

October 21 Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

sga, senator, email, people, days, semester, meeting, interdisciplinary studies, questions, students, ballard, advisor, jayson, student, campus, senate, vice president, university, haley, week

SPEAKERS

Senator Beachy, VP Jayson Ray, Senator Clotilde Lair, Amber Lemelle, VPLA LeBlanc, Senator Noble, Senator Bellow, Senator Crenshaw, Senator A. Johnson, Senator Yarbrough, Senator Fretz, Joy Ballard, Senator Plasse, Senator Mott



VPLA LeBlanc 00:25

I call this meeting to order at 5:02 pm ***Roll Call*** All right. So with 14 senators out of 20, we do meet quorum. Next, we're going to go through the approval of the agenda. As you guys know, this week, we also didn't have anything to put on but that's okay. We typically have some times when we're up and down with doing things that I am seeing some information coming over in my emails. So we're looking good for something, possibly next week. Are there any corrections or changes to today's agenda? With no objections to the agenda, it is approved. Moving next to the approval of the minutes. We did get October 14 minutes. So thank you. Thank you. Thank you, SGA Clerk of Senate working very hard to get that done. Are there any corrections or changes to the minutes from last from the last meeting?



Senator Mott 04:52

Senator Brendan Mott Jr. at large. I do have one correction. Yes, sir. Where vice president Jason Ray was talking about the operating account and the reserve account reserve account was accidentally written twice instead of operating account then reserve account.

- V** VPLA LeBlanc 05:14
Okay, okay. Anyone else? Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies At the end at the 32:59 mark, it just has my name and nothing afterwards. I'm not exactly certain what that means. I don't know if I was speaking. We'll look into, a senator Fretz.
- S** Senator Fretz 05:41
Thank you, Senator, Fretz graduate at large, I had a couple things that I wanted to fix. But I think that they're similar to maybe the issue that Alex had that we can reach out to amber ourselves and tell her about them. I had a question. Am I going crazy? Or have I lost in my emails? I cannot find minutes for the 30th of September or the seventh of October. Did we get those or wasn't meeting cancelled? I'm lost on those.
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 06:10
No, the meeting wasn't cancelled?
- S** Senator Fretz 06:13
I didn't think so. I just can't seem to find him in my emails.
- A** Amber Lemelle 06:25
I just want to say I'm not sure about getting emails because Ms.Ballard always sends them, but all the meeting minutes have been done. In regard to all the other issues I can put my email in the chat and the issues y'all found in the minutes, can you email them to me so that I can fix them? Please? Thank you
- J** Joy Ballard 06:57
highly likely that I missed forwarding you the email. So I will look and figure it out. I made a note of this to date, and I'll get it to you.
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 07:12
All right. Are there any other corrections to the minutes?
- S** Senator Fretz 07:25

Hello, friends, Fretz graduate at large, there aren't any other corrections, but I'm so happy that other people saw things. Sometimes I feel like I'm the only person who reads them. So not yay for mistakes but yay for checking on ourselves and making sure that we're getting you know, documents out correctly.

S Senator Bellow 07:41

Yeah. Senator Alex Bellow, Interdisciplinary Studies. The only reason why I do it is because Haley does it. So Let the record reflect that.

V VPLA LeBlanc 08:07

Okay. So we will move along with the agenda to communications and announcements. Are there any senator communications or announcements at this time that are non SGA related? You will have three minutes to speak.

S Senator Bellow 08:24

Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. We are in early voting here in Louisiana. Our early voting ends Tuesday, October 27. And then, of course, the election is November 3. Just again, encouraging everybody to exercise your voice and vote.

V VPLA LeBlanc 08:50

Thank you, Are they any other senator communications and announcements?

S Senator Bellow 08:59

Senator Alex Bellow, Interdisciplinary Studies, as you all may have seen the recording of the challenges for those who may be in Jefferson Parish. Um, I have spoken to the the parish president as well as the council president. And I've been assured that additional voting machines are being added to the Jefferson Parish allotment. And I have been told that lines have been going down as a matter of fact, my wife went after work Monday and it took her less than two hours. Of course, if you were discouraged from the news of the weekend where it was taking six and seven hours, then hopefully if you're a Jefferson Parish voter that will not discourage you.

V VPLA LeBlanc 10:04

I'm glad you brought that up. Desmond LeBlanc VPLA. We add to that note on the first

day, had lines wrapped around every single polling location. But I'm happy to say that between the hours of when folks are at work during the weekdays, there are no lines like I got in and out in like, 10 minutes. You know, Orleans Parish I think we have now four early voting locations. Yeah, we have four, which one includes the smoothie kings **unknown**? You guys make sure to utilize and exercise your right to vote. Great. Are there any other? Senator, communications and announcements? All right, next night? Are there any non senator communications and announcements?

J Joy Ballard 11:02

Hi, have an announcement. Y'all know I'm always trying to find fun stuff for y'all to do. It's like my new job. Um, so, next Thursday, the Student Activities Council is hosting a Halloween Carnival, for lack of a better word. So there's a 50 person limit. But we're gonna watch Hocus Pocus outdoors on an inflatable screen. And it's gonna be a blast. There will be treats, there will be a costume contest. And you can even see your advisor in a ridiculous costume. So come hang out with me and watch Hocus Pocus. Next Thursday, the 29th at the amp. Thanks.

S Senator Yarbrough 11:57

Senator Yarbrough motion to be recognized.

S Senator Mott 12:01

Second, Senator Mott Junior at large.

V VPLA LeBlanc 12:04

So Moved. With 15 out of 20. Senators, we still need quorum. All right. Thank you for that advisor Ballard Next. Are there any other non senator communication and announcements? Okay, hearing none, we will move along. Next is committee reports. Senator noble, do you have a report for us today?

S Senator Noble 12:43

just a quick report. Currently, I've been working on editing the court of law and rules and procedures. I sent out a rough draft to the committee. And I took notes, I just have to go back and go through it and piece those together. Once it's like, fully done, I'll send out a rough draft to the entire Senate. I just have to make sure I cover all my bases first. So if you have any questions, just let me know. I'll put my email in the chat. If you need me to

change something or have something you don't understand. Please let me know. I'm new to this so I'm trying to read it and go over it as well. Thank you guys. I yield the rest of my time for questions.

V VPLA LeBlanc 13:35

Are there any questions for the Governance Committee and at this time? Hearing none, we'll move along. Senator Amber Johnson does rules have report for us today.

S Senator A. Johnson 13:52

No, sir. All

V VPLA LeBlanc 13:54

right. Thank you. Next is Senate, Senator Fretz does finance have report for us today.

S Senator Fretz 14:02

Yes, Haley, Fretz graduate large, I just have a couple things I want to share with everybody. First off, the finance committee was able to meet and vote on the nominations for next week. And I wanted to thank my committee because I sent it out and got responses all that exact same day. So thank you so much for being attentive and watching your emails. I also wanted to let you guys know that I'm still waiting to hear from our CFO. Our advisor has done her due diligence and has reached out to her, we must assume that she's probably very busy. But as soon as I know something about the reserve account, and I've gotten more details on it, I will be sharing it with all of you. I also wanted to let you guys know that I had the opportunity to stop by the SGA office for the first time in eight months, and I got a mask and it was awesome. I also got to see two people in person. I got to see our president Jullianne and I got to see our vice president Jayson and that was really exciting. I did get a chance to chat with Jullianne about the proctor you resolute Which is something that I want you all to know that I'm still following up on and still trying to make sure that the Senate faculty is aware of our complaints and issues. Something that Jullianne shared with me that although she still thinks that the resolution would have still been declined, but something that I was unaware of, and I was excited to hear about is that if any of you are writing resolutions in the future, you are able to add supplementary documentation to that, as in a work cited page or the bibliography page, you have an opportunity to give out more information than what is on the actual resolution. So just wanted to share that with you guys. I was unaware of that. And I didn't do that. And like I said, we neither one of us think that the university would have said yes, even if I had

provided that paperwork. But it's just something that if you feel necessary in the future for other resolutions, we can certainly do that. And as I'm learning, I'm sure all of you are learning too the one last thing I wanted to share with you guys, as I mentioned a couple meetings ago about a social media account that I come across, that made me feel a little uncomfortable, because of the way that they were using our university name, I did reach out to our advisor, and she reached out to Dr. Goalz, because it's all free speech, there's nothing you can really do about any of that stuff. But our advisor did, you know, let me know that I still have free speech. So I'm able to reach out to those groups and let them know that I'm uncomfortable with how they've used our name, and at least get my free speech out of the way as well. So although there isn't anything we can actually do to eradicate that, we can certainly still fight the good fight and say what's really supposed to be said even if it's in a message. And then if you do decide to do any of that kind of stuff. Just make sure that you're being appropriate and polite and courteous and that you remember that you are a representation of the university. Other than that, I yield the remaining time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 16:45

Are there any questions for the Finance Committee here at this time? Hearing none, thank you for that. Senator Fretz. Okay. Next, we will move along to student dining and housing. Senator Mott, I did not forget about you. Do you have a report for us.



Senator Mott 17:16

I have a brief report. So our committee has decided to um, I don't know if anybody's ever done this before. But we've just decided to make a formal group message as opposed to an email chain, to get our ideas across. Because sometimes with our committee, a lot of us are living here, and we'll see something. And it's like, it's like, oh, well, I don't really have time to write a whole email about this thing. When I saw let me just write it down. Put it in the group chat. Oh, yeah, I saw this situation happening on who do we talk to about this. And we're also trying to reach out with the Housing and Dining staff still to set up meetings with them. Um, and Dining Services has been hard to contact lately, because they cut half of their professional staff. So um, I wish we could talk more about during open forum, but I'm housing is trying to figure out what time would work for them, but they definitely want to meet with our committee. And I yield the rest of my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 18:17

Thank you, does anyone have any questions for the student dining and housing

committee chair at this time? Hearing none, we will move along. Okay. Next, we're moving to other reports. I know our madam president was not able to make it today, but her report was left with the vice president. So can you give a report for us, please? Vice President Ray

V VP Jayson Ray 19:00

Alrighty, so president Romero says For those of you who asked about a fund for helping students pay for Proctoru our executive meeting with administration, they clarified that there's already a fund made and it's financial aids responsibility. So if you need assistance contact Anne Lockridge for emergency money. This is the first time we've heard about it. So we're unsure about how fast or helpful this resources as far as library hours go, the Dean of the library said that the peak hours are right whenever the library opens until about 3pm. And then the amount of people coming in dwindle down after that. So for that reason, the library has decided not to extend hours. The only time they will extend hours this semester is for midterms and finals. And this information came directly from the Provost and the Library Dean Ray Wang And lastly, she says Please attend our panel discussion. We have her anti police brutality week. It involves people who are in our criminal justice system like a defense attorney, a judge, an officer, and Tim Duncan. And they will be answering questions revolving around police brutality. The link is in the link tree and SGA, Instagram bio, and she will also send the link via email later. She says we need people to attend. And like she said before we passed a resolution and this is our action. So please be present. And she said, if anyone has any questions or concerns to email her. I will put her email in the chat box.

V VPLA LeBlanc 20:42

Thank you for that, Mr. Vice President. Appreciate that. Okay. All right. Next, we'll move on to the vice president. So Vice President, you have a report for us?

V VP Jayson Ray 21:02

Yes, I did. So operating account is \$38,488.68 cents per reserve account is \$193,088. I will put those numbers in the chat box after. And lastly, thank you, for the senators that were able to attend the senate retreat last week. I think we got a lot of stuff dealt with and learned a lot of information. So thanks again. And I yield the rest of my time for questions.

V VPLA LeBlanc 21:38

Thank you. Does anyone have any questions for the Vice President at this time?

S Senator Noble 21:59
Um, I was wondering if maybe we can get another senate retreat before the end of the semester. For those that missed it

V VP Jayson Ray 22:10
I can look into it. But I was planning on just having one more next semester, but i will look into it and let y'all know, within the next week or so.

V VPLA LeBlanc 22:24
Thank you for that vice president Ray, and we do typically have one per semester. So if you did miss the fall, you could make the spring. So next, we move on to my report. I really don't have a lot to say. But I just thank each and every one of you. Again, we are officially five weeks before the end of the semester. We have about five more meetings left. I do appreciate everything that everybody has done thus far. We have five more minute meetings left in this semester. I want to, you know, make a shout out to my exec team, you guys have really been pulling through. I do appreciate all of you, including you, Senator, mott Thank you for everything you're doing with student dining and housing. There's a lot going on still, despite what we have going on with COVID and how all these alternatives going, I just want you to guys know somebody did tell me today that they do miss being in person with all of us. So I feel the same way. But thank you. Anti police brutality week is this week. There are things going on. Please adhere to the SGA website. I mean, the SGA. Instagram. We have a discussion going on tomorrow if I'm not mistaken, but definitely look at the Instagram page to make sure that you guys are participating if you can. Does anybody have any questions for me at this time?

S Senator Bellow 24:41
Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies you mentioned the final meetings but for this semester. I understand that,my question is with the late start to the next semester, are we not meeting I guess until February because I I think we don't start it to like January 29, or something like that.

V VPLA LeBlanc 25:06
Yeah, we don't start until the 29th. tentatively, we typically don't start SGA meetings until the first full week of class. Okay. Which would probably be the very next week is February 3. I will talk with the joy to see how we are gonna do that? Okay, and get back with you all

on with those dates with that first meeting in the spring, we'll be. Anyone else? All right, hearing none, we will move right along to Vice President of programming. No? Well we'll move along. If she does have a report. I can get it an email to you all. If she if that's how she wants me to do it. Next is the advisor, advisor Ballard. Do you have a report for us today?



Joy Ballard 26:33

I do, of course. Um, so the first thing is actually something I need from y'all. So we're putting together the student tech fee committee. We've talked about this before. The plan was to have two senators. But I have direct, I really wanted to kind of spread the love and like put some people on this that aren't on other things. But I've contacted a few people and everyone is swamped this semester, which I totally understand. But at this point, I'm giving up on just direct communicating with people. If you want to be on the student and tech committee, shoot me an email, I got one spot. If a bunch of you apply, we'll let the execs vote but send me an email if you want to be on the tech committee. They only meet once a month, it's not going to be a big deal. If you want it let me know. That's it on that. The Student Activities Council. So Jaylen is our Vice President of programming, and she is graduating in December. So I have SAC applications open. You cannot be in SAC and the Senate. So if any of you ran for this position, you would have to quit. So I don't want any of you to run. But if you know anyone looking for leadership positions in the university, those apps are posted on SAC's link tree in their Instagram. So if you have anyone looking for something to plug into, that is a great organization. And I would be happy to work with them. I want to give a couple of shout outs. So first, I want to give the highest of praise to Triniesha for working on the rules and procedures. That is a terrible job. And like it is hard work. No doubt about it. And they look fantastic. I know I had a lot of feedback, but you know, that's kind of my job. But really, and truly, they look so good. So thanks for putting in the work on that. It means a lot to me. Um, my second shout out is for Jullianne who's not here, but I want it written on the record. So I'm gonna say it. Police brutality week has been a whole adventure for SGA. Jullianne has rolled with the punches. She has done a fantastic job. She was on the news, if you haven't watched it, it was great. Also handled a lot of conflict with grace because you know, people are terrible. I just want to say SGA has handled that very well. Amber took some phone calls today as well, so thank you. I'm happy that we're having this discourse. I'm happy that this conversation is happening. So thank y'all for bringing that to the forefront and holding the university accountable in doing what they say they believe. My final comment, homecoming is November 9, through the 13th. So we are hosting homecoming this year, it's gonna look different. Obviously, I know y'all are tired of hearing that stuff's gonna look different. But it's 2020. Y'all. Here we are. We're gonna have homecoming. It's going to be good. We are having a drive in movie. I'm not the Hocus Pocus one, we're going to do another drive in movie that you

actually can sit in your cars and listen, so that'll be fun. And then there's a bunch of stuff happening. It's all going to be on the calendar. But just stay tuned for more updates on homecoming. And we do have nominations open SGA is nominating vice president Ray to homecoming court. But if you're in any of your student orgs we are looking for nominees. So feel free to do that. And at this time, I will take questions.

S Senator Fretz 31:25

I have a question. Haley Fretz graduate at large. So I'm not really sure what homecoming representatives even mean, could you give me a little insight on that I got I saw the Instagram stuff, but I I'm just not sure what a homecoming court does.

J Joy Ballard 31:44

the homecoming court normally is presented at the basketball court at the basketball game on the court half time. This year, they're going to get a nice prize package from the Alumni Association delivered to their home and some recognition. And they also if we get to host the Mardi Gras parade will get to ride in the front of the Mardi Gras parade, which is a lot of fun. So yeah, it's just like a superlative fun kind of thing.

S Senator Fretz 32:18

Haley Fretz graduate at large. So the people that we nominate for that should be good representation of the university a part of something it shouldn't just be, like, I'm thinking of like high school where it was a popularity contest. I'm trying to find depth in it.

J Joy Ballard 32:31

You have to be nominated by a student organization. And there is a pretty intense application process where you have to talk to us about why are you UNO proud and how do you represent, UNO so, I mean, I'm not gonna lie, it's a homecoming court and somebody gets a crown at the end of it, but we do our best to make it meaningful.

S Senator Noble 33:04
Time

V VPLA LeBlanc 33:10

time has been called we will move along. Next, we have no old business, no new business,

no nominations or appointments. open forum We have 12 minutes. anybody like to start us off?

S

Senator A. Johnson 33:39

Senator Amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts. Thank you both. I would like to bring up the issue at Pontchartrain Hall with the new lights that they have for Ben Franklin, that has taken away parking spots from residents that live there. I feel that that was personally unfair especially now that we have an influx of students. We do have students that do commute sometimes so I feel like it's unfair that they would have to walk all the way from the HPC to their Hall. Of course, there's new security, roads are blocked off, which is great, especially with, you know, the break ins that they had, but it's still kind of terrifying, especially with a young lady that would be walking from the HPC to Pontchartrain Hall, but that's my input on that.

S

Senator Plasse 34:45

Senator Linda Plasse sophomore at large I did just want over on the topic of lights. I did want to bring up how in the courtyard between North and South hall, half of the lights are out and as someone who often walks alone in the dark because I have a dog On campus as an emotional support animal, having like our direct housing area be completely unlit for most of the time is kind of scary. And I just really feel like that is something that should be addressed and rectified on a sooner basis, it seems like nobody's working towards that. Also today in the holes, they were working on the elevators and it smelled like natural gas for a long time, which gave me a headache. I don't know what that was about, but I did just want to mention it.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 35:31

Thank you for that information. Senator Fretz?

S

Senator Fretz 35:43

Haley Fretz graduate at large, something that was brought up in the exec meeting by myself, I just wanted to put it out there. When we have things that we're like looking to do as an SGA, when it comes to donations, or events, or whatever it may be, I know that all of us are in different financial standpoints in our life, different locations across the state, sometimes over the country now that we're in this crazy little zoom world. But I just wanted to put it out there if anyone ever needs help purchasing stuff for the drives that we do, when we get back to things where you might need a ride. I'm here to assist you guys in

SGA. But I'm also here to help you as a friend, I have a Venmo account, you can shoot me \$5 I'll go to the grocery store and pick up the non perishables anyway, that I can help make sure that we're you know, representing the SGA the best way possible I am here for so if you need me, I can help. I did the donating for the Laura drive. And I know there was a little small, little proportional thing. So if anybody needs help, you can't don't have access to the grocery store. You know, even just \$1 if every senator donated \$1, we would have had, you know, 20 items that I could have picked up from \$1 store and sometimes even cheaper if you go to you know, the Kroger or I'm thinking I'm not even in Louisiana to a Winn Dixie or whatever, any grocery store. So just wanna put that out there if anyone ever needs help picking something up a ride or anything I can do to assist on that kind of stuff. I'm really happy to help because we'll be helping others.



VPLA LeBlanc 37:17

Center senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies I want to thank Haley for that for that offer and appreciate your willingness to be a support. Um, I want to make a little lighter note, and I would like to know if it's possible. If my name could still be first on the list since my first name begins with an A and Wyatt it begins with a W. Senator LeBlanc, please respond.



Joy Ballard 38:03

The rule simply states that role must be called an alphabetical order. It does not say about what name.



Senator A. Johnson 38:24

Senator Amber Johnson I would like to say the same thing.



Senator Beachy 38:26

Senator Wyatt beachy freshmen at large. I feel attacked right now.



Senator Fretz 38:39

Haley, Fretz graduate at large I wish everyone could hear my laughter I'm cracking up and love it.



VPLA LeBlanc 38:50

Okay, so now that I got myself together, Senator Bellow. As advisor Ballard stated, the role will be called an alphabetical order. And it just so happens that Bel is a little behind Bea. Okay. Senator Beachy. Welcome to SGA!



Senator Plasse 39:16

Senator Linda Plasse sophomore at large. Okay, so I had been talking to Jason right. He had to leave but he asked if I could talk about a potential resolution he wants to implement that will implement mental health days in place of having no spring break. And he said we will be putting out a survey tomorrow for student feedback and he just wanted to run it by the Senate to hear opinions and if anyone has specific questions, they can email him and I can put his email in the chat for everyone. So this is basically just to make up for our different amount of break days. I know a lot of people have been struggling. As we've talked about how everyone's kind of feeling swamped. And so the lack of breaks, like our fall break, and spring break being taken away is just we're kind of running on empty. So implementing mental health days would really help the student population. And it would, it would help increase just overall productivity since we would have more time to actually think and process. I did put his email in the chat. If anyone has questions about it. I can also put my email in the chat if anyone has questions. But we just wanted to kind of get general feedback on the subject and what a thoughts anyone had.



Senator Crenshaw 40:36

Senator Crenshaw, College of biological science, I think that would be a great idea. Because I've been talking to people as well. And everybody's kind of like, more on edge than what was already happening. Because it seems like it's just like school has invaded every part. And every inch of everybody's lives now due to being online as well, even if you are like just half online, because I still go in for labs, and it's just been a lot. And then we haven't really had any breaks. And even with, November 3, like, technically that is in a break, that's like voting day. But exactly after that, it's like, I have a final, I have an exam. So even after I go vote, I still have to run home and study for an exam that I have the next day. So I feel like this would be something super helpful.



Senator Bellow 41:41

Senator Alex Bellow, Interdisciplinary Studies. Regarding November third, I haven't seen an email where the university sent out an email saying, this will be an off day. Um, I haven't gotten any notice from any professors saying that they've adjusted the syllabus.

So what's the communication process?

S

Senator Plasse 42:07

Linda Plasse sophomore at large. So for that process, we had contacted president Nicklow, and he had said that he would put out a statement about it, but I have not seen one. I do know that the academic calendar and student calendar on the website have been updated to reflect the new date change. But not all professors were informed of it. I know some people have come to me saying they still have exam scheduled for that day because their professors were not informed. So if we could get someone to just put out a formal statement or or like a school wide email, even if it's just from President Nicolas saying, Hey, this is what's going on. I feel like it would be really helpful because a lot of people that I've spoken to didn't know it was now holiday. Because there was no formal communication about it. So thank you for bringing that back up.

S

Senator Fretz 42:51

Haley Fretz graduate large, since we're on the subject in that email, can we make sure it's really known that SGA did this because I, my teachers were kind of like, oh, the university's cutting classes, and I had to jump in and say, actually, the Student Government Association made that happen. So if whoever sends that email could make sure that's nice and bold, that'd be great.

J

Joy Ballard 43:15

on that note, I will reach out to administration because I just went through my email, because I thought that did go out and it did not. So I'll follow up on that. Also, Jullianne does have power to email the entire student body, she cannot email all faculty. But worst case scenario, Jullianne can send an email saying that the President signed it and then you know, we can do it that way. I'll make sure something happens this week.

S

Senator Mott 43:46

I want to go back to what I'm to what Senator Plasse was talking about, um, this is Brendan Mott Jr. at large, so that the mental health days but it'd be days built in the calendar like a random Monday we dont have school or a random Friday we don't have school? Or would it be like you could get an excused absence for taking a mental health day?



VPLA LeBlanc 44:10

VPLA Leblanc, that's something that we probably have to work out with administration, when it comes to that, and how that will look. I would think mental health day will be classified as an excused day for everyone. But we would just have to see because one thing I do know guys with the hurricanes we did cancel class, I think once or twice in the quote unquote, the hurricanes that were coming in this way that blew the roof off the place. You know, so that we have to also make sure that and they do to have to make sure that we are technically in school a certain number of days. I told you guys, I'm open to all ideas. This is something that I think would be great. And something that I think we can do and we can take with to the administration, but it's really up to how they see fit. You know what's best for the University at the end of the day.



Senator Plasse 45:18

Senator Plasse sophomore at large. I'm sorry, I did just want to add, I do believe that what Jayson was envisioning is more of days that would be built into the calendar. But I do know, it would be possible to maybe talk to Amy King about something about like having mental health days, I do know students have been having issues contacting her though, as I have brought up in the past. And then just on the topic of potential resolutions or bills, I did just want to mention, I have kind of been in process with one about potentially building a dog area on campus.



Senator Noble 45:52

time



Senator Mott 45:52

Motion to extend time, Brendan Mott Junior large,



Senator Plasse 45:56

seconded, Linda Plasse sophomore at large.



VPLA LeBlanc 46:02

To continue my statement, I was just making to potentially put a dog run on campus for assistance, animals or service animals that live in the dorms. I have kind of touched on this in the past, but I just wanted to bring it up to see if anyone had any ideas, or if anyone

knew how we could get like the master plan of campus, because I do know that that is one of the issues. Let's see. Yeah, and for those who didn't see, advisor Ballard put in the hurricane days wouldn't affect that. Because they are like, there's a certain amount of required hours, but they start over each semester. And then, sorry, Brendan, I know you were trying to talk. So I'm done with my little statement.

S

Senator Mott 46:42

Okay, I was going to say the same thing you were saying about talking to Amy King about the mental health days idea, because she should probably be in the loop on it if as students are able to take mental health days. But another question I had was about your dog park thing? Um, do you have any locations where you think it would be a good idea to build something like that? Have you? Have you looked at the campus master plan?

S

Senator Plasse 47:14

Linda Plasse sophomore at large. So I haven't been able to like get a copy of the official master plan of campus. I know when we had begun talking about this, though, we had talked about potentially putting it behind South Hall because that is a large grassy area. And I know that is where residents do already walk their dogs. The issue with that, though, is that it does face the street. And it would be very easy for outsiders to walk on campus and utilize it. So we would just have to figure out how to basically like section off and see like what the rules surrounding it would be.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 47:51

thank you for that information, guys. I would highly encourage that we, you know, continue these conversations with the proper departments as well as a recommendation. So that way, we can continue to get more feedback on this. Does anyone else have anything else to say? Before I mentioned something that I received today?

S

Senator Clotilde Lair 48:16

Senator Clotilde Lair College of Engineering for the Mental Health Day? Basically, as I understand that you're saying a day where the students absence will be excused, correct?

S

Senator Plasse 48:35

Linda plasse sophomore at large as me, and I believe Desmond had stated that would kind of be more so up to administration, because we can't, like physically control the way

that they choose to proceed with it. It will really depend on how many days or hours we already have planned or allotted. It starts over next semester, I think next semester is when Jayson is really trying to implement this. So it'll really depend on how like the faculty responds to this idea. My whole thing is if it's something that's excused student by student basis, I don't think that would be a great idea because there's still work and things that they will have to make up. And I'm sure some people would take advantage of it and do it anyways. But I think it would be more stressful in the end for the students. I do believe what Jayson intended is four days to be like physically built in like, pretty much like on official holidays, I believe. But again, we can't predict what administration's response is going to be to this. But if we can make more like just off days on campus, I think that would be very beneficial to students.

S

Senator Clotilde Lair 49:47

Yes, I agree. Thank you.

S

Senator Mott 49:49

Brendan Mott Jr. at large. I have this idea of why it was done I don't know the hundred percent truth on it on why the breaks were taken away in the first place. I know it has something to do with COVID. But I'm not completely sure.

J

Joy Ballard 50:06

Advisor Ballard yes, the reason that they got rid of breaks was so that students don't travel. So basically, if we give y'all a spring break, and you all go to Florida and catch COVID, you won't come back and give it to me and I don't want it. And that is basically the argument is that if we don't give you time to travel, so we'll just make this semester shorter, and you can do whatever you want this summer when you're not next to me. Same concept with thanksgiving. We didn't want people to go see their families over Thanksgiving, and then have to fly back here. We'd rather you just go home, hang out with your family and finish the semester. I understand that that is not a perfect system. But that was the reasoning behind the decision.

S

Senator Clotilde Lair 51:09

Senator Clotilde Lair. Could we propose that we have shorter more spaced outbreaks so that we actually still have a break and we're still more productive, but we're not going anywhere?



Joy Ballard 51:26

Advisor Ballard I believe that that is what Jason's plan is, is like if you get a random Wednesday off, you're not going to Florida on a random Wednesday, but you can take a nap and get your life together on a random Wednesday. So yes, I think that that's the plan of this proposal is just to give breaks that still allow students to take a break, but don't give you the opportunity to you know, break the rules.



Senator Noble 51:56

Senator noble College of Business, um, for the mental health days, can you also propose maybe therapy also was not just having a day off. I know on campus, there is, therapist or counselor on campus because I've been, so maybe we can also push that just so if they're stressed out or they might need someone to talk to they have that outlet.



Senator Plasse 52:24

Linda Plasse sophomore at large, I think that is an excellent idea. Senator noble, I think really promoting not just like the having a break, but utilizing it to really get your life together. I know, the counseling services and the hub have done some events and like they just had a mindful yoga Monday recently. But if we could maybe include more posts or more tips, or even just like make a group to kind of talk about frustrations, I think that would also benefit students. Because I know a lot of us are just feeling swamped and tired and without the breaks, like it's just non stop work. And professors I know are assigning a lot more assignments this semester, because they feel like that's how they're going to get us to learn but it's just making people so tired. So I think that your idea is really good. I appreciate that.



Senator Bellow 53:12





Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies along the lines of this mental health conversation, I would also like to add and encourage my colleagues here, these next 13 days are going to be brutal on social media. So if you're already in a fragile place, it might be smart to take a break. Because it's all or nothing for these next couple of weeks. So I'm backed out of it. And I'm encouraging other people who may be already stressed out with life to consider that.



VPLA LeBlanc 53:57

All righty, thank you for all those wonderful things. If there is nothing else, I will entertain a

motion to adjourn.

-  Senator Bellow 54:07
Motion to adjourn, Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies motion to adjourn.
-  VPLA LeBlanc 54:14
Is there a second second?
-  Senator A. Johnson 54:16
Senator amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts.
-  VPLA LeBlanc 54:19
Alright, so moved. I adjourn this meeting at 5:56pm. You guys enjoy the rest of your week.
And I will see you all on next Wednesday. Bye, guys.