

August 26 Senate Meeting

Wed. Aug, 26, 2020 5:00 PM • 51:04

VPLA LeBlanc

SI call this meeting to order at 5:04 PM. We will start with roll call. With *** senators present out of 24 senators we meet quorum. "unknown person motions" Can we get a second? Do we have a motion to approve the agenda?

Senator Bellow

I second, Alex Bellow.

VPLA LeBlanc

The motion has been moved and properly seconded. It passes. Approval of the minutes since we don't have any minutes because this is our first official meeting. Next we will move to communications and announcements. Are there any senator, communications or announcements that are non SGA related? In a senator related communication, it's co announcements, non issue related. Yeah, are there any non senator communications or announcements. Is this from any one of our guests? Okay, hearing none, we will move to committee reports. Does the quick temp report is senator noble here?

Senator Nobel

Yes, no report.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, great. So I see someone has to be recognized. Joy.

Joy Ballard

Yes, Mark just joined us. So someone, anyone can actually motion that he'd be recognized.

Senator Bourgeois

Motion for Senator Mark Kostjuhin to be recognized.

VPLA LeBlanc

Is there a second?

Second.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you. So with 13 out of 19 senators present we still meet quorum. Moving right along back to committee report. Does Roos have a report? Senator Johnson? Amber Johnson.

Senator Johnson

No report.

VPLA LeBlanc

Finance, Senator Fritz, Is she on yet? Student Affairs, Senator. Brian, do you have a report?

Senator Bryant

No report.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. Moving right along to other reports. President. Does President Romero have a report for us today.

President Romero

I do. I'm getting up. Okay. So I had a faculty senate meeting yesterday, and which is basically just all the faculty they get together. And they basically do what we're doing right now talking about issues and whatnot. And I was able to go and present a resolution that we passed this summer, and faculty senate has actually endorsed it. So they agree with all points on the resolution. They want to just make sure that they show that they agree with it as well. So that's really good. That just shows that we have support across University even with faculty. I'm working on appointments right now for positions. I just sent joy yesterday and name for Supreme Court and I have a few other positions that people have showed interest in. So within the next week, I will be emailing you all about who I'm appointing for which positions and all of that, my office hours Tuesday from 12:30 to 4:30. And then it's Thursday, nine o'clock to 11 then 12:30 to 4:30. And then, lastly, we have masks in the office, right Now from the commissioner's office, um, but that's not the mass that I ordered from or joy order from you from my exact account. Those will be in in September. We have a little problem with some of the processing the paperwork, but it'll be here and they're really cute. I got the pictures and everything. So I'm really excited for that but that's really it. Um, I hope everyone's safe. I'm thinking of everyone right now. Because I know not everyone's in New Orleans and everyone's around people are have their own homes, and might be in the pass of these hurricanes or even their family. So just know I'm thinking of y'all. And if you're on anything, just reach out to my email. And I open it up for questions. Yield my time. Thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc

Is there questions for the President. We will move along. Next is the vice president. Does vice president Jason Ray have report for us today?

VP Jayson Ray

Yes, I do. Okay, so the senate operating account is that \$39,498 and 75 cents, the reserve account is still to be determined. Also, the SGA budget got approved by administration so we can start moving forward with purchasing and paying for different things around SGA. Also, my office hours for this semester are going to be Mondays from 12:30 to 4:30. And then Thursday as well from 10:30 to 4:30. And I yield the rest my time for questions.

VPLA LeBlanc

Are there any questions for the vice president?

VP Jayson Ray

Hearing none, we'll move along.

VPLA LeBlanc

Next is vice president of legislative Fair that would be me. I do have a do have a report. First I want to welcome everybody to their first senate meeting. My office hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesday. Anytime you can just send me an email I'm not too picky with with how those hours ago just anytime on those two days I'm available. If you would like to come visit me, I would. I would strongly recommend that you email due to our restrictions. If you need to see me in person. Please let me know So that way we can accommodate you and as well as myself and others who may be in the office. Everybody who's in Senate by now should have heard from their committee heads. If you have not, please email me separately. So that way we can get you plugged in. We kind of started a little rocky with how the committee's were going, but now I think we're on the right track. So thank you to all senators who voted and got us to reach quorum for today. I really appreciate that And I will definitely be talking with the legislative exec team to you know, clear up any loopholes that we may have still lingering around. so that's it for the rest of my time for questions. Are there any questions for me? Hearing none, we will move along to the Vice President of programming does the President of SAC have a report?

SAC Pres. Jaylan Johnson

Hi, I have a report today we had, I want to say like a third or fourth event of the year, which was scavenger hunt, I think from this event, we're deciding to create some guidelines and event guidelines on how to act during school events. I think whenever we come up with this, I would like to present this to SGA So this can be universal for all events. Because what happened today was a unfortunate. Tomorrow we have Battle of the DJs this Thursday at 6 and it will be on Instagram Live. The information for the live is gonna be on our Instagram and tomorrow we are going to have our second SAC meeting at 12:30. I yeild the rest of my time.

VPLA LeBlanc

Does anyone have any questions for the president of SAC

Senator Bourgeois

Yes, Senator Bourgeois. My computer cuts out. All I heard was something was unfortunate. What was the first thing you said?

VPLA LeBlanc

We had a scavenger hunt, around there basically for that event, I said we should come up with guidelines. Anything I want to say shouldn't be, like universally incorporated across the university.

Senator Bourgeois

Okay, thank you.

VPLA LeBlanc

Are there any other questions for the president of SAC? Hearing none, we will move along. Next is advisor report advisor Ballard. Do you have a report for us today?

Joy Ballard

I do. Okay. Hi everyone. Um, so, first matter of business on our report if you are here for privateer plunge credit, welcome. I am impressed that you made it this far through the meeting. So just to give you a little heads up about like what SGA is and what we do and why this is so formal. Student Government is the official advocacy organization for students on campus. So we are here to make sure that students have a voice in policy and decision making, and with administration on campus. We also oversee a pretty sizable budget of student fees that these lovely senators that are here, allocate those funds to different projects on campus. So that's a little that's like the basic basic of what we do. I am always happy to answer questions though. If you are here for plunge credit and you need points, please change your zoom name to your actual name for me that way I can make sure I count you. Now for all of my senators, welcome to the new year. I'm so excited that you're all here. As my first order of business for y'all. I would like to introduce Amber Lemelle. Amber is our new clerk of Senate and you all have no idea how happy I am to not have to take your minutes anymore. Amber is kind of observing today. She's going to get a feel for what we do. And then next week She will be full fledge your clerk. make her feel welcome. To make her life easy make sure you're saying your name every time you speak, because she doesn't know your voice. I know Julianne kind of knew your voices. Amber is new new. Help her. Okay, we can do this say your name. Thank you. On that note our SGA office is fully staffed. We are now open every day from nine till 4:30. So if you need anything from SGA office stop by normally I say y'all can come hang out. And fortunately COVID is going to put make that harder, because we can only have one visitor at a time. But if you need something, come say hey, we're happy to have one visitor at a time. Speaking of Office changes. I have an announcement for y'all as well. So over the summer I was promoted to the Assistant Director of Student Involvement and leadership. What that means for y'all is I now oversee a lot more things. So I still have student government, I'm still your full time advisor. I am still happy to be here. We are looking at hiring me some help to kind of take on some other side projects that I have but at the moment, I am advising SGA including SAC and all their events and our leadership cabinet and our campus leadership programs. I'm a little busier than I have been before. I am still getting to your emails, it just may take me a little longer so please be patient. And we are all going to adjust and it is all going to be good. Also, if you need me My office is now in UC 222 in the official SIL office, I'm no longer working in the student government office. So if you need to find me, that's where I am. All right. Jullianne talked a little bit about the faculty senate choosing to endorse your resolution. I just want to add to that, your resolution has gained some traction. And the main exciting thing that's happened for y'all to know about is that now we do have an official diversity course for all students to take and it should be on your Moodle , just like you have that hazing course on your Moodle. You now have this diversity course. It is not a requirement for all of y'all to take it. I do think it would be a good idea for y'all to look through it because As part of that resolution, you all said that any organization you fund must take this course. I think that is a great move. And I'm really excited about it. I'm excited to get that implemented this semester. On the flip side of that, I don't think it's fair for us to ask other student organizations to do something we're not doing. So if you have some time, flip through that, take a look at it. It's not going to hurt you in any way. And hopefully you'll learn something. All right, that is all of my updates. I will conclude with please stay safe. Please watch the weather. Please

stay up to date. Right now, it looks like New Orleans is going to be pretty much in the clear, but we do know things are unpredictable. I also know a lot of you aren't in New Orleans. So take care of yourself. If you need anything, let me know. And I will yield the rest of my time to questions.

VPLA LeBlanc

Does anyone have any questions for the advisor at this time? Hearing none, we will move along. Thank you advisor Ballard. And congratulations on your promotion. Okay, so we don't have any old business nor new business because this is our first meeting, but we will and hopefully, at our next week's meeting and all the meetings after. We will move right along to nominations and appointments. In this section, don't do this. We have three individuals and in nominations and appointment sections we have Miss Linda Plasse who is looking to be confirmed in her appointment position a sophomore at large. Mr. Antonio Rodarte'd, who's running to be a senator in the College of Business Administration. And Senator amber Johnson who is a already confirmed senator but she on the agenda to be confirmed as the Rules Committee head. We will start with Linda Plasse.

Senator Plasse

Yeah, hi. I'm here.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, great. Welcome. Basically, would you like to say a few words about yourself and you know, why do you want to join senate which are, you know, give us a little background about you.

Senator Plasse

Okay, Hi, I'm Linda Plasse. I'm a second semester sophomore here at you know, I'm majoring in elementary education. And I have a minor in English. I'm currently also a peer mentor. So I'm helping out with a couple of UNIV classes. I was an orientation leader and Krewe leader over the summer as well. I'm also involved in the garden club and just I'm pretty involved on campus. I've really been looking forward to joining SGA especially since I finally got my disability accommodations handled, and I realized there wasn't necessarily a lot that could be done for the actual assistance animals. So I reached out to SGA and I was like, what could be done about this and they're like, you should join and talk about it. So here I am wanting to talk about it, and wanting to help the campus especially for people that might not have as big a voice on campus.

VPLA LeBlanc

Wonderful. Thank you, Linda. Next we will have Mr. Antonio Rodarte' would you like to come up and say a few words about himself?

Senator Rodarte'

hi, I'm Antonio. I'm a sophomore. I'm a marketing major and a CS minor. And I'm, I decided to join us ga because I saw a lot of open slots, and someone told me you should join. And I was like, Well think about it. And then I thought about it. So that's why I decided to join.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great, what is your classification Antonio? Are you a freshman, sophomore, junior senior.

Senator Rodarte'

I'm a sophomore.

VPLA LeBlanc

Senator Crenshaw you there?

Senator Crenshaw

I'm here. Yeah.

VPLA LeBlanc

Did you get my message?

Senator Crenshaw

I'm sorry, what am I supposed to do?

VPLA LeBlanc

It's okay. Can I get a senator to motion to slate? The two? Usually just for for the record, usually when folks are being appointed to Senate. If it's more than one, we typically motion them to a slate so that way we can kind of get them all done at the same time for everybody's sake and time. A motion has been put on the floor. Do we have a second?

Senator Johnson

Senator Johnson

VPLA LeBlanc

Unfortunately, Senator Johnson, I cannot accept your second. You haven't been sworn in as you haven't been sworn in yet. So we'll take care of that at the end of this meeting.

Senator Bourgeois

Second, Senator Bourgeois.

VPLA LeBlanc

Thank you. The motion has the motion carries. So Linda and Antonio, we will put you guys in the waiting room real quick. So that we can you know vote Are there any senators that would like to rise in support? Okay, are there any senators I rise in opposition? Okay, moving right along, we will move to a roll call vote with a vote of yes or no and abstentions will determine whether or not these folks are appointed or not. holding on. we are voting on Linda class and Antonio Rodarte

Roll Call Vote

12 yes, Zero No, 1 abstention

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. The vote passes and Linda Plaza and Antonio Rodarte' are now senators. Okay, well, congratulations. Linda and Antonia you guys are now senators. We will work on your swearing in at the end, along with Senator Johnson, Sarah Johnson. Next we will move along to Senator Amber Johnson, who is on the agenda to be confirmed as our rules committee head. Senator Johnson, would you like to say a few words about yourself?

Senator Johnson

Yes, I'm Senator Johnson or My name is Amber Johnson. I'm, I am a junior at the University of New Orleans. I just joined SGA literally like a couple months ago. I was previously a part of the UN ambassadors and still am. so that has been my extent of involvement on campus as well as a part of the film World on campus as well.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. Thank you, Senator Johnson. Now we will basically talk about Senator Johnson about this appointment. Does anyone rise in support of her being confirmed as the Rules Committee head? Does any senator I keep saying it is a senator rising support?

Senator Bourgeois

Senator Bourgeois. I'll do Excuse me, are you looking to see to call on us or do we just indicate that we need to say stuff?

VPLA LeBlanc

Oh, if when I asked it, are there any senators who rose in support and you say that then you can speak and you know, state why?

Senator Bourgeois

Awesome senator Bourgeois. Amber Johnson has been a very active student on campus for a while. I don't know her super super personally, but I, you know, seen her work really hard and I think she'd make a great rules head.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great. Are there any other senators who rise and support?

Senator Bellow

Senator Bellow. I too rise in support of Senator amber Johnson, becoming the head of the rules committee? I believe she's a very conscientious student, and we'll be an asset.

VPLA LeBlanc

Wonderful. are the senators who Rising opposition to Senator Johnson being confirmed by the rules committee? Anyone? Hearing none, we will move to a roll call vote. ***13 yes zero No and one abstention*** Okay, Senator Johnson Congratulations. You are now confirmed. As the committee head

for Rules Committee, okay. now we will move into open forum. This section of the agenda is for the betterment of SGA. Joy, if I'm correct, anybody can speak during this time, right?

Joy Ballard

Yes, that is correct..

VPLA LeBlanc

We have 12 minutes. So Would anybody like to start? Okay, I will say a few words to those who have to be sworn in. That's Senator Johnson and the newly appointed senators. Would you guys just stay behind for a few minutes so that we can get your swearing in done and out of the way. Um Yeah. My apologies again for the my computer errors and all of that I will definitely have this together for next week's meeting as well as any other glitches that took place today. Senator Noble definitely my apologies. I did not see your name on this roll. I will make sure that it's there. Going forward. I knew I put it on there. I don't know what what Where did it go? And Tim Yat Sen. Jago please stay behind as well. Yeah, that's it. Does anyone else have anything else to say? for the betterment of SGA? Senator bourgeois?

Senator Bourgeois

Yes, Senator bourgeois. I just wanted to say for anybody that didn't know that it's been really hard to stay connected, in a sense to what's going on. But um, I was a part of Mambo week and privateer camp, which privateer camp was before school started mambo week was the four days leading up to the first day of classes. And I'm just really excited and happy for the class, the incoming class. I know some of you are here, some freshmen and incoming students. So you know, they're, I mean, they've had to endure a lot since graduating high school. And so everybody was really excited to be there. And so I hope in some way or shape or form, you guys can reach out and get connected with some incoming people and I just want to encourage you guys to tell people about SGA because you know, we want to be strong and SGA role is just looking so different this year. I also along with that one to say because our world I was looking so different this year for any like, returning senators and I'm telling myself this too. We might have to get creative with what we're using our money for what we're advocating for. So this is honestly just like a little motivational speech to just don't be discouraged. I know things are looking really tough, but we can be there for each other and especially for the students. So just do what you can to reach out I'm going to be in contact with the committee which I know is being led by Senator Bryant, I see. I'm really excited about working with you guys on the committee's and just talking through some ideas with how to reach students to so that was it.

VPLA LeBlanc

Wonderful. So yeah, we definitely need to be creative. Thank you for saying that. Senator Bourgeois but we also need to spend our money. You know, we need to spend money regardless. So thank you for saying that. Does anybody else have anything to say for the betterment of SGA? Okay, hearing none, we will next move to the next item of the agenda, which is the German piece. Would somebody like to motion to adjourn with a proper Second?

Senator *unknown*

Second

VPLA LeBlanc

A motion to adjourn has been moved and properly seconded. I adjourn this meeting at 5:49pm. Thank you, and will the folks that I asked to stay back please do so.