

Sept 2 SGA Senate Meeting

Wed, 9/2 1:53PM • 44:39

VPLA LeBlanc

I call this meeting to order at 5:05. We will start with Roll Call. 20 senators present. We meet quorum.

Senator Mott

I approve it Brendan Mott Jr at large, Motion to approve the agenda.

Bessie Lair

second Bessie Lair College of Engineering.

VPLA LeBlanc

The motion has been moved and properly seconded. So move. Okay, so next with the approval of the minutes from last week's meeting. I don't think those came out.

Joy Ballard

you are correct Sorry about that. We are training a new clerk.

VPLA LeBlanc

Gotcha. Okay. So guys still stand by with the minutes we do have a wonderful new clerk by the name of Amber lemelle. She doesn't have a camera on everybody can see your face so that's okay. Oh, she's there. Hey Amber.Welcome aboard. Next we will be moving communications and announcements. Are there any senator communications or announcements that are not SGA related? Okay, hearing none, are there any non senators? any of the guests or anything that they would like to say

Joy Ballard

I have an announcement that is not actually related. Tonight SAC is hosting a trivia stream. It is a really fun trivia game show where you can win actual money. It's going to be really fun. I'm going to drop the link in the chat.So as soon as meanings over complex review with us. That's my announcement

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, great. moving along. Are there any other non SGA related announcements? Okay, hearing none. Okay. Next is committee reports on each committee head has three minutes to speak and three minutes for q&a. The first committee is governance. Does governance committee have a report for us today?

No Reports sir.

VPLA LeBlanc

rules. does rules have a report for us today?

no report.

VPLA LeBlanc

Finance. Does finance have a report for us today.

No report today.

VPLA LeBlanc

Student Affairs, does student affairs have a report for us today.

No report today.

Thank you. Next, our other reports. And these reports each person will have six minutes to speak followed by three minutes for q&a. And that is the president Madam President. Do you ever import for us today?

President Romero

I do. It's really short. everyone hear me? Okay. so, Hurricane Laura just hit Lake Charles. And all of our thoughts are with the Magness and the schools and like Charles and just the people who live there. So Tuesday of next week, I have a meeting with the UL system schools and we're gonna do a service project, whether it's a drive or some kind of service project to help families who are dislocated or maybe don't have food or anything. So I'm gonna let y'all know more information probably at the next meeting, I was just letting y'all know that we are going to do something is just a work in progress at the moment. Especially with all the fake GoFundMe is out there and stuff for hurricane victims, which is really sad. So we want to make sure we're being precise or thinking about who were actually donating to. also masks should come in this month that Joy ordered from my executive account. But we still have masks from the commissioner in the office. They're just plain white, masks nothing too fancy. But it's a masks so spread the word and make sure y'all get people to come and pick up masks in the SGA office. that's it. I actually have Jason's report to for the next report, but for right now, does anyone have any questions for me?

VPLA LeBlanc

Does anybody have any questions for the president? Okay, hearing none. if you do have a question or something, just put it in the chat. We can circle back during open forum and have that individual answer that question. Okay. So moving along vice presidents report, Madam President,

President Romero

President Romero reading VP Ray's Report The senate operating account has \$39,498.75 in it. We don't have a reserve amount, but we will start getting it after the 14th class day. That was his report. Any questions for him? That could relate?

Can you just repeat the number for me one more time?

President Romero

Yeah. Senate operating account is \$39498.75

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, next is my report. Um another thing that I have to say is uh, you know, I really appreciate everybody being here today. You know, last week was the first meeting had some connection trouble but I'm glad, you know, I was able to fix that. Um, if anybody and that this includes our guests, if anybody has any questions or concerns about anything that's going on in the legislative branch, please let me know. I'm very open and accessible to everyone. Literally my senators know that they can call me at any time if they have a question or anything like that. I will be putting my email in the in the chat so that everybody knows what that is. Or Joy could do that for me. So I don't mess up this great system that I have so far. Thank you. Um, but yeah, if anybody has any problems, or anything like that, that they feel we need to address please Let me know. Again, that's my email. I look at it pretty frequently. And you know, great. We will go from there. So that's my report. Does anybody have any questions or comments? Hearing none, we will move to the Vice President of programming. I do have her report up here. She couldn't make it unfortunately. But she did say and this is her updates for us. ***VPLA Leblanc reads VP of programming's report*** Hey, everyone. The updates for SAC today are as follows. Tonight at 6pm we will be hosting game shows to go join us for a chance to win \$300. we are also seeking help in seeking resources to hold totally to drive to help the victims of Hurricane Laura. So anybody has any thing that they can spare for that drive. You know, please reach out to Jalen. Also, in response to creating better zoom etiquette. We're going to try pre registering for events to see how that works out and send you guys an update. if you all have any questions, please send this to her email and that is ***states email adress*** And I will gladly put this in our chat for everybody to see her email address. Okay. That's the Vice President of programming email. Any questions for her? Please send us our email. Next is the advisor report. Advisor Ballard do you have room

Joy Ballard

Hey everybody. Um, so first of all, I'm gonna say, welcome to our guests. We have 21 non senators on this call. So welcome, everyone. And if you've made it this far, I'm impressed. So let me tell you a little bit about what we do just for the sake of that you get something out of this as well. So the Student Government Association is the official advocating body for students here at UNO, so we are able to write legislation to help students in many ways. Some examples of things we've done in the past include funding events on campus, we have funded major structural projects on campus, including the remodeling of the front of the library, as well as the captain's quarters student lounge. And then we have also taken on several social justice projects, including a resolution to stand with DACA students, as well as over the summer a resolution to stand with a black lives matter. So there are all kinds of things that student government can do to support students. And so if that interests you, you have come to the right place. On that note, we will be having elections for senators on the first week of October.

The informational for that is going to be on September 22 at noon. If you are interested in running an SGA elections, come visit us on the 22nd at noon. To hear all about that process and how to join. We have 50 Senate seats, and as you heard only 24 are currently taken. So we have plenty of room for lots of new faces and new ideas and we are ready to welcome some new people. So if you are interested in running, I will see you on the 22nd. That being said, that's really all the updates I have. Thank you all for being here. I have heard some rumblings of some frustration that we have had to basically empty agendas. So I'm going to tell y'all the same thing I just said, Every time I have met with senators. That's because we are in a pandemic, and school is different. And everything is different does not mean that we cannot still advocate for students. And I think now more than ever, is when we should be advocating for students. Now, we're going to have to be a little bit creative and what that looks like. But I believe that y'all are up to that task. I was just bragging on y'all earlier today on all the great things y'all did over the summer. So I encourage y'all to keep that momentum. Keep thinking bigger, keep sending me ideas. And I look forward to seeing what y'all come up with. And I will yield the rest of my time for questions.

VPLA LeBlanc

Are there any questions for the advisor at this time? Okay, hearing none, we will move on. on our agenda. We don't have any old business, new business or nominations at this time. So we're going to move right into open forum in this forum. We do have 12 minutes. This is anything and this is for senators, anything for the betterment of SGA. Do any senators have anything that they would like to say, at this time.

Senator Bellow

I do.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, Senator Bellow you have the floor.

Senator Bellow

Senator Bellow. Interdisciplinary Studies I was wondering if maybe we can do some sort of brainy you know, so I'm a first year senator. So I could I could benefit from learning how best to advocate for students in a normal world. I mean, I'm not on campus. So the only students I'm in touch with are the students in my classes that I take. So maybe, we can create some training to help us have a better understanding of how to advocate for our students in a virtual setting, when we are not in touch with them. we only see who we go to class with. So maybe that could be a way we can become a little bit better in our respective responsibilities.

Joy Ballard

I think that is a wonderful idea. I do know we are supposed to have a retreat every semester. Vice President Jason ray is working on something for that. But is I can get on board with that and try to make that happen sooner rather than later. So I appreciate the feedback, we can make that happen.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great. Great. Are there any other senator or non senators? Sorry about that, guys? that has anything they would like to say?

Student (guest)

I'd like to speak if possible.

VPLA LeBlanc

Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.

Student (guest)

My name is Andrea Sturman. I'm a student in the College of Engineering, specifically mechanical. I'm not sure if quite a few of you are actually a part of this discussion strangely. There's a petition going around for ProctorU being removed as one of the testing services that the University of New Orleans is wanting to use and when this has come across a discord set group that we're in. one of the students in engineering set up a stem discord, and it's come across three times on our board. It's caused a lot of discussion for us and we feel that SGA might be able to assist in this matter. There are two concerns that we have with using ProctorU. The first and most important in our opinion is the security aspect of using ProctorU. One of our students read the Terms and Conditions quite carefully because they've had other systems basically brick their computers and their concerns are that states ProctorU shares in photos with entities but it doesn't clarify who those entities are. It saves information for seven days and they can share that within seven days. That includes things like social security numbers and IP addresses. The other concern is the cost that goes along with using ProctorU it can be anywhere from \$8 per test, to \$35 per test. And that's per test, not for the entire semester. So that is a very large cost for each of us as students. We've I've looked specifically before actually reading through what the petition said that the person who did the petition also looked at Respondus Lockdown as an alternative and if we have 40,000 students and the school decides to use that system, it's 6700 \$95 per year to use that system, which comes up as 17 cents per student at 40,000 students. This is a really big concern for us. And we've discussed starting a writing campaign, a letter writing campaign, but we'd also like to know if there's something that you as the SGA can do to support our concerns.

VPLA LeBlanc

Absolutely. Um, and, in fact, I would love if my chief of finance senator Hailey Fretz can get your contact information. So that way, you know, you can discuss this more in further with her about this and everything else. then Hailey will talk further on that on how we can draft something up about this, but also, we do have three of your engineering senators here, Senator Bessie Lair, Senator Clotilde Lair and Senator Mark Kostjuhin. They are your resources. And that goes for any non-senators here. Please look on the SGA website. Our names are up there for you guys. If you have any questions, and again, my email is there as well. You can always email me about this and I can reach out to any of you at any given point. But thank you so much, Miss Andrea, is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Student (guest)

Not at this time. Thank you. Okay.

That's great. So Hailey, make sure you reach out to miss Andrea. Miss Andrea reach out to Senator Hailey Fretz. So we can, you know, make sure we have up to date information so that we can get the ball rolling on this. Okay.

Hailey Fretz

Thank you. one real quick question. And we can go over in more detail but this is not included in the Follet system.

Student (guest)

No, ma'am. It is not. It is completely separate and it's each teacher It seems to be opting whether or not they're going to use it. that's kind of one of the concerns that we have.

Senator Bessie Lair

Bessie Lair College of Engineering. I've asked the bookstore and they said they used to cover it last semester, but they no longer cover it now because it was too much of a hassle for them to cover, apparently. or something along those lines.

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay. Miss Andrea Hailey did put her email in the chat. I don't know if you see that. Make sure you take it down. Is there anything else?

Senator Bellow

I would like to speak to, to the ProctorU situation. And I'm wondering if there's any way for us to coordinate our efforts against this particular program, our process, whatever We're calling it. I'm a member of momentum, which is an African American male program on campus. And the the faculty leader is also getting information about that. And they were speaking to scheduled to speak to the Provost regarding this, so I'm wondering if there's any kind of way for us to figure out what entities at our school are addressing this. And then maybe collectively join our efforts or if that would be defeating the purpose. I don't know that that's probably something we should think about.

VPLA LeBlanc

Absolutely. And Senator bellow, since you brought up that Information about seeing what other Institute what other organizations may, you know, be doing this like with momentum? If you don't mind just looking into that for me. Um, so that way we can all see who that may be. And you know, we can join in.

Senator Bellow

Absolutely, absolutely do not mind. But I wouldn't need some guidance. Maybe I guess from you Joy on how do I do that? Where do I go to find out who's working on what?

Joy Ballard

Yes, I tell you what, let I'm going to send y'all all an email right now. Then let's set up something

Senator Johnson

Senator amber Johnson I also heard from my organization that they were talking about the same thing would talk to you. so you can also loop me in on it. I know of a girl in US ambassadors that was talking about it at one of our steering meetings.

VPLA LeBlanc

wonderful. So see, I'm out. This is getting great already. Um, I love it. I love it. I love the collaboration. Thank you so much, Andrea, for bringing this up for us. Are there any other senators that have anything else to share with us?

Senator Broussard

Senator Matthew Broussard College of Liberal Arts. This is actually a very similar vein. I'm glad you're here, Mrs. Chairman to discuss this with us. So obviously, we're in the middle of the pandemic. Going to school is very strange. And this isn't really the time for the school to be moving costs onto students. So a lot of the students on campus have been having issues with student dining as of right now, because the buffet style that was previously being used obviously can't be used due to disease transmission. But there has been some questionable portion sizes. Due to this single serving type of things, students have been sending pictures to each other, writing petitions to different members of the school from what I've kept up on. But in addition to this, the student meal prices have gone up like \$500 each over the summer, which is absolutely ridiculous.

Senator Mott

So this is an additional leap, Brendan Mott junior at large. The meal plans don't even give you as much as they used to all the meal plans have also went like down a little bit, but the lowest meal plan used to be 14 meals a week. It's now 12. The middle one used to be unlimited at the gallery. It's not 15 and the highest one used to be like 19 meals a week at any one campus location. And now that's the unlimited one.

Senator Broussard

Thank you, Mr. Mott. Yeah, it's it's not great. So I have talked to a couple of students. I will be trying to get in touch with Some SGA people that have been doing this a little longer than I have since this is my first semester about writing a bill and helping address some of these issues. I will drop my email in the chat for anybody that has any questions or would like to be involved.

VPLA LeBlanc

Senator Broussard, I would like for you to get the senator Ivan, who's our student affairs, committee head, and I speak speak with him, you and Brendon, and speak with him regarding this issue because we have committee meetings, exec committee meetings on Wednesdays at noon, as of right now. So we get updates. This is stuff that we collaborate amongst the five of us to you know, see how we can come in, bring it to you guys collectively, and you know, you're more uniform and put together. So definitely reach out to our Student Affairs Committee head on this issue. And we will figure out where they'd be a resolution of some sort. You know as to how we would do this, thank you for bringing that up. Anybody else have anything else to say about this?

Senator Plasse

Senator Linda Plasse, Senator for sophomores at large. I also just would like to add an addition to as senator Broussard mentioned the reduced meal portions and the changes in the meal plan. There is also you are no longer allowed to use multiple swipes at a time. So the other day I had attempted to ask if I could use an additional swipe to get some fruits since they are not serving fresh fruit at every meal station. And she said you're only allowed one meal swipe per meal period. So that also reduces the number of meals you're allowed to get per day. And also since there's only fruit at one station students aren't getting every necessary food group. So even just from a nutritional standpoint, that's concerning.

VPLA LeBlanc

Right? So new players, reach out with Senator Ivan as well till we can make sure we add that in whenever We do. Thank you.

Joy Ballard

I would like to draw attention for the record to in the chat. Brendan mentioned that he is interested in starting up the Housing and Dining committee again. Jullianne mentioned bringing back a dining committee. my advice, and what I have seen happen in the past, um, particularly with dining because on contract students do their collective voice can make a big difference because we're paying those people it's not exactly like they're just UNO employees. But I have seen much better results from us just meeting with them. So if y'all wanted to bring back that committee, the only process for that is Desmond Has to officially declare it an ad hoc committee and appoint a committee head. Um, then I know in the past They have been willing to set up weekly meetings with SGA. And then we always have a forum to address these concerns. So I do think that that is a fantastic idea is since Brendan has volunteered, Desmond wants to pursue that.

VPLA LeBlanc

Great, um, I think it's a wonderful idea. And, again, Brendan emailed me and we can discuss how that how that will look okay. Um, but again, I'm here I'm loving the ideas. I accepted all and I've said that from the beginning. So keep it coming. Are there any other even though we've been past for 12 minutes? I gotta work on that to other any other announcements. Anything?

Senator Bessie Lair

Is there any way that we can like, address like what fees cover what because I know I'm like our distance learning fee and the other extended Campus feel like those were very expensive fees this semester that we wouldn't usually have to have if we were on campus. And people were concerned by that, like, that was brought up in our Discord server as well is how expensive those fees were like I know for me because of those fees, like I had to pay, um, beyond my scholarship, so, I don't know, for other people, they're not maybe able to cover the those fees as well.

President Romero

I can answer that. Okay. Um, so Dr. Goals, I had a meeting with Dr. Golz last week, and she is working with the Bursars office, um, and the whoever, like puts the fees on our fee bill, she's working to get fee explanations that are better than what's on the website. And that's one of our projects right now is making I'm sure that even for like the ones that's like a 500 extra dollar fee that other fees or other

expenses something like that she's wanting explanation on what exactly all that goes to so I know she's working on that just for clarification

VPLA LeBlanc

thank you Madam President and Senator Lair. Are they any other any anything else that we need to know about? See, I love it. Even when we're virtually still got a lot of work to do. Okay. Well stay tuned. again, my email is up there. Further up in the chat, if you want to email me about updates or any of the other senators we will be more than happy to get more information out there for you. Anybody else? Hearing none, we will move on to the adjournment section of the meeting. Okay, don't forget to go play trivia guys. With the motion that is properly seconded, I will entertain that for the adjournment.

Senator Clotilde Lair

Motion to adjourn Senator Clotilde Lair College of engineering.

Senator Mott

Second, Brendon Mott Junior at large

VPLA LeBlanc

Okay, the motion has been called and properly seconded. So moved. I adjourn this meeting at 5:41pm. Thanks, guys.