police, or there's any other racist incidents with a professor, whoever there's there isn't a system in place for those students who experience that.

VPLA LeBlanc: That that would actually require the resolution to be amended. Marvin do you have an amendment and you would like to raise for this?

Senator Bryant: Will have to be typed up and in sent in?

VPLA LeBlanc: No, you can share it with me now, we will get the typing and everything in order. We just need to know where is it that you would like for this to go? And what would it say?

President Romero: As a suggestion. Julianne, President. I'm looking and probably underneath this whereas right here, "provide police de-escalation training" that would be a good place to add another, therefore. Or maybe under this one where it says racial sensitivity training. And we could also say, therefore students can report racial profiling.

Advisor Ballard: Point of Inquiry, if you scroll down, isn't there aware as that is about reporting?

Senator Bryant: I thought I did see that too.

President Romero: Yes. Hateful Language reporting.

Advisor Ballard: I would keep all the reporting together on that one form.

VPLA LeBlanc: Right. But let me also let everybody know, we're still in the Q and A. Amendments have not started yet. However, Marvin, if you want to add an amendment if you can just type it in the message box for us, and we will have that in queue. Okay. Does anybody have any more questions for me about any of the principal sponsors and author? Oh, yeah. Go ahead Christine.

Senator Bourgeois: Christine College of Business Senator. I wanted to ask if you guys knew it was possible. If there was an inquiry. I guess a defense if this resolution passes for the Oh, well, it's never happened with our cops. Like if that becomes a thing. Since there is no like data? I guess yet that you can't see reported. Could you pull data from Other universities that have, like, adopted anything are like, can you pull data from other places to back it up?

President Romero: I'm sure we can. before I submitted this resolution, I did inquire all the ULS systems about what they were doing and stuff like that, all their schools, and since two days ago, but that was after the final resolution was out and stuff and all that. I think three of the schools I want to say have started passing things regarding their police on campus and regarding just hate speech on campus. So, I don't think that would be a problem to find that and especially since records are public, I feel like if there is some kind of hate speech, we could definitely pull it somewhere else or any kind of racial slurs or reporting we could find it
I will research everything y'all asked me to.

Senator Kostjuhin: (Mic was not working so read from the chat) How would the punishment for using slurs work? Specifically, slurs used by people "in the same protected class." Sometime people are reclaiming those words, so how would that work?

President Romero: Okay, um, so first before we say that it's also important to know that this is a call for action to administration. Just because SGA says we want this doesn't mean it's definitely going to happen and that specific hateful language clause might be one of the things that are kind of questioned a little bit by administration because, as we all know, hate speech unfortunately is protected speech under the First Amendment and they're going to try to find ways to fight this because of the law basically. But as far as punishment, it's more of what the Code of Conduct will call a sanction. So if you as a student would plagiarize on a paper and your professor would go and report it, the review board give you a sanction, that sanction can be probation but a sanction can also be to take up like a 10 minute PowerPoint on plagiarism, and then write about it and send it back to us. So, like a reflection. So, one of the options we were discussing would be taking the Racial Sensitivity Course on maybe Moodle, maybe a PowerPoint. And then a sanction would be you need to watch this PowerPoint and write about and reflect on it. Versus rescinding someone's admission or expelling them. Because, unfortunately, we can't do that for things like hate speech. So just to find ways to, I wouldn't say punish, but more of think about what you did. Joy, do you have anything else to add. Did I answer that.

Advisor Ballard: Yes, I do think you answered that.

President Romero: I don't know if Amaya is still on the call. Me and her went back and forth with wording. So, I don't know if she wants to elaborate on what we meant by your own protective class. If she wants to.

Amaya Felix: My name is Amaya PBSU President. What I meant by that, some students using speech against their own race and I feel like students of that same race should be able to report that they feel bad about what that person is saying about their own race. It doesn't matter. Like I can say something to another black student that can hurt your feelings about their race. It doesn't matter if I'm the same race is just still saying something.

VP Johnson: I don't necessarily think base racism though.

Amaya Felix: No, I don't think it's racism. But um, I like I said, But I don't think it's racism.

Advisor Ballard: Just because someone reports something doesn't mean that they are guilty or that a sanction will be given. This will have to go through the code of conduct process, which

does send it to a review board. So, we're basically giving people the option to report if something offended them. And then it will go to a panel of students, faculty and staff that will listen to both sides of the argument and decide what happened?

President Romero: Right, if someone is blamed for plagiarizing a paper by a professor. And when the Board of Review meets and looks at it, it doesn't mean that they've actually plagiarized? Like we can sit and be like that wasn't plagiarism. It would be the same process.

VPLA LeBlanc: Um, we do have a non senator who would like to speak. Senator Bessie Lair has so graciously yielded her time to that non senator. And just so that everyone knows if any of the guests would like to say something or have a question. A senator will have to yield their time to you. When that happens, that Senator relinquishes their right to speak during this section of the meeting. So, you would not be able to speak going forward until we are done with this section. So, Senator Bessie Lair has decided to use her time to Alex..

Alex Pertuit: Thank you, Bessie. Can you hear me? All right. I'm Alex Pertuit. I represent myself. I guess, in my kind of idea, through my personal experience, I have looked at the Student Code of Conduct and you know, under harassment, it says like any unwelcome and objectively offensive both from the victim's perspective, as well as from the perspective of a reasonable person, verbal, physical and non-verbal conduct that is severe and pervasive and unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or education. And that includes race, color, and creed, etc.
Um, I guess like, my question is essentially, what happens if they just don't do anything? Like, what happens if Nicklow just reads this and allows a continuation of escalation of racial profiling on campus and racial tensions and the use of hate speech because, honestly, that can and has been happening....

VPLA LeBlanc: Point of Order. What was that your question?

Alex: Yes.

VPLA LeBlanc: I can answer that. For you. Yeah, just so you know, President is required to answer the SGA senate within 48 hours. 48 business hours in writing on our resolutions. So, we will get a response to this resolution from President Nicklow, detailing everything that we're asking or not detailing everything that we're asking. So in other words into your question, if he, I mean, I don't think he would ever say that, but if he's not going to do

anything that will look very bad on the administration or in, in other words on President to put that in writing. So, it is my hope that he actually will still do something about it.

Alex: Awesome. Thank you so much for yielding your time and answering your question.

VPLA LeBlanc: Mike, do you have a question, comment? As you know, this is the question period. Right?

Senator Billiot: Right. I think we need to extend the time on the previous question and answer period, however.

VPLA LeBlanc: it's fine. Just Just go ahead.

Senator Billiot: Okay. Um, while I believe in the spirit of this resolution, I'm myself 100% Native American. I do find that University of New Orleans and also New Orleans is promoted as an extremely diverse university in it and as is written about as such across the country. I have some a couple of issues with this resolution. First of all, I do not have an issue with the spirit of it. I understand what is being sought, and I believe, of course, I'm a strong advocate for the elimination of racial injustice. However, there are a couple of issues though, first of all, the first being that we are submitting something to the university asking for a response, but we have to make sure and we will respond negatively if they don't do as we ask. But I think we have to make sure that this is not a knee jerk empty gesture. We do not want to involve ourselves with knee jerk empty gestures on any issues, because then our voice doesn't have any importance. We have to choose our battles carefully. And our resolutions must be both meaningful and needed. I like that Christine Bourgeois was asking questions about the need for this. Was asking questions about are there incidents as reported previously? I think there was another senator, I'm sorry, I forget his name. That also asked about the number of incidents. And that goes to the question of is this resolution needed because, once again, if it is not needed, then it is an empty gesture. And we do not want to involve ourselves with empty gestures. The resolution must be best be needed and meaningful. So as far as meaningful, I think this resolution asks for sensitivity training, not a response to the racial slurs, those are covered in the code of conduct. And I think my impression is that the president of the university is going to respond with the fact that there is a code of conduct a procedure and protocol that already exists and is sufficient. That's what I think he's going to say. Um, and so that would mean our requests is really a request for some sensitivity training. My first question is the there is a statement there that says maximum

sensitivity training and police de-escalation training. What does that look like, wherever that training be gathered from? Who's going to say if it's sufficient or insufficient? What is what would that training look like?

And again, if we don't know the answers to these questions, then we're putting forth a resolution that is simply an empty gesture and I am not in favor of that. We do not know if this is needed, because when we asked about whether or not this there are reports that have been had and if we can get copies of report, nobody knows the answers to those questions. And if nobody has the answers to those questions, then we don't know if this resolution is needed and this resolution should be both needed and meaningful if it is not needed isn't an empty gesture and I am not in favor of empty gestures.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, Hold on one second Senator Bellow. Senator Billiot thank you for your comment. This is time for questions, if you could just restate the question so that everybody can know what that question was because I think it kind of got mixed up in your remarks.

Senator Billiot: Actually, thank you for asking because I didn't actually get to the question. My actual specific question is, I am Native American. And this. This resolution indicates that this has been put forth by the Student Government Association, the Progressive Black Student Union and the National Pan Hellenic Council. There are other organizations on campus that represent minorities and other races, and I was wondering since this, in fact is a resolution that is supposed to be highlighting inclusiveness, why such organizations were not included?

VPLA LeBlanc: Senator Bellow, did you have any response to that?

Senator Bellow: I have a response to the question. I thought the question was, is it meaningful and is it needed? And so, um, thank you, Senator Billiot for your for your remarks. I do believe that this resolution is a needed beginning, as I stated in the in the outset, or in the introduction of the resolution. I don't think it goes far enough. But I do believe that it is needed because even one incidence of hate speech racial slurs, being used. I believe is very dangerous at any time, but especially in a time like this, that we're that we have going on in the country. So, I believe that it is needed. I believe it is also meaningful in that we are calling the administration to the table to come and speak, you know, to come and address our concerns, as it relates to the other organizations that represents other minorities on campus that weren't consulted. I am going to have to yield that to the writers of this resolution, which my understanding is it came out of the executive committee in conjunction with PBSU and NPHC. So, vice president LeBlanc, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, LeBlanc, I would need you to tell me who would speak to

the question of why other organizations weren't? If they weren't invited to the table? Why weren't they?

President Romero: So, the title of the resolution, Compound Resolution to Condemn Actions of Racial Injustice and in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. At the moment, and when we wrote the resolution, that's what we're in response to is the Black Lives Matter movement. And whenever the executive got together and decided that we wanted to write this resolution in support of Black Lives Matter, we emailed the student organizations that involve predominantly black students, and that would include NPHC, that would include PBSU you so that was our logic on that was that this is for Black Lives Matter movement. Our campus is trying to respond to the Black Lives Matter movement and things going on because like I said, this isn't just a response to the racial slur that the students said this is also for everything going on in the country at the moment. So that's why we chose those two organization

VPLA LeBlanc: Um, I'm I hold on one second Mike. Amaya you can you may speak.

Amaya Felix: Thank you. Um, as an empty gesture, the first thing I want to say is, it's a Black Lives Matter Movement going on. This could never be an empty gesture because, we shouldn't even have to write this resolution of things with it, how it is today. And it's very meaningful and needed because we haven't heard a direct response to this. We might have got an Instagram posts or whatnot, but we need something in stone, and that's why it's needed and meaningful. Um, and the reason why other minority minorities wasn't included, like I said, it's the Black Lives Matter movement. We're not saying that they don't matter, but that goes for saying like Black Lives Matter, then all lives matter. Um, but it does say all racial slurs it does not just say racial slurs, including black people. So um, I think you need to reread it again before something was said like that, but I don't take it personally. It's not just for us to say, Oh, it's only for black students. It included a hateful language against people with that identified different genders identify different races, not just black students. And that's all I got to say.

VP Johnson: I agree.

VPLA LeBlanc: I'm gonna go ahead and let Mike make his responses.

Senator Billiot: Um, if you want a response from the university to the Black Lives Matter issue, then that simply needs to sound like a request to the university for a response to the Black Lives Matter issue.

Senator Bourgeois: Point of Inquiry. Are we still in the question part of this?

VPLA LeBlanc: We are still.

Senator Bourgeois: Christie Bourgeois College Business Senator. Point of Order that wasn't a question and just in response we need to finish this portion.

Senator Billiot: Agreed.

VPLA LeBlanc: Senator Bourgeois, you're making a point of order regarding What just happened with Amaya?

Senator Bourgeois: No. Well, just for whatever senators involved point of order for anything that is conversational or debating for all parties and we need to finish the question portion of this.

VPLA LeBlanc: I'm going to overrule that due to the reason Senator Billiot asked the question. And the President, Amya, and Alex were giving responses. Now senator Billiot is going to respond to them.

Senator Billiot: I want to make sure that everyone understands, because the responses from the sponsors of the bill seemed to be questioning the meaningfulness and whether or not the issue needs to be addressed. That is not what I am saying at all. As a matter of fact, when I started I said that I am In favor and I am in favor of the spirit of the resolution, it is the content of the resolution that I question and whether or not this resolution is really prepared properly since it does not include all of the organizations that represent.

Advisor Ballard: Point of Order. It is not a question and you are mistaken, Desmond. He does not get to rebut answers. There is a question on the floor, and we need to let the question on the floor be answered.

VPLA LeBlanc: Sorry about that. The question on the floor is from Matthew Broussard. Sorry about that Senator Billiot. Senator Matthew, you may ask a question.

Senator Broussard: Hi, Matthew Broussard, Senator for College Liberal Arts. This is a question in response to some of the concerns from Senator Billiot. What if we put a specific, verbiage in this resolution we could amended it to specifically require or to ask the administration to require a clause such as no firing upon unless fired upon or some of these other asks that have been stated in the public circle lately. I think that's a very concrete resolution. I don't know how easy it would be to get the school administration on board but that is a very concrete and specific asks and as far as de-escalation goes, I think that is further than most de-escalation training could go is to directly specify that you are not allowed to utilize deadly force unless it is being used upon you. And

VPLA LeBlanc: So, can you restate your question please, so that we have clarity?

Senator Broussard: Okay, sorry. Would it be helpful to amend this resolution to specify a very concrete ask such as to not allow UNO PD to fire unless fire upon as a specific example?

Senator Billiot: Yeah, I think the question is directed to me, I think, Mr. Matthew, thank you for the for the question, because I think that that's really thinking about what the meaningfulness of this resolution is. I think those specifics does go to the meaningfulness of what we're asking for. What is for the training? And when you're specific about the training, then it does. It does mean that you were you thought it out and it wasn't just the gesture. But there's also the issue of neededness. We don't have any answers with regard to whether what the reports are on our campus and whether or not this resolution is needed on our campus.

VPLA LeBlanc: Thank you for your comments in your response Senator Billiot. We will be moving on for the sake of everyone's time. Into the amendment portion of the resolution, and new Senator Bryant has an amendment and it states "in the whereas clause of administration add, hateful language reporting and racial profiling reporting to the university reporting form." Julianne, can you scroll down please. Towards the bottom of the second page. Okay.
Senator Bryant, if you can just unmute yourself and you have three minutes to discuss your amendment. Am I saying that right joy?

Advisor Ballard: Yep, that's right.

VPLA LeBlanc: You have three minutes to discuss your, your amendment to introduce it sorry.

Senator Bryant: Marvin College of Liberal Arts, I think if there is a system in place, and students are aware of said system that will enable them to report any incidents of racial profiling, it could make students more comfortable to know that there is something there. Because I wonder that the reason maybe the students didn't report past events of racial profiling is because maybe they didn't, they didn't know they could be able to report racial profiling from UNO police. But if the university is able to support this initiative that let them know that you have a voice and if you feel like this officer did racially profile you that there was a system in place for them. I yield the rest of my time. Any questions?

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay, before anyone speaks. Now we're going to go to doing three minutes for anyone who is for this amendment or any senator who is for this amendment and three minutes opposed and we're going to start with three minutes for the amendment. Any senator who is for?

Senator Mott: Brendan Mott, Junior at Large. I'm for this amendment because I think it makes the university reporting form have a lot more that that can be done with it. So that means like, because the original on when the original resolution only says hateful language, but not all racial profiling is hateful language. So, there's many other examples of racial profiling.

VPLA LeBlanc: Okay. Is there any other senator who is for this amendment that would like to speak?

Senator Bellow: Senator Alex Bellow, Interdisciplinary Studies. I am for the amendment because I believe it creates an environment on campus where the student body knows that there is an outlet for them to report any behavior from anybody that is harmful, hurtful, unwelcome, or unwarranted. So, I am for the addition

VPLA LeBlanc: Thank you. Are there anyone else who's for the amendment while we still have a little time left?

Okay, we're going to move on. Are there any senators that are opposed to the amendment? Please speak up.

Are there any senators that are opposed to the amendment?

Okay, hearing none, we will move to a roll call vote on the amendment.

Clerk: Roll Call
With 17 Yes, 0 abstention and 0 no this passes.

VPLA LeBlanc: Great. Next we will move into voting on the amended resolution as a whole. Can you call the roll please for this. We are doing a roll call vote.

Clerk: Roll Call
With 16 Yes, 1 Abstention, and 0 nos this does pass.

VPLA LeBlanc: Wonderful. Thank you. And next we will be moving into open forum. Before just so that everybody knows. SAC did vote in favor of the resolution. So now with our vote it is a compound resolution from the entire Student Government Association. Julianne if you want to go ahead and go first, and then Christine will follow.

President Romero: Okay. Um, I just wanted to say because I forgot in my report SGA is getting fabric masks for students on campus for when we return. Um, they're really cute. And they have the UNO logo and the SGA logo and well one mask is expensive, so it's going to be like a giveaway. So people are going to be able to come to the office and get a mask and stuff and we're going to give them away in the dorms. But they're washable masks. They have the nose guard for people with glasses, so your glasses don't fog up. But just as another layer of protection when they come back and fall, that's the plan regarding masks. So, with the hand sanitizer masks, hopefully social distancing we can beat Coronavirus.

Senator Bourgeois: So, my I have two questions. First one is so for Clerk of Senate, is that position still open or is it like somebody got it and they just don't start till the Fall.

Advisor Ballard: Both Clerk positions are open. I have some interest in the clerk of Senate position, I have zero interest in the clerk of court position. So, I don't want to lose any of you as senators. But if you know somebody that needs a job, send them my way. We cannot start hiring until the new fiscal year on July 1. So, if you choose to meet again, you're

going to be stuck with me as your clerk. But hopefully. Fingers crossed. Right after July one, we'll get somebody hired.

Senator Bourgeois: Um, so for some reason, my email went away and my computer's telling me all snap, but I wanted to just bring up rules and procedures. So, I Desmond, did provide us specifically with the rules and procedures and the code of laws in the email that had the agenda. And I've been an SGA .This is going on my fourth year. So, I know it took me a long time to get here. So, I do have grace, and I don't want anybody to feel like I'm on some high horse. Um, it's really easy to lose the structure of how we vote and present and debate and ask questions. When, especially when it's something like the resolution, we just pass and like things that hold more weight. So, I just really want to encourage again, I said it a billion times before, but I'll never stop. It's gets so much easier when you go and read and get familiar with these. And also, if you don't want to read it, I don't have time, pull it up next to you during the meeting, if you have a question, because it just helps the meetings go smoother. And also, it makes things less like we're trying to go personally at each other's throats. It's just for the efficiency of the meeting. So just wanted to say all that and also adjust that when I called my point of inquiry or order, or both, whatever I did, it was because I genuinely thought we were in a questions just to the authors and sponsors, not for anybody's response or anything. So, thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc: Yes. And you and you are correct. You are definitely correct. And that was that is my apologies to that. I messed up.
Next we will have Senator Dwayne Crenshaw.

Senator Crenshaw: More of a statement. It was like to give a little like spotlight on the resolution that we just passed. Crenshaw, Senator of biological sciences. I want to say there have been a there have been many instances where black students and other students of color have felt unsafe or unwelcome on campus. While I agree more needs to be done. One of the major factors that contribute to the culture of silence and intimidation is the feeling or belief that nothing will be done when it is reported. There have been many instances this week alone, where there have been members of the UNO community who have been very adamant or vocal to their blatant disregard or neutrality during times of in justices and insensitivity, UNO in the past have not taken a strong enough stance against racial and justices that have happened and this bill is an excellent opportunity to, create a change, or at least an opening for change and to spotlight the problem that comes

with unaccountability and disregard for injustices that have taken place on campus that's all.

VPLA LeBlanc: Thank you, Senator Crenshaw. Senator Bryant, your next.

Senator Bryant: My question is in the same vein as Senator Dwayne in regard to the consequences that an UNO police officer might face or might not face. I'm curious as to hypothetically let's say that an UNO police officer that has let's say an arbitrary number of five racial profiling reports against him or her. What will be the consequences? Is it a zero-tolerance policy or will it be three strikes you're out? How do we prevent you know, stagnation where the university is what we're working on? We're working on it. And they are still, you know, in that position three months or five months after the last report. So, what can SGA do with the administration to make sure that there are consequences in place? For the UNO police officers?

President Romero: Um, I can answer that if that's okay. Julianne, President. So that is why on the resolution, we decided to put almost like a board for review for these instances that happened on campus for and now that you included racial profiling in the amendment. We can also review those things and hopefully, when we get the response from the administration, and when all when the ball gets rolling on this and like we actually are able to do concrete things. That's not just paper, we can create this committee that can come together and figure out what we're going to do. Um, I honestly, I would say, as the board of review would review, instances of academic dishonesty, we would do the same thing as reviewing reports of racial profiling by the cops or by any professor where we would sit we would hear both sides and we would decide as a committee if racial profiling or hateful language was in fact, done, and then from there, we would decide what the sanction would be. So, I hope that answers your question. And the committee. From the resolution. I want to say it has administrative members, it has faculty staff, it has students it has representation across the board. And I'm hoping to also make that diverse. Um, so all that answers your question, Marvin.

VPLA LeBlanc: Wonderful. Okay, Senator Amber Johnson.

Senator Johnson: I'm Senator Johnson, College of Liberal Arts. My question was, since we would be acting from like a Board of Review, point of view, would a student if they weren't, if they didn't get a satisfactory answer from their Board of Review, would they be able to appeal?

VPLA LeBlanc: I think, I think there could be. There will be something in place for students who feel as though they didn't get a satisfactory review. And I'm sure when you know, because this is a democracy, they would have their time to speak and bring it up the chain of command if need be.

President Romero: I'm hoping to follow basically how the Code of Conduct handles academic dishonesty in the same way. Or harassment, I want to follow their process. So it's because their process I'm on the board of review, so I'm very familiar with the process of that or anything regarding just conduct in general, not just academic dishonesty, so and I have to say their process is very smooth and justifiable and they can also appeal and all of that. So, I think that's what I would want to do. I mean, obviously, it would be up to the whole board, how we proceed with it, but I think that would be needed for an appeal.

Senator Bellow: Thank you for your time. I'll be brief. As we as we're creating or thinking about how to, you know, deal with the racial profiling, and then other reports that that are reported to the administration. I think it's important that we be committed to what we call inspecting what we expect. And so, I think we should figure out what is the reporting mechanism and then be able to track that stuff. Just yesterday, the president of this outstanding country, signed a police reform bill yesterday that creates a national database of police officers that have excessive force, excessive use of force complaints. So, there can be some sort of system set up like that on our campus where these officers are placed in a database. And we can track what's going on with the complaints so that we're not, you know, demanding one thing on this hand, but then we just hope the administration does the right thing.

The second point that I want to make is the, you know, the University touting itself and being touted as a diverse university. And that is operating with a tremendous amount of inclusion. I believe words in marketing is just that. It's just words and marketing. You know, McDonald's called their big mac the best burger because that's what they believe. So, I believe that we have to hold the university accountable to being diverse and inclusive to all people and not just let that be a marketing program. And so, we have to demand accountability. Because right now, several Black and Brown people on campus do not feel that the university cares tremendously for them because of their woefully inept handling of this latest complaint or latest issue that has arisen. So, it's so you know, saying you're diverse and inclusive. I can tell you, I'm the best, whatever, but somebody else probably feel they're better than me at whatever I'm claiming to be the best. It's just marketing. So, I think accountability is important.

VPLA LeBlanc: Senator Billiot, how many more minutes? Do we have? In open forum?

Senator Billiot: Three.

VPLA LeBlanc: In these last few minutes. I don't see anybody else that has a comment. I'm just going to say that I really enjoyed. I really enjoyed everybody's input. This has been one of the smoothest meetings I've ever had. And I'm grateful that we all were very respectful, and we kept decorum. And I appreciate that from our visitors as well as our senators. Again, this is something that I am very passionate about, and that I will do my best to make sure that we uphold and to say Senator Bourgeois point. I will continue make sure that I have everything together. So, with that being said, I'm going to let Amaya Felix speak.

Amaya Felix: I want to apologize already, and I have to leave after this after if the meeting isn't already over. So, I'm going to drop my email. The comment that was made by Senator Billiot was very insensible, I believe to me and to the back community and I just want to let that be known. I did not appreciate it, nor did I respect it. But I understand that's your opinion. But you cannot be clearly unaware of what's gone on in today's world. And I respect all of the minorities and especially Native Americans from what has happened in America. And I wish that you just hold that upmost respect as I do. Because what going on today is not everyone is getting murdered due to the justice system or the police brutality that's going on. It is Black lives. And although I do think that all lives matter it is black lives as of now, and I feel that it was just insensible for you to say something or even to think that your opinion matters, about, what should be done for black students could feel responsible at UNO.

VPLA LeBlanc: Thank you, Felix. for that. President Romero has stated everyone can email her any concerns or questions or ideas for implementation. and accountability. I believe that is time. I do not hear any motions to extend or anything like that. Okay, moving right along. It is now 6:49pm on my clock.

Senator Lair: Motion to Adjourn

Multiple Voices: Second

VPLA LeBlanc: The motion has been moved and properly seconded. Are there any objections? Okay, so moved. It is now 6:49 PM and I adjourn this meeting.