UWF SGA

53rd Senate

January 29th, 2021

1. Call to Order: 2:30pm
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll Call
4. Adoption of Agenda
   * VP Larkin: Are there any amendments to the agenda. We will now move to entertain a motion for the approval of the agenda.
   * Senator Clendennin: I move to approve the agenda.
   * VP Larkin: Is there a second?
   * Unknow: Second
5. VP Larkin: All in favor please say Aye. Is there any opposed? Are there any abstentions? The adoption of the agenda passes.
6. Approval of Minutes
   * VP Larkin: Everyone received the minutes of last weeks senates meeting via email, is there an amendment to the minutes?
     1. None
7. Administrative Address
   * President Saunders: Thank you so much, and I just wanted to take a quick minute and welcome everyone back. It is great to see your faces. I think it has been a good couple of weeks of classes, I think things have gone smoothly, and it’s been really great to see people on campus, more activity, and more cars. It really is a new year; I know it has been a rough year in the past and it has been very challenging for all of us. Everyone has just been champions in how well you have coped and in how well you have adapted. There is hope on the horizon that promises to put things a little more normal, but it is going to be a while. I am in calls every week with the Surgeon General of Florida and he indicated today that it will be about 3 months before they get the people 65 and older vaccinated, so COVID-19 is going to be with us a while. One of the things we are going to do is certainly buckle down on our efforts to keep the campus safe as we can, also double down on our efforts to get creative and to think of those actives that we can do, safely that are just more fun and give us more opportunities to interact. I am really excited about the big weeks that you have planned and keep the ideas coming. I am happy to support them and I really appreciate my student body. I am on the call with other presidents and some of them have challenges that we don’t have here. I appreciate the sprite of working together here, I think that is different, not everyone enjoys that, so you all need to pat yourself on your back for what you have done.
   * Senator Clendennin: I would just like to say thank you for everything the administration done throughout all of this, it has been very unexpected times and it’s great to see us still be able to capture that great UWF magic without having to have a big spike in cases as well
   * President Gardner: Thank you Dr. Saunders for coming so much, we are glad to have you here and to give us great words and updates. We love your leadership so much and you for giving us updates
   * VP Larkin: Thank you again President Saunders for meeting with us today
8. Guest Speaker
   * Dr. LeDuff: I wanted to met with you all today to address some of the changes you might be aware of within the division of Academic Engagement and Student Affairs. As you know Dr. Frye has moved on and became Vice President of Student Affairs at Stephen F. Austin and we wish him well. That meant we had to come up with a plan moving forward, so I am happy to announce today that Dr. Vanee Cao-Nguyen will be filling in as the interim Dean of Students along with her other duties. She is very excited to work with you all, we both are, to continue working to make progress. I also wanted to let you know that we will be doing a search for a new Dean of Students. You may also know that our housing director Neil McMillion also got a position in Alabama and so we will be searching for a new housing director as well. We will have a busy semester coming up and we will be contacting SGA because we would like representation in our searches for SGA. I wanted to make y’all aware of the changes and thank you for your consistent support through all our efforts. One thing I am very excited about is that we are doing a very good job at brining Academic Engagement and Student Affairs together and there is really cool stuff that you guys are going to see rolling out, one being the Big Weeks, that we are doing with different activities and academic support. I hope you all will help us promote that with our students. I think it’s an awesome opportunity for engagement and it really meets the mission of what we want to do for all of us
   * Dr. Cao-Nguyen: I am excited for this opportunity to work with you and to see the work you will do this spring. I am here to support you in any way that you need
   * VP Larkin: Is there any questions for guest speakers?
   * President Gardner: A simple Congratulations to you Dr. Cao-Nguyen, you did a wonderful job and I am proud to have you here and work alongside with you
9. Unfinished Business
   * None
10. New Business
    * None
11. Appointments
    * VP Larkin: Today for our appointments we have Hayley Hill has our secretary, we will welcome her to the call and you will have 2 minutes to introduce yourself
    * Secretary Hill: Hi my name is Hayley, this is my second semester here at UWF. I am a psychology major, I transferred from PSC. A little history with me for leadership, I was a section leader at my high school marching band, at PSC I was the president of the literature club for a year and now at UWF am I part of our Creative Writing club. I was the secretary last semester and I am the president of it this semester. I am very excited to be involved in SGA if you guys would have me. It is definitely an experience I want to get involved in here at UWF. I am just excited to be here
    * VP Larkin: Is there any questions for the appointee?
    * Alby: My question is what brought you to UWF?
    * Secretary Hill: I was born and raised in Pensacola; I always knew I would go to UWF to stay close to home. It was the university I always heard about and it was common sense to go to UWF. To answer the question in the chat, I was part of the West Florida High School marching band and I was the front ensemble section leader.
    * VP Larkin: is there any further questions for the appointee? Seeing as there is no further, we will move into a debate. Is there any debate?
    * Protemp Grant: I am voting in favor of having Hayley as Secretary, she actually reached out to me about the secretary position about a few months ago and she was really excited and wanted to do this job. I have full confidence in her, she has been keeping up to date with me about senate meeting. She actually wanted to attend the December 4th one but she had work, so she couldn’t come. I believe that she will be able to get the job done
    * Chair Johnson: I also wanted to debate in favor of Hayley simply because she is a writer by trade and those of us who have spent some years in SGA know that when you are secretary, minutes can get very lengthy and have a lot of typos and things of that nature. So, I think that she is very qualified for the position. I definitely want to echo what Sydney said, she has already shown that she has been on top of things and that she has interest in being involved. I think she will be great for the position.
    * Senator Clendennin: I would like to debate in favor of Ms. Hill, especially having that writer background and also getting into UWF and immediately wanting to get her feet wet and making her splash on campus. Absolutely love that sprite, I think she could go really far with SGA especially if she became secretary this semester.
    * DoER Lyons: I met Hayley in creative writing club, she is the president. They are great, they do a bunch of different workshops and little meetings. I write a lot poetry myself and they have helped me improve my writing skills. I think she has the skills needed to succeed as secretary and I think she will do well in SGA
    * VP Larkin: Seeing has there is no further debate we will now move into a vote
      1. Vote
         1. Passes
    * VP Larkin: The second appointment of today is Elbert Foster for Election Commissioner. Elbert you will have two minutes to introduce yourself
    * EC Foster: My name is Elbert Foster, I go by EJ, I am from Pamela City Florida and an exercise science major. I have a 3.81 GPA. I work on campus as a fitness monitor at the gym on campus. Prior to coming to UWF, I was pretty active in the community, I helped with youth football and did some training on the side. I was a junior Beacon at my church
    * VP Larkin: Is there any questions for the appointee?
    * Senator Clendennin: What got you interested in being a Election Commissioner?
    * EC Foster: I want to be more active on campus and one of my friends were telling me about this position and this is a great way to be involved on campus and meet new people
    * VP Larkin: Is there any further questions for the appointee? Seeing as there is no further, we will move into a debate. Is there any debate?
    * CoS Gaytan: I will debate in favor of EJ, during his interview he really expressed how much he wants to get involved in campus and he thought being the Elections Commissioner would let him do that. He knows how the important rule of how to be fair and biased when overseeing elections, and that is something he has in mind, because of that he would be great as Election Commissioner
    * Senator Hill: I also have to debate in favor of EJ, I have gotten to know EJ over the course of the semester and he is a very outstanding guy, he really tries. I think that reflects in his GPA. I think he is fit for the job; he is really detail oriented
    * Senator Protemp Grant: I am debating in favor of EJ, he was actually in AASA with me and he was very straightforward. He said I want to be in this club, what can I do to help, what can I do to make sure this club runs really well. Unfortunately, that happened right before COVID, He definitely has the stride and he definitely want to be here.
    * VP Larkin: Is there any further questions for the appointee? Seeing as there is no further, we will move into a debate. Is there any debate?
      1. Vote
         1. Passes
    * Mention blocked swearing
      1. Block swear in
12. Executive Addresses
    * President Gardner: Welcome back to the wonderful of UWF. Congratulations to Dr. Cao- Nguyen and congratulations to EJ and Hayley. Glad to have you here and glad to have your service to the university. We have a minor update on our end, we are planning a code blue with the campus police to talk about interactions and how to be self-aware of your surroundings. We will also be discussing breaking barriers about breaking the stigma of sexual assault and more ways to bring that to light. The last one is campus engagement, which is more of a social media or text wide to get social interaction up more. Finding housing and food on the statewide level and we are also now focusing on sexual assault and how to handle that. Elections are coming up soon.
    * VP Larkin: In Engagement Gateway, I was speaking to Director Lyons to figure out a texting app, so there is a texting app called Remind. I have also been working on a Starbucks project for midterm week, to give students a free coffee. For Freshman Committee, y’all have your mentor and ??? assigned. Hopefully you came by my office, all of y’all have to get your envelope. We will be doing that right after senate, I sent you the link, if you haven’t gotten it just send me an email and I’ll send it your way. We are also working on designing t-shirts for the freshman committee.
    * Senator Arnold: How are elections working this year with signatures?
    * President Gardner: we need to have a discussion with EJ and the supervisor of elections about it
    * CoS Gaytan: We will be launching AgrosAssit this semester again, it went really well last semester, we were able to help a lot of students. We are getting together next week to start promoting it, so we can get in info out there as soon as possible. Last semester I talked about doing a core cycling class outside, I have asked VP Larkin for help and we reached out to recreation and we still have a few meetings to discuss it. We would have to finish up meetings and promotions for that. For the last thing we have been leading the incitive sailboat and we have been breaking down the companies around UWF we have been contacting, to try to get discounts for the students
13. Cabinet Addresses
    * DoC Lamungkun: Like CoD Gaytan, we are done with half of the businesses to call and they are super busy, we already have a lot of names that have agreed with us. I have shirt designs for the freshman committee and another design for their clean up event. We are still looking for election commissioners, the deadline is Monday morning, so spread the word on that.
    * DoDI Milor: Diversity week is going to be is going to be occurring from February 15th to the 18th, we have partner up with OED and we are almost done finalizing our events. We have some guest speakers that are going to be happening on Thursday and with our partnership with OED, all the events happening for the week are going to be counted for the C3 course that C3 officers do and that was one of our main things this semester. The second thing is take back the night, I met with the committee last semester and the date that they scheduled is April 7th. We still a few more meeting to go, as we finalize things, I’ll keep you guys updated.
    * DoEGA Lyons: I got a few new projects I am working on. One of them, we are trying to explore ways to help people with the stress going on through the pandemic. I am trying to reach out to the pantry and other programs to see how they are doing. Another thing that I am working on is a panel on the COVID vaccine. I want to try to get some of the experts that UWF has, the goal is to have a panel that explains the vaccine and death rate, and maybe have a conversation to see if this is long term thing. I am trying to do Pathway to Politics again.
14. Legislative Addresses
    * Senate Pro Tempore Grant: I will be placing the new senators in committees and updating the roll call
    * B&ACC Johnson: Our budget committee has been very busy; we just start annual budget season. Last week we had our first meeting and we went RSLs and we normally have 80-100 apply but we had 60 presentations so we are chugging through those and this week we had our first departmental presentation, so we did our small departments. We also had our freshman committee members in there with us. We have given out two project grants.
    * SACC Hopper: We have all of our events for the semester figured out, we get more details each meeting. Our committee went really well this morning. We talk about doing something for Ethan who was supposed to be our kicker and within 48 hours of signing he found out he had cancer, and I think it is important that we are there for him. We are looking to letters or maybe a fundraiser
    * FCC McKillion: This week we started a committee rotation and we will be doing that through February. Starting Monday we will be shadowing executives members. We are working on designs for the committee and campus clean up. We did not have a freshman meeting this week but we should have one next week.
    * Senator Clendennin: We are excited about all of different departments and all the different opportunities to create on campus to connect the UWF community as much as we can.
15. Adjournment
    * Standing Committee Reports
      1. None
    * Closing Announcements
      1. Senator Arnold: Do we have a University Affairs Committee?
      2. Unknown: We had a brief meeting today about the university affairs vacancy, with the semester being very close to completion, there is not many responsibilities left for the Committee. We discussed and I believe that a piece of legislation will go through at next senate for this
      3. CoF Gaytan: We are trying to start a dinning committee so gather feedback about their service and the programs they offer. They want at least one SGA member on committee
    * Public Statements
      1. None
    * Final Roll Coll
      1. Absent
         1. None
    * Adjourn at 3:27pm