

Student Government Association

Student Senate Meeting

February 16, 2017

Location: Bluff Room

Call to Order: Call to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Pass: x Fail:

Roll Call:

Last Name	First Name	Present	Absent
Bobo	Lewis		
Bach	Vivian	X.	
Bishop	Ben	X	
Blanchard	Courtney	X	
Chan	Jacob	X	
Chen	Megan	X	
Clarke	Andrew	X	
Vacant	Vacant		
Courtney	Ashley	X	
Craft	Alex	X	
Cross	Hugh	X	
Faulk	Kenny		X
Fulcher	Dalton	x	
Hennings	Leslie	X	
Higgins	Cydney	X	
Houston	Jeffrey	X	
Inman	Madison	X	
Johnson	Michelle	x	
Joosse	Jacquelyn	X	
Lewis	Raelan	X	
Latuche	Jordan	X	
Marbibbi	Abigail	X	
Mok	Andrew		X
Myers	Kristian		X
Naifeh	Payton	X	
O'Brien	Will	X	

Ortego	Lainey	x	
Petty	Caley	x	
Scott	David	X	
Stayton	Blake	X	
Sturdivant	AJ	X	
Taylor	JT	X	
Taylor	David	X	
Todd	Kylee	X	
Toone	Ashton	X	
Vacant	Vacant		
Wade	Darius	X	
Wylie	Elizabeth		X

Members Present:

Guest Speakers:

- President Rudd began by saying that he is going to go over the University of Memphis finances to explain the situation with the recreation center. President Rudd said that the financial model did not improve the quality of the building. He said that last year the University of Memphis grew 4%. The financial model did not take into the fact that online and Lambuth campus students did not have to pay the fee for the new recreation center. The problem with taking in \$81 million in debt would leave the current debt way worse. He said that Centennial Place had over cost issues as well, but he tried to intervene. As a result, the school loses money on the dorm and will continue to lose money for a decade because of overspending. The recreation center would be able to overcome the debt if the students were charged another student fee but President Rudd said that he refused to issue another fee to students. He is not comfortable with leading the university to \$232 million with the new recreation center. Students will see subsequent tuition increases over the next ten years. The average tuition increase used to be 8% for 15 years but students could not afford it so they stopped having constant tuition increases. With the approval of a music center, the university will be build a new music center. The music center is going to take up 1,000 parking spaces, but the new parking garage will continue to be built to make up for those spaces. He said that the land bridge project will break ground soon because the contract has been completed. The university will have an independent board that will come in a month for the school to govern itself. President Rudd apologized for the students feeling like they were left out of the loop about the recreation center. He said that TBR had released the contract for the recreation center and he did not have enough time to tell the students in time before the newspapers released the information, and that is why he sent his initial e-mail this past week. President Rudd said that he would be happy to answer any questions during the rest of the night and whenever anyone wanted. The current student fees are only going towards the new recreation center, and none of that money is going towards any of the old recreation center's debt. He said that he just found out the debt surface for the old building about a month ago, and it is irresponsible to tear down a building that the university owes \$7 million on.
 - Senator Ashton Toone asked President Rudd if the 18-month period would be used to redesign the building.

- President Rudd said that they will look over the new building redesign during the next 18 months.
- Senator Payton Naifeh wanted to know if there will be an alumni membership for the students who had paid into the new recreation center.
 - President Rudd said that he had not heard of that plan before, but he would be happy to work with the students to create an alumni program for the new recreation center.
- Senator Blake Stayton asked who is financially responsible for not informing anyone on the debt on the current recreation center.
 - President Rudd said these financial decisions were made before his time, so he does not exactly know. He said that he cannot speak to any of that, but the SGA will have a trustee on the governing board. That trustee can provide information to the senate about any financial matters. President Rudd to get active with the board.
- Senator Ben Bishop wanted to know if there was any way that the Lambuth campus would end up having to pay the recreation student fee.
 - President Rudd said absolutely not. Lambuth students are not using the recreation center on the main campus, so they would not be expected to pay the fee for the recreation center.
- Senator Madison Inman wanted to know in what ways will the new recreation center decrease the school's financial burdens.
 - President Rudd said that they will be very careful to build the new recreation center with an operational cost that will absorb what we owe. He is comfortable with \$205-\$210 million dollars, but not \$250 million dollars. It will lower annual cost and the debt surface by \$20 million.
- Senator Leslie Hennings wanted to know where the money came from to build Centennial Place.
 - President Rudd said that it was through bonds, which is borrowed money.
- Savannah Worchester wanted to know if we keep putting off the recreation center how more expensive it will be.
 - President Rudd said that they will anticipate the inflation and they will talk about it.
- Various non-SGA members asked President Rudd some questions from the audience.

Senator Payton Nafeih asked how involved is the current SGA going to be involved with the new plans for the recreation center.

 - He said that it will be completely up to the SGA on what they want to do.

Appointments

- a. Drew Gilmore for Senate and Katie Goble for Senate
 - a. Payton motion to open the floor to vote.
 - b. All in favor.
 - c. Motion passes.
 - d. Drew and Katie will be appointed senators.
- b. Parliamentary
 - a. Hugh Cross was appointed parliamentary.

Officer Reports:

- President: Jared thanked everyone for their cooperation during President Rudd's presentation. He asked if anyone was interested in being on a committee for the new recreation center to contact him. He also asked for people to send him suggestions about what to do with the space in the fieldhouse as well.
- Vice President: The organ drive will be February 20th-22nd. The google doc has been sent out multiple times. It would be awesome if a senator could just sign up for even fifteen minutes. Natalie asked Emily Valor to come and speak on Tiger Spirit Week. It will be February 26th through March 3rd. On Sunday, there will be a black out basketball game at 4:00 pm. On Monday, there will be a women's basketball game at 7:00 pm. On Tuesday, there will be a Memphis Rocks event from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. On Wednesday, there will be a Women's History Month Opening Ceremony. On Thursday, there will be a stuffed tigers event at noon. The men's basketball game will be at 8:00 pm that night. Sally Parish the new Assistant Dean came to talk more about Read Across America as well.
- Speaker: Jacqueline congratulated the new appointed senators and parliamentarian.

Committee Reports:

- Development (): Payton said they are working on several projects.
- Services (): They said they are trying to develop the soccer field at the Park Ave. campus. They also want to put in a crossing guard on Zach Curlin between the hours of 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.
- Environmental (): They will have two new bills to present.
- Judicial (): Judicial needs to meet for five minutes after senate is over.
- Finance (): There will be 17 travel bills to present.

Old Business:

- a. None.

New Business:

- 16 graduate bills
- 1 undergraduate bill
 - Ashton motioned to slate the bills together.
 - Payton seconded.
 - All in favor.
 - Motion passes.
 - Andrew motioned to vote on the graduate bills.
 - All in favor.
 - Graduate bills passed.
 - Andrew motioned to vote on the undergraduate bills.
 - All in favor.
 - Undergraduate bills passed.
- Environmental Committee Bills
 - Bill 1—requesting handicap ramp in Smith Hall.
 - Andrew clarifying that SGA bills, upon passing Senate, are mere recommendations to be implemented at administration's discretion.
 - Motion to open the floor to vote.
 - All in favor.

- Motion passes.
 - Bill 1 passes.
- Bill 2—requested crosswalk on Patterson/Zach Curlin.
 - Courtney clarifying what the crosswalks will do—such as reducing liability for the University and that it will not interfere with campus school.
 - Motion to open the floor to vote.
 - All in favor.
 - Motion passes.
 - Bill 2 passes.
- Announcements.
 - Reiterating announcements stated earlier in meeting regarding events for spirit week (Sunday, February 26 through Thursday, March 2), as listed on the handout.

Announcements:

- Organ Drive February 20th-22nd
- Tiger Spirit Week February 26th through March 3rd
- Town Hall this semester
 - There will a town hall this semester. President Rudd is having his own town hall February 28th.

Adviser Comments:

Roll Call:

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at. 20:47.

__Jacqueline Joose__

Speaker of the Senate

__Ashley Courtney__

Chief Clerk