

March 17 Senate Meeting




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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Joy Ballard, Senator Clotilde Lair, Unknown, Senator Mott, Senator Bellow, President of SAC, Senator Crenshaw, President Romero, VP Jayson Ray, VPLA LeBlanc

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-  VPLA LeBlanc 01:19
I now call this meeting to order at five or 5pm. Senator bellow. At this time would you mind being my temporary parliamentarian?
-  Senator Bellow 01:33
No Problem
-  VPLA LeBlanc 01:34
Okay. I will now call the roll. When you hear your name please let me know that you're here. ***Roll Call*** With 12 out of 15 senators present, we do meet quorum guys. Alright. So, the next item on the agenda is approval of the agenda. Does anyone have any issues with this week's agenda? Okay, Hearing none it is approved. Next is approval of the minutes of the minutes. Sorry, we did receive minutes today. advisor Ballard that was February the 24th. Is that correct? Okay. So if anyone took a looked at them, are there any corrections to the minutes? Alight, Hearing none, we will move along. It is approved. Next is communications and announcements. Are there any non senate SGA related announcements from anyone?



Senator Bellow 04:56

Senator Alex Bellow IDS special election if you live in district two, congressional district two congressional congressional district five early voting is over. The election is March 20th, of course, polls open 6am to eight o'clock pm. I encourage you to vote.



VPLA LeBlanc 05:22

Thank you for that Senator bellow. So yes, that is district two congressional district two and congressional district five. So if you didn't do early vote, you have another chance. All right. Anybody else? communications and announcements non SGA related. Okay. Next is committee reports. Governance does governance have a report? No report? Okay. Rules is not here. Finance does have a report to give me one second. I will definitely pull that up and share that with you all. She did send it to me. Here it is. She said" from Senator Haley, Fretz chief of Finance. I want to first apologize for my absence last meeting and for my current absence. school and meetings are unfortunately, unable to both fit in my schedule at this present time. Senator Alex bellow has so graciously offered to proxy for me from now on. I want to ensure you all I am still working hard on SGA matters outside of the meeting time. And I will continue to update you through our VPLA with continued finance reports. Major notes still waiting to hear from Dr. Goalz about further information on reserve account, hoping to get the goal on the hand sanitizer locations soon. So we can get funds and begin ordering and setup. Please let me know if you would like to help put them together and put them out for use, of course safely. I already have one senator who has agreed to assist. And I would love spending time with any of you. If anyone has any questions, comments, concerns or need anything, please reach out to me via email." And I will put her email in the chat. Right. This case for email. If anyone has any questions for Haley also email her as well. All right. So the next item on the agenda is student Affairs . Does student affairs have a report for us today.



Unknown 07:53

No report.



VPLA LeBlanc 07:55

Thank you, on campus dining and housing. Do you have a report? No report? All right. Thanks. Next is other reports. Madam President, do you have a report?



President Romero 08:08

I do.



VPLA LeBlanc 08:09

Thank you.



President Romero 08:15

I have a pretty long report. So bear with me, guys, and gals. So we have official graduation dates, may 19, may 20. We don't know who's graduating on what day because it's going to be split up by colleges most likely. But those are definite dates. So at least you can take those days off or inform your parents or whoever's coming to support you for graduation to take time off. The reason why they don't sure yet is because according to city laws or city guidelines for COVID. Currently, the number of people per graduation ceremony is only 250. And since we can't we're not going to have it outside anymore. Because the baseball stadium is too expensive to rent out for two days, it's going to be moved to inside their arena and it's an inside space, so it's only 250 people. They're trying to negotiate with the fire marshall so and are hopefully seeing an increase in the amount of people who can be there. So the next couple of weeks, they should let us know how many people can be in there. Another note on graduation, graduation caps and gowns are available at the bookstore. You have to bring your ID. I'm just going to say this from my personal experience Be aware that they do run small. So you might want to try them on when you get home to see if they fit. I don't know why they don't tell you this but there are plus size options. Im five two and I am not skinny whatsoever. So that did not fit me well. So I had to get a plus size and the size up. So just to kind of keep that in mind. They let me exchange it with no problem. They said they were going to sanitize my, my gown that I had before, I hope they didi, because if a lot of people are having issues with the sizes, and a lot of people return the gowns, that might be a problem. Anyways, that's what's going on with caps and gowns. I do think that we have SGA chords, I think Joy can speak more on that, but we do have SGA chords i'm pretty sure, but you can't wear them to the ceremony. You can only wear academic chords and stoles. So that's that kind of sucks, but whatever. Um, let's see, the next Mental Health Day is April 8. I'm gonna keep trying to make more Instagram posts, I've been kind of trying to keep up with Canva a lot, and keep up with our social media. Everything that I say, in this report, I'm gonna make an Instagram post. Administration asked if we could do that y'all have been asking for social media to be marketed better. So that's what I'm gonna try my best to do.. I am in office three days a week. So hopefully I can maintain it. So I'm going to advertise the Mental Health Day. On the Mental Health Day, they can't tell professors to cancel class, but they can very much discourage any assignments on those days. That's what the Mental Health Day is apparently. COVID vaccines, we have a masked event, you can register at a link

that joy will post in the chat. It's May 27, which is a Saturday 8am to 1pm, you have to register on that link. And if you can't make it that day, but you you're going to be around coming soon. In New Orleans, email me and I will get you in contact with a partnership we have with Tulane and there's openings for you to go get a vaccine. So if you can't find a appointment that works for you, or if there's just no appointments, because a lot of people in New Orleans are doing the vaccines, and appointments are being used up quite a bit. Just reach out to me. We have a student complaint process that Dr. Golz had sent me recently. I'm gonna also advertise that on social media. And it's for any kind of complaint literally. On the form it says if you can reach out to whoever the complaint is for first before filing the complaint, like just trying to keep up with the proper chain of command, that would be great. But if you do have a complaint that you feel is huge, and someone in administration needs to hear it, then you would fill out that form. Um, some exciting news. We have talked to administration today and they are going to continue the steps forward to possibly implement an advisor review, kind of how we do for professors by mid semester review and advisor review which is very needed because a lot of people have issues with advisors know scheduling their classes wrong or they can't graduate on time because classes were wrong. So administration really like that idea thanks to SAC president Eric Martinez, who's kind of brought up the idea so they're going to talk to the people who I think it's the registrar, maybe not the registrar, maybe that's wrong person they say someone who's name is Kara, she does the she does the reviews. And they're going to try to figure out if it's going to be the same format as the professor reviews or if it's going to be on Moodle, or web star or whatever platform they want it on but it should be about the same thing. And lastly, this is just a personal thing. I am moving back home to Lafayette next week, so I will not be physically in my office. But I am reachable on my email on my cell phone. If you want my cell phone number, I'll give it to you or like Yo, just reach out to me for anything you need. But that's it. He said time. that's all.



VPLA LeBlanc 15:07

Does anyone have any questions for the president at this time?



Senator Bellow 15:11

I do. Alex bellow Interdisciplinary Studies. Regarding graduation. Um, I didn't catch is it in person or virtual.



President Romero 15:22

So as of now it's going to be in person, whether or not people can attend other than the graduates is questionable, depending on how many people can be in the stadium. So,

because of the 250 people limit, we might have to do like 10 ceremonies versus like, six, which is a lot. That's why it's on two days. And they're gonna try to situate that. there's no definite details yet on like, the structure of it. All I know, for sure, is may 19, and may 20, for the two days.

S

Senator Bellow 15:52

Okay so the next question, you mentioned the 250 capacity, which I'm not understanding, because Take, for instance, the Smoothie King center when the pelicans play, they're now up to 3700. So why are we still being kept? Well, I know you don't have an answer for the mayor and anybody else. But I think that needs to be asked up. Why are we being kept to 250. You know, graduation is a really big deal. And we're just arbitrarily holding numbers down to a minimum. I think that is completely unfair, especially considering the progress that's been made in the city of new orleans. So I would like it to be brought up. Why is this 250 in place?

P

President Romero 16:46

That was Dr. Nicklow's response to because on the city guidelines, there's like literally a part that says graduations, and it's like, for any secondary University, or whatever, like so high schools, middle schools, anything that has a graduation ceremony, they're only allowing to 250 people per the city guidelines. So it's not Dr. Nicklows guidelines its the city. So that's why they're so mad is because these other things that are going on around the city have a way larger capacity, and they want us to have a large capacity as safely as we can. So they're trying their best to make that number go up before they give us definite days on when each of us are graduating.

S

Senator Bellow 17:43

Okay, typically, people don't get drunk at graduations, but they get slapped and drunk at basketball games and inhibitions get lowered. So none of that makes sense. So I'll complain to the to the to the mayor.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 18:36

Okay. I believe time was called.

S

Senator Mott 18:39

Yeah, yeah. It's basically times up now. Yeah.



VPLA LeBlanc 18:42

Okay. We'll move along. unless anybody wants to object and have any more questions for the President. Okay, hearing none, Thank you, Madam President. We'll move on to the vice president. Vice President Ray, do you have an up report for us?



VP Jayson Ray 19:00

Yes, I do. All right. All right. So pretty basic report this week. The amount in the senate operating account is \$36,488.68. The re serve account is \$193,088. We're also working on getting the budget committee put together right now. budget requests are going to be due April 8. So we'll be starting meetings. Shortly after that. I have gotten I think two emails so far. So we have at least a little bit of stuff to talk about. So just keep an eye out. For more information about the budget and I yield my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 19:48

Any questions for the vice president? Hearing none, we'll move along. Thank you Mr. Vice President. Next is vice president of Legislative Affairs. That would be me. Hello, everyone. Another cool week to see everyone that's here. Um, I do want to start off by saying about the beautification update we went, was a great time. We then had a meeting with the administration today, Dr. NickLow is in favor of us with the beautification project, or projects. So he also asked, if we wanted to partner with ABM, he would reach out to them, depending on when we want to do this beautification project, and have them assist us with whatever projects we work on. Now, whichever ones we want to do is totally up to us. If we want to just do one, we can do one, if we want to do the whole campus, we can do the whole campus. That's kind of exaggerating, but yeah, you know, they would help give us a helping hand. During that. Dr. Nicklow did mention where the cove is, there's a plaque by the fountain, with student government. I forgot what year that took place. But he said that, that could be something that we would do again. So he said that there could be definitely something that we could work on, I think, you know, just from walking around Friendship Circle, it seems to be a wonderful place that a fountain should be. Just putting that out there. Nevertheless, so that's something that we can work on. Um, as Hayley mentioned, about the sanitizer biill, that's something that she's very passionate about, we will definitely, you know, try to get that going with her. And seeing, you know, we can get that done before she graduates. She's not here today. But I wanted to make sure I put that in my report. The last thing that I have in my report. So the National PanHellenic Council, President nphc, for short, had a meeting that I was in attendance with, because I am a part of nphc. And I'm a part of a fraternity here on campus. It seems as though their plots that are by the bus stop has to be moved. So yeah, the NPhC does have plots on campus. I know this very well. They have to be moved, this is the second year that these talks have

come up. Because of COVID the conversation has come back up that they have to be moved, and they will be reaching out to Senate for assistance with that in whatever way we can. They've been told that the structure has to be changed when it is moved. So what that will be at this time not sure. But once we get to that point, you guys will be updated. A bill will also be coming in the near future from the nphc what the details are at this time I'm unaware of but I just wanted to put that on you guys's radar because it is coming and they will have to move from that current location so this will be actually hopefully the third and permanent time that that area is moved. Okay, I'm done. Are there any questions for me at this time?

S

Senator Mott 23:57

Brendon mott jr at large So what exactly do you mean by the structure has to be changed? Like you said it has to be moved, but what exactly do you mean by changed?

V

VPLA LeBlanc 24:08

What I mean by that is it won't look like it looks now. It will literally be you from the conversation. There's going to be concrete involved maybe benches last thing that I saw, which was last year, it was gonna be like almost like podium style stuff. It was very different than what the traditional plots would look like. I do know they have been told that Dillard University is working on something like this and another schools in the city. Now what that is, I don't know. But my goal and I'm sure the president of nphc's goal is also to keep it as original as possible. The university we've been told is moving to a more unison look. Yeah. So with that in mind, There is talks about coming to a happy medium as far as that goes. And once that happens, you guys will know as well, the design and all of that will have to come before SGA as well. I mean beforehand if they are if they're asking us for any money. Any more question?

S

Senator Bellow 25:20

Alex bellow IDS. So I'm not familiar. So can you explain to me what a plot is?

V

VPLA LeBlanc 25:25

the plots are NPHC calls them plots, it's literally a an area on campus, if you go by the, between the performing arts building in the bus stop, nphc plots, those are where the benches are, that is outlined for all of the historically, African American Greek life here on campus, that is where their benches and stones and bricks are located together is called the NPHC plots.

S Senator Bellow 26:03
Okay, and, and the university is requiring it to be moved, you're saying this would be now the third time and it would, which the reason it's being moved.

V VPLA LeBlanc 26:16
So just for a brief quick history, it was moved from from underneath trees by the library, because of tree sap that was damaging the structures. So they moved them over there where they are now, little did they know at that time that they're sitting on top of the university's main water pipes. If something ever happens, and they need to bust the ground up, they will destroy the area, and they don't want that. So that's why I say hopefully this third time will be the permanent time that those are moved, because you don't really want to disrupt and disturb that area.

S Senator Bellow 27:00
Okay, thank you.

V VPLA LeBlanc 27:01
You're welcome. Any other questions? All right, hearing none, we'll move along. Next vice president of programming, president of sac, Eric Martinez

P President of SAC 27:19
Yes, hello. My updates SAC's kind of reworking the schedule of things. But exciting news. We're gonna have like, a big kind of nice carnival. We're still working on all the details. But that's like, that's kind of the only thing I have. But it's gonna be fun whenever we find out when that is. Oh, and I yield my time for questions.

V VPLA LeBlanc 27:51
Are there any questions for the president of sac? Hearing none, we will move along. Thank you, Eric. Next is the advisor Ballard. Do you have report for us?

J Joy Ballard 28:07
new election starting tonight at midnight. So I guess technically tomorrow. Anyway. Elections start they roll until Friday. Go vote. Yeah, and other than that, that's really all I've

got on this week. I've already told y'all y'all should come to leadership retreat, but I'm going to say it again. Because it's going to be fun. Um, and other than that, yeah, the weather's gonna be bad tonight. It's gonna be really rough. Hope you're somewhere safe. Stay where you're at. Be careful. That's it. Y'all got any questions for me?

S Senator Bellow 28:48
Where's the link to Alex bellow IDs? Where's the link to vote?

J Joy Ballard 28:54
The vote link you will get it in your email. So it comes directly to us so that each person can only vote fairly.

S Senator Bellow 29:04
election fraud? Yeah. Okay.

J Joy Ballard 29:07
You know, we try to keep it fair. They're so competitive. We gotta make sure you're not breaking the rules.

S Senator Bellow 29:12
We do not need any more stolen elections in this country.

J Joy Ballard 29:21
We moderate the debate earlier. We really stayed on time everybody listened. Not like this US elections. No part of that.

V VPLA LeBlanc 29:31
Impressive. Okay, so moving along a lot. Before we do that. Are there any other questions for the advisor? Okay, hearing none, we will move along to there's no old business. There's no new business nominations and appointments will be happening next week along with a bill that I got, and open forum. So now we are on open forum. This is 12 minutes for anything for the betterment of SGA

S Senator Bellow 30:07
Alex bellow IDS. I hope this fits here. But I have a bill coming up. Is this the right place to talk about that? Okay, I have a bill coming up on behalf of the public administration department. They're wanting to host a virtual world gala for pasa, which is public administration, students and alumni. So it is open to all students. The bill I received today it's like 1500 bucks or some somewhere around that. So um, I'm hoping you all can see the value in that and supporting our fellow students who are public administration students, and as well as you know, our alum so I should be bringing that bill to the floor for debate. I believe next week unless the VPLA find some discrepancies with it.

V VPLA LeBlanc 31:38
Are there any other things for the betterment of SGA?

S Senator Crenshaw 31:45
Senator Crenshaw, Senator of biological sciences. kinda wanted to ask about the beautification bill, because like, you talked about it briefly, but I didn't really catch a lot of what you were saying.

V VPLA LeBlanc 32:00
Yeah, absolutely. So we had the meeting with administration. Administration has stated that they are on board with us doing the beautification project or projects. I brought up that we talked a lot about Friendship Circle because of the history of friendship circle. Dr. Nicklow mentioned to me about the fountain thats by the cove. Apparently, SGA spent money in that area. And I think the fountain was sponsored by SGA. If I'm not mistaken, joy?

J Joy Ballard 32:37
You are correct. We bought all the furniture for that building as well as the fountain.

V VPLA LeBlanc 32:43
Gotcha. So he said, if that's something that we're interested in doing, again, for another project for this year, we can he said, in fact, he would like for us, I didn't mention this, he would like for SGA kind of spearhead where we do some sort of daily practice where we can continue that tradition of enhancing campus. Every year, he wanted to do something

like that for the seniors. He tried it twice and it failed for a senior project. So he said if this is something that is starting with this year, but uh ABM is also going to be partnering with us if we decided to do any project,

S Senator Crenshaw 33:29
what is ABM?

V VPLA LeBlanc 33:32
That's the new facility services

S Senator Crenshaw 33:37
they wanted to do like something similar before?

V VPLA LeBlanc 33:42
Well, no, so what No, what I said was, the university president tried to do something and spearhead seniors doing something twice and it didn't didn't go as planned. So he would really like if SGA is interested in doing something like this on a yearly basis if we would be the ones to spearhead that starting through SGA where if we do it you know, Senate does it this year, next year, the next senate could pick a project to work on campus that we you know, we can keep get a tradition going in SGA

S Senator Crenshaw 34:18
so we still have to do like a bill and stuff or would we just like just started

V VPLA LeBlanc 34:25
well, if we needed to do it a bill this would have to be a build issue. But if it's something that is becomes a tradition, I know we can allocate funds for it. At some point we can do it this year probably. Or something like that. No more questions?

S Senator Mott 35:12
Okay, actually did I have something I want to bring up but I also have a further point with the campus beautification. If we want to do a Friendship Circle, beautification project, how would we start that?

- S** Senator Crenshaw 35:59
Senator Crenshaw College of biological science because it's like, UNO has a habit of like saying stuff. And then when it's time to actually like do stuff. It either goes off the rails, or like, people get phased out, and I just want to make sure that we keep control of this project and also never gonna have credit.
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 36:21
Can you guys hear me?
- S** Senator Mott 36:25
Now we can.
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 36:39
To answer that question, we could choose the area that we want to work on. Jullianne will inform the President and the president of the university will get us partnered with ABM to help us with anything that we may need
- S** Senator Mott 37:02
Brendan Mott Jr. at Large we come up with an area and agree on it maybe as the senate like that we want to focus on first, that way we can actually do it?
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 37:33
Yes, we can pick the area? Yes. Just let me know. And we will let the president know. So that we ABM can assist us because he would like to know what we're doing.
- S** Senator Crenshaw 37:50
Have we already started talking to like some of the professors in a biological science department about like native plants?
- V** VPLA LeBlanc 37:59

To my knowledge, I have not I don't think the university has. If that's something that you guys are interested in doing, we could. We did look at the biological sciences courtyard. And that's another area that you guys want to look at. Again, it's just all up to what SGA wants to do. What projects do we want to work on this year? We just have to plan those out.

S

Senator Mott 38:33

Brendan Mott Jr. at large I personally am for the Friendship Circle first, because that is something like a lot of people see. We even talk about it during campus tours. I give campus tours. We literally pass it pointed out and like hey, this is the Friendship Circle rumor has it that if you make a friend here, they'll be your friend for life. So like I think it's an area that's very well advertised that everybody sees between classes. I personally think out of those few that we've said which is the the liberal arts courtyard, the two science courtyards, I believe that that's probably the first one we should focus on. . And if anyone disagrees feel free to say which one you think we should go with first?

V

VPLA LeBlanc 39:25

Why don't I just reach out to you all to see who's interested in in this beautification project. And if all of senators interested, then we can just have a segment on the beautification. If not, then we can create an ad hoc committee where those individuals can talk about this beautification project as well. How does that sound?

J

Joy Ballard 39:49

I feel like we've pretty firmly established that all these people here are interested. Like I think we're there. Let's not make this take longer I think we need to pick a project. And I think we need to get moving because there is only a month left in this semester.

S

Senator Crenshaw 40:18

Crenshaw center of biological sciences, we, when we did a walk around, we did agree that the biological science building court yards were beat up, but I agree with Brendan. People do see the Friendship Circle more so I feel like that would be like a good starting place. And then we should eventually move on to the arm to the courtyards, and a biological science buildings. And then I feel like it shouldn't take that long, because like, you know, in theory, like I've garden and stuff, and dirt, flowers, and all that it doesn't cost that much. So we should be able to move relatively fast. And then all we would need is the people to rip up the plants that's already in there, and then replace the soil, and add the nutrients

and stuff. But we also say that we needed to talk to a biological science professor that specializes in botany. So we could find like, some native plants that we don't just so we don't disturb the native ecosystem. And that's why I'm asking so many questions, because there's a lot of stuff and I like don't know, and I feel like it should have been emailed to us, like while all this stuff was happening.



VPLA LeBlanc 41:41

Are there any other questions? If Not I would entertain a motion to adjourn.



Senator Mott 41:53

Before we adjourn, I want to ask Brendan Mott Jr. at large have we agreed on the Friendship Circle yet? Like, like have we actually agreed on it? only two of us have spoken.



Senator Clotilde Lair 42:03

I agree Clotilde Lair College of engineering.



VPLA LeBlanc 42:11

I tell you what, if there if anybody objects to the Friendship Circle being the first project for SGA is please speak now. With no objections, the official project that we will do for this year's SGA. Senate is the Friendship Circle.



Senator Bellow 42:38

Okay, Alex Bellow IDs. I'm trying to get clarity from a parliamentary perspective that we need to take a vote on anything.



Joy Ballard 42:54

No, because this is open forum. We don't need an official vote, just as long as we have consensus that this is what we're going to move forward to. We will vote on the bill once a bill is presented. We Need administrative approval to get rolling. We need to tell them what we're doing. So we have consensus. Y'all can tell the president we want to do the Friendship Circle, and then we can start getting some quotes because ABM will have to help with that.



VPLA LeBlanc 43:27

All right. So we've come to a consensus the area will be Friendship Circle. Is there anything else that anybody wants to add? Well, then I will entertain a motion for adjournment.



Senator Bellow 43:44

Alex bellow ids motion to adjourn



43:47

Second, ***unknown*** at large.



VPLA LeBlanc 43:51

Okay, so moved. I now adjourn this meeting at 5:48pm you guys have a great day.