

SGA Senate Meeting

Wed, 7/29

VPLA LeBlanc

I'm going to call this meeting to order at 5:04. Advisor Ballard, can you call the roll please?

Joy Ballard

Calls Roll. With 16 senators present we meet quorum.

VPLA LeBlanc

Wonderful. Okay, so moving right along with the agenda, approval of last month's minutes from the special session we had. Does anybody have any questions, comments, or updates regarding the minutes sent out on last month? Okay with hearing none, can I get somebody to approve the minutes and second?

Senator B. Lair

Sure. I approve the minutes.

Senator Mott

Second, Brendon Mott Junior at large.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great. So, it's been properly moved and seconded. Motion carries. Next on the agenda is communications on announcements from anyone that is non-SGA. Related. About anything?

Veronika Claghorn

No, I'm sorry. This is Veronika Claghorn. I'm not sure when I'm supposed to comment. I'm just inquiring about some of the fees, um, that I know that students are seeing pop up. I know we got this email. I'm kind of curious what these fees are like. Building use, extended campus fees, the graduate enhancement fees, and there's a general a section on the bill that says other mandatory fees \$180.88 cents. And I'm just kind of curious if anyone has any insight on what these fees are, especially since so many of us are online learning.

Joy Ballard

I have a point of order. So first, those are all listed on the registrar's website. And we can talk about that and open forum. But this isn't an announcement.

Veronika Claghorn

Sorry. I didn't know.

Joy Ballard

That's not your fault. You're good. Okay.

Senator Bellow

Yes. So just wanted to draw everyone's attention to what I posted in the in the chat group. The links are a link for important dates regarding voting. In the various elections, I'm coming up this year, important dates to register to vote to get you mail in ballots, early voting dates so I would encourage you to grab that link and post it and repost it and post it some more and challenge everybody to vote in all elections, but especially on November 3.

Great, great. And just so we're clear, Senator bellow is isn't there deadline for the mailing ballots to be requested? I think that's October 28.

Senator Bellow

That is correct. The, the date to request a mail in ballot is October 30. Other than if you're in the military or live overseas is October 30.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, thank you for that. And also, just to know, Louisiana is an excuse necessary state, so you do have to have an excuse to request a mail in ballot. Which they will explain when you go to request that. thanks Senator Bellow for that. Does anybody else have any announcements?

Senator Mott

Senator Mott, junior at large. I would just like to let everyone know I'm not sure if any of you guys are planning on living on campus in the fall, but I will assure you that all on campus housing options are thoroughly or trying to make sure that the on campus housing options are safe for the students who choose to live with us and we're going to be having a lot of protocols and procedures in place to make sure that that the residence halls and apartments are safe for our residents.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you for that, Senator Mott. Does anybody else have any communications that are not SGA related? If you do, you can just unmute yourself. All right. Moving along to committee reports. And we really don't have committee currently, but well I'll take the back. We do. We have to confirm them. However, unofficially. Um, I do want to ask if Governance Committee has a report. Senator Noble?

Senator Nobel

No report, not yet.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thanks. Senator Billiot.

Senator Billiot

No report from the Rules Committee.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thanks, Senator Fretz. She's sent an email to me regarding her report. She wants everybody to know that the Finance Committee met and approved the updated budget. Please note that the finance committee will be meeting via email thread this Fall. Please reply all in voting. After you have read the attached documents. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the finance committee and your role as a member, please reach out to Senator Hailey Fretz at email at hlfretz@uno.edu.

I will be emailing everyone, your committee assignments today, after today's meeting. Moving along Student Affairs that will be Senator Bryant. Again, he if he's on yet I'm not sure. Okay, he's not on yet. But he will be joining us soon. Hopefully. Madam President, do you have a report for us?

President Romero

All right. It's really short. Um, we got masks from the higher education Commissioner. And then we're waiting on our mask if you delivered that I bought my executive budget. And also, I have a few positions to appoint with senators. That Dr. Golz had asked me to appoint for, it is a fee Committee for the student fees. So, I'm going to be reaching out soon about those opportunities, and if there's more than I need that is interested, then I'll somehow come up with questions and pick the best.

Senator Bellow

Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. So, you said this is a committee to discuss fees. Is that right?

President Romero

Yeah, um, I don't have I'm trying to see I don't have Dr. Golz's, email pulled up. It was something along those lines, because I had asked her a question about the fees that a student had. And she was like, well, this is a great segue. Because you're going to need let's two to three SGA representatives to participate on the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

Senator Bellow

Thank you, and somebody, I don't know when's the appropriate how to, you know, this is my second meeting. But I also wanted to ask you President Romero about some sort of Diversity Committee you guys were going to make. If there is another time, but y'all can advise me on that.

President Romero

Okay. Whenever school starts up, and I get everything settled in, and I can really meet with people and all that fun stuff. That's whenever I'm going to get the ball.

Senator Bellow

Thank you.

Does anybody else have any questions for the president? Okay, hearing none, Madam President. Thank you. Vice President. Do you have a report?

VP Ray

No report.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. I'm VPLA so, we will be confirming the committee heads today. I'm so grateful that you guys will be hearing from your committee heads. And I very soon regarding what things are going to be happening this upcoming fall. We typically don't change committee heads in the spring, but if we need to, then we'll deal with that. When that time comes. Um, other than that, does anybody have any questions or comments for me? Oh, and just so before you say that, the Constitution Reform Committee, some senators had asked about that that would be headed by the incoming Governance Committee head who is the Pro Temp. Once we finish all the confirmations of everything, that information will come out soon as well. Okay, I yield the rest of my time for questions. Hearing none, we'll move right along. Vice President of Programming?

VP Johnson

No updates.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. Advisor Ballard do you have a report?

Joy Ballard

I do have a couple of things for y'all. First of all, please forgive my background I jumped in immediately from Privateer Camp. Privateer camp is our freshmen welcome event that we do every year and this year is beach themed. I promise I'm not normally sitting in my living room with floaties, stuffed crabs, and a watermelon hat on my head. So anyway, I know that y'all have questions. I'm just answering them. Um, that being said, thank y'all for getting together so quickly for another special session. We still don't have a clerk. So, I am taking minutes, but we have two clerk positions open. So, the clerk for the Senate and the clerk for the court for both those and I am hoping to interview people next week. I've posted those jobs on our Instagram. But if you know anybody that needs a student worker job, they are \$10 an hour. Your job is to come and take minutes in the senate meeting or take minutes for the court. None of you are eligible for those positions because you are senators unless you want to resign which I'd rather you not um, but if you have any friends, please tell them to Email, a resume and a cover letter to sga@uno.edu. And I would love to interview them. We only have one submitted application. So, the field is wide open. If you know somebody that needs a job, please send them my way. I will not clerk anymore.

As far as just an on-campus update of how we're planning to go back, I'm sure y'all have seen the emails. Things are going to look different. If y'all have any questions, I'm happy to answer if y'all want to just shoot me an email. I will try to tell you what I know. Starting next week. I do plan on being back in the office one day a week. I am thinking that day is going to be Wednesdays. If y'all do need

anything in person You can come visit me as long as you wear a mask and stay six feet away. But if y 'all need anything, just let me know. And the only other big news I have that hasn't been mentioned yet, we are hosting a Privateer Plunge Event for all students called Dear World. Dear world is an organization that brings people together to tell their story. And the concept is, you tell your story in five words, or less, usually something short, something simple, that is such an integral part of your life that you can tell with five words. Now what is cool about this is they walk you through the process of how to come up with those five words. You do not have to be creative at all. They will get you to that point. But then you get to share those words with a small group of students. And it really helps to build community. I got to run through this experiment with our SGA execs, and I think we really had a lot of fun. They enjoyed it so much that they were like, yeah, let's do it. So, that being said, be on the lookout, you're going to get some emails from me. We have to provide some volunteers to kind of help in that process. So, you're going to get emails from me to sign up for that. That's really all you need to know right now. I will be in touch. Be on the lookout for that. Do y 'all have any questions concerns? I yield the rest of my time.

VPLA LeBlanc

All right, hearing none. Thank you, Advisor Ballard. Okay, moving along. We have no old business. New Business is the 2020 2021 SGA updated budget. I am going to share my screen with you all so that you can see this budget that I have pulled up. Okay everybody so here is the updated budget total. You know normally we would have about \$500,000 from the 1987 referendum and we give 25% of that to SAC. So remaining portion would be normally 375 However, this year, thank you COVID. We have \$452,435 we gave SAC \$113,108.75, and we have remaining \$339,326.25 . As you can see the Administration asked that we adjusted it to match the income. And we also have to include exact tuition waivers. I want to give a special shout out first to the vice president, Jayson Ray. He did a fantastic job on this. And let me tell you, I'm looking at this like, in the amount of time he had to do it was phenomenal. So, thank you, Vice President Ray. And thank you to the Central Budget Committee for getting this through. And hopefully, after today, you know, we will have an operating budget for the year. As you guys can see this. I'm just going to scroll down a little bit so that you can kind of just glance over it. I know some may have it some may not. This is our operating budget. The Senate operating budget had to be adjusted as well as the student travel fund had to be adjusted and decreased to accommodate covid 19 travel expectations.

So, I will open up the floor for debate right, Joy?

Questions to the sponsor, which is Jayson.

VPLA LeBlanc

Yes. Sorry. Any questions? Okay, hearing no questions for the vice president. We will move to open the floor for debate. Does anybody want to speak regarding the budget?

Senator Mott

Can you scroll down again, Desmond?

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, let me know when to stop.

Senator Mott

There wasn't really any point I wanted you to stop. I just wanted you to scroll through it again.

Senator Roach

Senator Roach graduate at large. I'd like to rise in support of the passing of the amended budget. We met with the budget committee. It seemed like this was the most effective option to go through with all of the issues that does want to talk about. I think that Jayson did a remarkable job with reformatting the budget to fit with the COVID restraints and the restraints of also having less income projected through tuition. So, I rise in support and I yield the rest of my time to anyone else.

Senator Bellow

I have a question. Is this appropriate time now? Senator Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. So, I see that there's several organizations that have requested funds based upon the budget here. And then of course, several organizations that have not obviously made a request. So once this budget is passed, an organization can no longer request funds until next year around this time, is that correct?

VP Ray

No, we do budget requests before we make the SGA budget every year. And if organizations know that they're going to need a specific amount of money, they can request it from us. And then they can additionally request through bills from the operating account.

Senator Bellow

Thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc

Does anyone else rise in support? Now moving along to those that may rise in opposition. Anyone rising opposition to the 2020 2021? updated budget? Hearing none, are there any amendments? Okay, hearing none, we will move to a roll call vote.

Joy Ballard

Roll Call Vote. With 17 Yes. Zero No and zero abstentions this passes.

Wonderful. Moving along, we're going to move to nominations and appointments. The Fall 2020 committee head's confirmation. These folks are actually voted on according to the Constitution, by slate, the committee heads that are up for confirmation will be Senator Michael Billiot for rules. Senator Hailey Lynn Fretz for finance, Senator Trineishia Noble for governance, and Senator Ivan Bryant for Student Affairs. We would normally say can those four individuals come up. However, we're going to start with the order that I call them if they'd like to say a few words. And that would be Senator Mike Billiot for rules committee.

Senator Billiot

Senator Mike Billiot from the School of Business. I am honored that Mr. LeBlanc asked me to be the Rules Committee. I used to head the Governance Committee, and I'll be starting my first year of the MBA program at UNO. Having completed my Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program at UNO, a bachelor's degree from Tulane and a law degree from Loyola. Looking forward to the upcoming year. Thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you, Senator Billiot. Next is Senator Fretz. Unfortunately, couldn't be here. However, she did send me an introduction, and it reads. Hailey Lynn Fretz is a second-year master's student studying arts administration. With a hopeful spring 2021 graduation. Senator Fretz is a West Virginia alumni and from the first state, the state of Delaware. Senator Fretz started classes last fall at UNO after leaving her corporate job in Jacksonville, Florida. Senator Fretz was elected in the fall of 2019, and they're elected in the spring of 2020 to hold the senate seat as of October 2019. She was assigned to assist the former head of finance as he transitioned out before his December graduation. She was then nominated by former vice president of Legislative Affairs Wesley Cognevich to hold the actual seat for the spring semester. Senator Fretz was also selected to participate on the budget committee that helped release and approve the budget prior to the COVID-19 budget presented today. As head of finance, Senator Fretz pledges to help to help ensure the finance committee meets regularly follows the guidelines set for financial bills and is overall a strong support and a good example for the Student Government Association. Hailey asks if you have any questions or concerns or just want to say hi to reach out to her via email. So that is Senator Fretz, the next person would be Senator Noble, if you like to introduce yourself.

Senator Nobel

Hi, guys, my name is Trineishia Noble. I'm a junior here at you know, I finished Delgado 2018 with my business management degree. Um, I'm glad to be here. I'm honored to be head of the Governance Committee. If you have any questions for me, I'll put my email in the comment section. But I'm glad to meet you guys.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you. Next, we will have Senator Ivan Bryant for Student Affairs.

Senator Bryant

Good evening, everyone. I hope you all are doing well today. I am extremely grateful for Mr. LeBlanc nomination to have me over the Student Affairs Committee. I cannot wait to begin working on the most immediate initiatives. So that way the university and the student body can grow in 2020 because so far, the year hasn't been pleasant. I don't think for any of us. So, I am looking forward to getting to work with my fellow senators. So, begin in 2020 with something much brighter. Thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great. So, what I'm going to do, now that you guys have introduced yourself, I am I'm going to put you all in the waiting room. And we're going to talk about you.

Joy Ballard

Point of Order: Senators can ask questions first if they have them.

VPLA LeBlanc

Sorry, you guys. It's been a long day. Does anybody have any questions for the senators before I put them in the waiting room? Any questions? Hearing none I will put them in the waiting room. Um, so does anyone rise in support for this slate?

Senator B. Lair

Bessie Lair, College of Engineering, I rise in support of all them. I mean, two of them were involved already as committee heads and they've done a wonderful job doing what they did in their committees. And then, Ivan, I don't know anything about him, but I think he's come to SGA meetings before and seemed interested in next year.

VPLA LeBlanc

Yeah, I tried to mix it up a little bit. Does anyone else rise in support?

Senator Bellow

Senator Alex Bellow. I also rise in support of this slate. I agree with you, Vice President LeBlanc, that it is a diverse, diverse group of leaders. Um, you know, I, I believe that they will be able to serve SGA and the committee's very well it appears that they bring to the table a breadth of wisdom and knowledge that I believe can be especially beneficial.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you. Thank you. Anybody else? Okay, does anyone rise in opposition to this slate? Okay, hearing none. We will roll call vote.

Joy Ballard

Calls Roll With 13 Yes 0 Nos, and 0 abstentions they pass.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great. So, we're now going to let them all back in Okay senators, Noble, Mike, Fretz, and Bryant you guys have been officially confirmed as the 2020 committee heads. Congratulations to you guys. Thank you. Okay. Next, we're going to move to open forum during this time, anything for the betterment of SGA. This is 12 minutes. Keep in mind, as I said before, we will respect everyone. However, if there are any non-senators that would like to speak, a senator would have to yield their time. So, if you do want to say something, and you are not a senator on this call, just say, say something in the chat box, and we can find someone to get technology So you can speak. And I'm going to start by asking, are there any senators that would like to speak? At this time?

Joy Ballard

This is open forum. No one has to yield their time to them, anyone can speak.

VPLA LeBlanc

Oh, I'm sorry. Is Veronika still here with her question?

Senator B. Lair

I answered her privately.

VPLA LeBlanc

Oh, sorry about that. I don't think I paid attention to it. Anything else?

Senator Mott

I do have a question. I don't know if Joy can answer this question separately, but I heard that we're getting a new maintenance company on campus. Do we know who that's going to be yet?

Joy Ballard

I can verify that that contract has gone out to bid but, because the contract has not been signed.

VPLA LeBlanc

Anybody else? Okay, do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Senator Roach

Motion to adjourn, Maddie Roach graduate at large.

Senator C. Lair

Second, Clotilde Lair College of Engineering.

VPLA LeBlanc

It has been moved and properly seconded. It carries a 5:50pm I adjourn this meeting. Thank you, everyone.

First Name	Last Name	Attendance	Vote on Budget	Vote on Committee Heads
Alex	Bellow	Y	Y	Y
Michael	Billiot	Y	Y	
Christine	Bourgeois	Y-Proxy	Y-Proxy	Y-Proxy
Matthew	Broussard	Absent		
Ivan	Bryant	Late	Y	
Wesley	Cognevich	Y-Proxy	Y-Proxy	Y-Proxy
Dwayne	Crenshaw	Y	Y	Y
Marc Anthony	Davis	Y	Y	Y
Hailey	Fretz	Y-Proxy	Y-Proxy	
Marceline	Guillot	Absent		
Augustine	Johnson	Absent		
Sarah	Johnson	Absent		
Amber	Johnson	Y	Y	Y
Mark	Kostjuhin	Absent		
Alexander	Kotlarov	Absent		
Bessie	Lair	Y	Y	Y
Clotilde	Lair	Y	Y	Y
Desmond	LeBlanc	Y	Y	Y
Brendan	Mott	Y	Y	Y
Devin	Ngetich	Absent		
Trineishia	Noble	Y	Y	
Maddie	Roach	Y	Y	Y
Cedric	Snow	Absent		
Charles	Thompson	Absent		
Joseph	Vitali	Y	Y	Y
Tim	Yarbrough	Y	Y	Y
TOTALS		16 Present	17 Yes 0 no 0 abs	13 yes 0 no 4 abs