

Senate Meeting March 8, 2006

Open Forum

Speaker: Nathan Ball

- ISA putting on "Run Around the World", 5K run
- April 22, 2006
- Huge international base at A&M, have financial problems
- Tine Watkins scholarship, was the Director of International Student Services
- Goal is to raise awareness of international students, want the community involved, focus on children
- Need help putting it together, advertising and fundraising
- <http://runaroundtheworld.tamu.edu>

John Happ

- City council considers students residents, please tell them of issues
- Meetings are at 7 in the evening on Tuesdays
- American Airlines cut 3 flights to Easterwood
- Concerning Wright Amendment
- Want more students to fly American out of Easterwood to help counter this Amendment

Special Presentations

Joseph Pettibon: Executive Director for Student Financial Aid

- Financial Aid Data
- 75% of students at A&M are on financial aid (14000 work on campus)
- Rising unmet need level (students not taking money due to more conservative living)
- Scholarships and grants rising significantly
- Increase in students from the lower income families
- Impacts:
 - o Reinstatement of waivers, 30 day delay for freshmen, multiple disbursements
 - o Alters fees charged to students who borrow Stafford Loan
 - o Elimination of In-School and Spousal Consolidations
 - o Fixes Stafford interest rate at 6.8% & PLUS at 8.5%
- Loan Changes:
 - o Subsidized Stafford Freshman: \$3500
 - o Subsidized Stafford Sophomore: \$4500
 - o Unsubsidized Stafford Grad: \$12000
- Pell Grant
 - o 2 new programs - need and merit criteria
 - Must maintain a 3.0 to renew for second year
 - Must have completed a rigorous high school curriculum
- Can contact at jjp2@tamu.edu or 845-8260

Josh Peschel: Student Service Fee Advisory Board Chairman

- SSFAB: 9 member board created by the Texas Legislature
- Purpose is to make recommendations to the VPSA regarding student service fees
- Build partnerships with students, administration, academics and community
- 19 departments funded
- 3 returning members
 - o Josh Peshcel: Ph.D student in Civil Engineering
 - o Derek Devine: undergraduate in business administration
 - o Terry Dike: undergraduate in mechanical engineering and business
- 6 New members
 - o Jake Fullwood: MBA candidate
 - o Gabriel Garcia: Finance MBA candidate
 - o Andria Groover: undergraduate in communications and Spanish
 - o Emmanuel Guillory: undergraduate in psychology and business
 - o Tice Parker: undergraduate in industrial engineering and business
 - o Conner Prochaska: undergraduate in political science and history
- What factors do you look for when selecting new members?
 - o Diversity of experience, where they have worked, what level they rose to. Being able to interact between students and administration, money matters (budgeting), capacity to have an open mind
- Is it a conflict of interest for someone running for Senate as well as serving on the board?
 - o He can act in an appropriate manner, will examine it closer as it become a problem.
- Do any of these students take advantage of financial aid and was that considered?
 - o It was not taken into consideration.
- Voted on by Senate, passed, and sworn into office

Old Business

- Senate By-Laws Revision – Impeachment Procedures Bill
 - o No questions
 - o No items of debate
 - o Voted on, 37-0

New Business

- Congruency Bill
 - o First Reading
 - o Clause concerns absence (internal affairs)
 - If the Speaker is unable to reach the Senate member after two absences
 - Inconsistent with current rules as we have policy of 4 and not 2
- Vacancy Appointment Bill
 - o First Reading
 - o Remove the process of vacancy filling of just officers, lets the whole Senate fill the vacancy
 - o Improve the way people are picked for Senate
 - o Any Senator can serve on the committee, no chair, just volunteers
 - o For caucuses with multiple leaders, they will have to decide which one will be on the voting
 - o Committee will have most 70 people, no cap
 - o The committee will not interview nor vote, will only read the applications, rank them "Interview Selection"
 - o The officer and caucus leader will actually pick the new member
 - o Will not start until 59th Session, nor fill final spring vacancies (after officer choosing)
- Computer Access Fee Referendum Bill
 - o Not read

Officer Reports

Student Body President: Jim Carlson

- GSC research week March 27-31, need help
- March 25 Big Event
- Relay for Life, with 93 teams
- AggieEguide: Aggie Pick-A-Prof, support from Faculty Senate
- Working on foreign language institute
- Physical Plant will repair the puddles in front of the MSC
- Presidential Teaching Excellence Award: student government nominates professor to win \$25000
 - o Dr. Jay Amanda Atkinson is being nominated
- Nadine Sadasky was just hired for Food Services
- Off Campus Aggies working hard to putting together a way for students to get rid of furniture easily, can give to people in need of the furniture

Speaker: Will Hailey

- 110 out of 132 appeals were heard and upheld concerning flat rate tuition
- talk of increasing freshman enrollment next year, college of liberal arts and business increasing the most
 - o keep in mind a larger student body
- several colleges are interested in differential tuition, deans are concerned, talk with dean about being part of the process
- Need to give constituents information concerning loan consolidation

Speaker Pro-Tempore: Amanda Lanning

- Seven vacancies
 - o Business, Engineering, Science, Education, Northside, Southside, Off Campus
- Official updated absences available
- Absence policy: every absence is unexcused unless notified within 48 hours
- Write comments about why each legislation was voted the way it was
- Noel Bundick
 - Student Information Security Awareness
 - o A&M when audited was not in compliance in receiving proper training on state computers (every one we use at A&M)
 - o <http://securityu.tamu.edu>
 - o anyone who has access to computers on campus
 - o will take about 30 minutes
 - o not sure what other schools are doing
 - o If you have questions, contact noelbundick@tamu.edu
 - o every student must go through this training once a year
 - Things to consider, accessibility, appeal to students, do students like it, can it be improved

Chair Scott Smith

- Proposed bill concerning computer access fees to have as referendum on up coming election ballot
- Food changes
 - o Can get smoothie and whole meal at Time-Out Deli
 - o Going to get more vending machines in Zachry
 - o Working on healthier southside dining options, putting in similar to 12th Man cafeteria
- Physical Plant
 - o Finding things on campus to have fixed
 - o Just have to take pictures of things on campus and send it to Stephen Longbottom slongbottom@tamu.edu
 - o Would like to compile all data before spring break, deadline for subcommittee, deadline for everyone else asap

- Parking/ Transportation
 - o PA 30F (Lechner lot) will be going back to faculty and staff, will be unreserved parking spots in Northside parking garage, to help counter the 8 lots being shut down within the next year for construction

Chair Jeff Murray

- First reading for ordinance will be two weeks from yesterday
- Next meeting for committee will be March 26 at 5:00
- City Council meeting tomorrow night will concern the I69 corridor, going from Laredo up to Shreveport
 - o Will help out with travel and shipping

Chair Cory Nichols

- Most legislation passed is R&R
- Working on SOPs
- Would like input from all senators on Vacancy Appointment Bill

Chair Frank Barat

- No meeting until March 26 at 7 in Senate Cube
- Differential Tuition a big issue
 - o Committee report is being sent out to every Business student
- Feedback from students is mostly positive, accepting of policy since money will be going to faculty and scholarship
- Applaud Allison Morton on AggieGuide (online pick a prof.)

Whip Kristina Campbell

- No meeting due to Spring Break
- Caucus leaders need to finish reports on what they did for the incoming caucus leader

Open Session

- S.R. 06 (S) 3 Aggie Code of Honor Resolution
 - Want campaign time to be honest and for campaigners to uphold the Aggie Code of Honor
 - If a Senator breaks the Code, they will be punished according to the election regulations
 - Voted in on to the agenda
 - Voted on: 34-2-2 passed
- S.B. 06 (S) 10 Fix BlinnTEAM Students As Officers Rule
 - Voted onto agenda
 - Reason for bill is to correct problems occurring due to students being both Blinn students and Aggies
 - University wide rule
 - Do students pay the same amount as only Aggie students?
 - Students have up to two years to transfer to A&M, have to hold a 3.0

- Rule says you have to be taking at least 6 hours in order to hold office on campus, want to prevent students from just taking online classes
- about 250 students are on Blinn Team
- Blinn team students are considered Aggies, just taking classes at Blinn as well, not considered full time
- can use Aggie bucks, can live on campus, can work on campus, can not participate in sporting events, no sororities, no leadership organizations
- can be leadership at Blinn Team
- Blinn Team members can not be Senators
- Students must maintain 3.0 G.P.R. both at A&M and Blinn Team

Announcements

- Academy for International Leaders
 - Good program about studying abroad and international affairs
- Global Justice
 - Showing a documentary about children in Africa
 - 7:00 p.m/8 p.m. Harrington 207/110
- Check out Aggie Athletics over Spring Break
- Register to vote in Brazos County by April
- Resume is due by 5 Thurs for Election Commission
- Student Service committee meeting TBA