



Senate Meeting Minutes: 22 February 2021

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice President followed by Moment of Silence

Roll Call taken by Secretary:

Absent	Virtual
Carver, Peters, Roth, Malone, Alley	Curtis, Freeman, Wattenbarger, Johnson, Johnson, Hawkins, Mealer, Judkins, Wood, Tweel, Potter, Godwin, Martin, Willis

Motion to approve previous minutes, motion to approve by Senator Fowler, second by Senator Tidwell. Motion to approve agenda by Senator Fowler, second by Senator Tidwell. There are no guest speakers present. Presentation of SOLO Applications: TN Tech Gymnastics requesting \$2000 for pizza party and giveaway items. Event is located in the Multipurpose Room on March 5th, 6-8pm. Application passed with majority vote. College of Business Student Ambassadors requesting \$1,400 for Trivia Night for Chartwells Catering and trivia prizes. Event is located in the Multipurpose Room on April 1st, 6-8pm. Application passed with majority vote.

Standing Committee Reports

- a. Governmental Affairs - Senator Dorris - Discussed bill ideas
- b. Student Affairs – Davidson Public Relations – Discussed bill ideas
- c. Environmental and Sustainability - Senator Elliot- Discussed Day of Service bill
- d. Student Safety - Senator Abbas - Discussed bill idea
- e. SOLO – Senator Fowler- Discussed new bill ideas
- f. Constitutional- Drexler ELA – Discussed new bill ideas
- g. Academic – Potter – Discussed bill ideas

University Committee Reports

- a. Senator Potter – Eagle Works - Participate and sign up for the competition totaling \$21,500 in prizes
- b. Senator Tweel – Campus Recreation – Discussed lack of security cameras in the Recreational Center and the Gratis Membership in place until 2025 for students who have paid towards the construction of the Recreational Center.

There is no Unfinished Business. Enter New Business discussion. President Lay presents Jacob Cherry as official recommendation for the open senator position in College of Business. Motion passes with majority vote. President Lay presents Emma Hines and Macey Pickle as a slate for the open senate positions in the College of Education. Motion passes with majority vote.

Secretary presents the first bill “An Act to Improve Restroom Wheelchair Accessibility”. The sponsor Senator Willis speaks on the behalf. Motion to adopt by Senator Tidwell, second by Senator Fowler. Vice President moves to discussion, Senator Judkins motions for previous question, Senator Fowler seconds. Motion passes. The bill passes with a vote of 19-0.

Secretary presents the second bill “An Act to Improve Stairwell Tread Safety”. The sponsor Senator Willis speaks on behalf of the bill. Motion to adopt by Senator Fowler, second by Senator Griffin. Senator Judkins motions for previous question, second by Senator Fowler. Motion carries. The bill passes with a vote of 21:1

Begin Executive Cabinet Reports

- a. Secretary of Internal Affairs - No Report
 - b. Secretary of External Affairs - No report
 - c. Secretary of Public Relations - No report
 - d. Secretary of State - No report
 - e. Executive Legislative Advisor - Keep writing and sending in bills
 - f. Chief of Staff - Continue filling out eagle point forms, Updated winners next week
 - g. Secretary of Environmental Affairs - No report
 - h. Executive Judicial Liaison - Supreme Court met for discussion
- II. Executive Council Reports
- a. Secretary – Continue to make aware about virtual accommodations, continue to say name and college prior to speaking
 - b. Treasurer - SOLO event this week! TAB BAB went well, we have leftovers
 - c. Vice President - Get in touch for committee, need one from each college
 - d. President
 - i. Tabling increased one hour - SIGN UP
 - ii. Cancellation of classes feedback – Summarization of communication to administration:
 1. Submitted a letter to President and upper administration requesting for virtual classes Thursday and Friday so students could potentially relocate for shelter and heat
 - a. Request via email if you want to see the letter

2. President Oldham posted for Thursday classes to close and open on Friday
 - a. Students voiced opinions on Thursday but class cancelation change happened due to more snow
3. Oracle will post an article this week about events
4. Moving Policy: Policy review of school closures (Emergency Notifications) - How can it be better?
 - a. Take in to account rural areas of Cookeville, not just campus
 - b. With virtual capabilities, when does that come into play?
5. Open discussion:
 - a. Baker- Secretary of State -UT Martin had a snow storm and a student lost their life traveling-This time they shut school down the entire week. Tech should announce cancelations as whole like that, not day by day
 - b. Griffin – External Affairs - Concerned about information coming from Twitter and not an official platform
 - c. Senator Elliott - People’s lives is more important than educations, personal judgement of snow is acceptable for an excused absence
 - d. Senator Fowler-Professors posting lecture anyways- not good- professors should follow university guidelines ~15 had this happen just in this room
 - e. Westbrook – EJC - A committee should be created containing students, this will give student feedback to upper administration’s decisions
 - f. Senator Hall – A professor she had still hosted class via Zoom
 - g. Senator Tidwell - Students traveled through the snow prior to the posting of Friday classes canceled-we need an advanced warning
 - h. Senator Philippi- Even with risks uncertain, schools should automatically be made virtual until circumstances have passed
 - i. Senator Abbas- Communities were unaware that Tech had shelter and food for the community, they refused to send something to the community

- j. Drexler – ELA - instead of announcing closures on Twitter, we should use it for feedback on road conditions. Need to have more accountability for professors to react to closure(tests/schedules)
 - k. Senator Pickle – Faculty and workers were affected as well and should be taken into consideration
 - l. Senator Sorensen – If we miss most of a week, the rest should automatically be made virtual
 - m. Senator Malone – Dorm students did not know about available food, and students were unavailable to leave dorms for some periods, University should send out schedule earlier
 - n. Senator Myers – Paths were not clear to get to available services, hazardous, Students deserve more clarity on services and class schedules, safety is priority over education
 - o. Harvey – Secretary - University is requiring students to make up for scholarship hours missed during the week
 - p. Senator Hamrick – stair conditions in Tech Village caused injuries
- 6. Send in any more input on snow via snow!
 - 7. SOLO tabling poster is going up this week, be prepared to answer questions regarding SOLO funding

III. Announcements

- a. Senator Elliott- constitutional reform committee- have another opening, contact Braxton
- b. Senator Fowler – service opportunity – This weekend and 13th – contact her for more information
- c. Senator Cherry – tomorrow at 11am there is a chapter 606 meeting, needs a replacement

IV. Adjournment