



Student Government Senate  
Texas State University

LBJ Teaching Theater– 7:00 PM  
Sixty-Fourth Session  
September 16, 2024

## Student Government Senate Agenda

### I. Call to Order by Chairman Brown at 7:04

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

### III. National Anthem

### IV. Roll Call

#### Present

- A) Vice President Pro Temp Abby Myers
- B) Parliamentarian Pablo Avellanenda
- C) Senator Dakota Autrey
- D) Senator Jordyn Batson
- E) Senator Carolena Estrada
- F) Senator Adam Long
- G) Senator Abigail Malinak
- H) Senator Alexis Manzanares
- I) Senator Jacob Tagert
- J) Senator Grace Tang
- K) Senator Emma Vega
- L) Senator Ashley Waters
- M) Senator Jordan Williams
- N) Senator Rick Wilson

#### Absent

- A) Senator Patrick Awuah
- B) Senator Aeric Bauer
- C) Senator Haley Black
- D) Senator-Elect Ibrahima Kande

### V. Orders of the Day

- A) Vice President Pro Temp Myers moved the “A Simple Resolution Confirming the Auxiliary Affairs Committee Chair” to emergency
  - 1. Roll call vote, Passed unanimously

**LBJ Teaching Theater– 7:00 PM  
Sixty-Fourth Session  
September 16, 2024**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

**VII. Guest Speakers**

A) Dr. Michael Preston – Associate Vice President for Student Success

1. He is changing the way we think about student success. Introduced himself and his career at UCF and SFA. His goal is to make more students graduate on time which he defined as a timeline catered to you. He also wants to help you manage your budget and make students feel like they got their money's worth. Students should graduate with a career purpose which he defines as the ability to pursue a career at what you want to do. The framework of student success is the cornerstone of his department. Works hard with Dean Holmes on the health and wellbeing of students. Discussed retention, graduation, and transfer rates. He introduced a new system called Navigate app with over 10,000 student users. Many of their key statistics to show student success are alarmingly off of what they should be. Showed the concerns of the student body about their graduation plans with data through the app. New projects that are currently being developed include but are not limited to bounce back program, hiring new campus navigators, collab with tutor.com, and internship connections. Broke down the timeline for navigate app for the next six months.
2. Senator Wilson asked the biggest reason for the "leaky pipeline". Dr Preston said its due to academic probation.
3. Vice Director Romo gave advice to the freshman about which questions so ask during guest speakers via the slide show
4. Freshman council member asks any plans to help with financial aid. Dr. Preston responded by implementing better strategies to reach people, advocating to the feds to increase scholarships and aid, increase student employment
5. Member of the public asked about stress of housing accommodations. Dr. Preston said his department has increased his staff to help the office of disabilities. Applying for new and addition grants that will help with neurodivergent students that need special accommodation within the classroom

B) Valerie Holmes – Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Success

1. Started off by encouraging the new students to mix together and integrate which is a key to success. New to Texas State. She broke leg at the rec and is trying to navigate that along with the new position. Her main job goal is being the primary advocated for students within the administration. Focuses on safety and wellbeing. Has worked in many departments throughout her career at ten institutions. Introduced Dr. Hernandez and other leaders within her department.

**LBJ Teaching Theater– 7:00 PM**  
**Sixty-Fourth Session**  
**September 16, 2024**

Her office includes many departments like alcohol and drug offices, attorney for students, conduct office and many more. Discussed bobcat pause and how important it is to navigate that many students need to be uplifted. Sponsors many of the nontraditional student organizations, foster care students, and parenting students. Counseling center is a key part to the health and success of students and has many different varieties to cater to each student. University health center is no different than any regular health clinic that includes sports medicine, checkups, and urgent care.

2. Vice Director Romo asked about the sleep campaign that was discussed through his committee last session. She said it has been launched through US and RA training.

**VIII.** Vice President Pro Temp Myers motioned to suspend the rules to go out of order on the agenda due to RA meeting that some senators needed to attend

#### **IX. Public Forum**

- A) A student advocating for her fellow disabled students on campus shared her personal experience on campus. A student shoulder checked her and didn't seem to care. Claims there is no place to file these claims or to make a change on campus. Wants Student Government to advocate for proper education and reasonable methods in reporting issues that have hurt disabled students. Wants to increase her rights and make all voices heard.

#### **X. Senate Leadership Reports**

- A) Parliamentarian Avellanenda discussed the nominations and appointments committee will have interviews tomorrow for open senate seats

#### **XI. Vice President's Reports**

- A) Discussed the retreat and welcomed freshman council

#### **XII. Cabinet Reports**

- A) **Chief of Staff**- Said hi to the freshman council
- B) **Director of Freshman Council**- Held first Freshman Council meeting prior to the senate meeting. 48/54 of the accepted members showed and talked about the baseline of the program
- C) **Director of Governmental Affairs**- Attended the senate retreat and discussed great legislation plans. Will attend city of San Marcos planning meeting along with the neighborhood planning meeting and city council meetings this week.



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LBJ Teaching Theater– 7:00 PM  
Sixty-Fourth Session  
September 16, 2024

- D) **Director of Outreach-** This past week she was able to connect with students against violence and Texas state Delights. They are both great organizations and just waiting for dates to be finalized on their end to meet with them. Also, for those that went to the retreat this past weekend she was so happy to have gotten to know everyone in a more personal level.
- E) **Director of Sustainability-** She's spent the last few weeks connecting with the Office of Sustainability and other student organizations to discuss areas of improvement, set goals, and engaging in sustainability efforts on campus.
- F) **Director of Marketing-** She released new reels on Instagram and encouraged Freshman Council to follow the socials. Will be doing a giveaway for the bundle for the SHSU game. Planning on a collab with txtst global.

**XIII. President's Report**

- A) Discussed the senate retreat. Continued to advertise the SHSU game. Had a meeting with the student communication group at Dr. Damphouse's house. She needs everyone to rsvp for the dinner at his house next week as soon as possible. Need to meet at LBJSC at 5:45 and wear the Senate Polo. Freshman Council started today, and this is what she is most excited for.

**XIV. Advisor's Report**

- A) The senate will be having dinner at the Damphouses and the Freshman Council will be invited next semester. Kick off of Hispanic heritage month started today and advertised an event later in the evening. Student Government is about making a change and building a network, and the retreat really helped with this. Said thank you to the guest speakers and emphasized how tightly connected Student Government is to their offices.

**XV. Old Business**

**XVI. New Business**

A Simple Resolution Confirming the Auxiliary Affairs Committee Chair

- A) Made emergency by Vice President Pro Temp Myers
- B) Roll call vote; Pass unanimously

**XVII. Adjourned by Chairman Brown at 8:13**



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**Submitted Director's Reports**

**Director of Finance:**

- Good evening and happy Monday. I hope y'all had a great weekend. This past week I have been very busy with STAR Grant applications. I believe I have received about 5 so far just in the past few days and I can't wait to award more students. Additionally, I worked closely with Olivia and Jess on Org Funding, and I am proud to say we awarded over \$1,000 dollars to Texas State Orgs! Lastly, over the weekend was the Senate retreat where my fellow cabinet and Senate members and I bonded and did leadership workshops throughout the weekend. I cannot wait to continue working and bonding with my fellow cabinet members and y'all throughout the year.

Hello and thank you. My name is Zenith Gonzales. I am a disabled student speaking in concern for disabled students on campus. As I've been a student, I've watched as automatic doors and ramps get overly crowded. There, I've been run into and shoulder checked by people with their eyes down not noticing my presence. I've been nearly run over by scooters and bikes. I've been laughed at. And I have spoken to other individuals that have had similar experiences.

Most recently, while I was on the ramps a young man pushed me out of the way so he could walk in front of me. When I called out, informing him that the ramps were reserved for those with mobility impairments, he simply yelled over his shoulder that he said excuse me. He didn't even look me in the eyes when he said it because he did not deem me worthy of such consideration.

What bothered me the most about this situation was not that I was the victim of simple battery and assault. What bothered me the most was not that I was treated like an object to be moved out of the way in a space built for people like me. What bothered me the most was that this was a reasonable progression of harm. This was a reasonable acceleration of the violence that is permitted on this campus as an accumulation of invisible ableism because unfortunately, for many people, intentional or not, the moment somebody gains a mobility aid is the moment that person becomes invisible.

I soon discovered there were no legitimate methods of reporting. I spoke to ODS, The Dean of Students Office, to Risk Management, and I'm now getting in contact with the ADA. ODS said there's nothing we can do. Risk management and the Dean of Students Office said they've never heard of this problem before.

This lack of reporting is likely as a result of a culture that encourages disabled individuals to remain silent of their mistreatment. We are treated as unworthy of safety, unworthy of advocacy, and unworthy of our place here on campus.

As the student body has grown to record proportions, students have grown frustrated by the lack of parking, the lack of housing, and of the rush to get to class. Unfortunately that frustration is being taken out on us.

I believe as Student Government you provide a voice representing the people that you govern over, and I believe that you have a duty to provide a voice for the people you govern over that are being treated as less than people.

I do not expect you to move the sun and the stars, I simply ask you to be another voice behind me in this advocacy. I ask you to advocate for proper education and harm mitigation. Advocate for signs placed outside of automatic doors and ramps deterring students blocking those paths with bikes and scooters. I ask you to advocate for a reasonable method of reporting on these issues. And I ask you to advocate for the consequences of these actions while centering disabled voices. If disabled individuals on campus are ignored because we have been made to be invisible, I ask you to help make our voice loud enough so that we can no longer be ignored.

But do understand, this is not purely a disability issue. This is an issue of human rights. This is an issue of violence prevention. This is an issue of your peers walking to class and being made to feel like they don't belong here.

I ask you to be a voice saying that disabled students deserve safety, deserve respect, and deserve to be treated like they belong here because we do. Do not simply allow this issue to be pushed aside the same way I was on the ramp that day.

Thank you.