



SGA Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:3 PM by President Sahil Tonk.

Officer Updates

- **President – Sahil Tonk**
 - Applications will be opening soon for two non-voting student positions:
 - **Student Regent:** A non-voting member selected from one of the five Texas Tech system universities.
 - **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Student Representative:** A non-voting member who works on matters related to higher education within Texas.
- **Vice President of Communications – Bennett Schackmuth**
 - No updates specifically from him, will reserve updates from his committee chairs
- **Vice President of Operations – James McGowan**
 - Members should continue using the point submission and absence forms.
 - Donations cannot be utilized as volunteer hours. This includes items like candy drive donations or blood donations.
 - Members should check Discord for updates from the Community Service Committee regarding volunteer events.
 - The Operations Committee is available to help senators start or work on legislation.
- **Vice President of Finance – Alexander Hayek**
 - The Scholarship Committee is finalizing t-shirt designs, and Suha Garasia will provide more details.
 - The Finance Committee reviewed the first Special Project Fund (SPF) request.
 - Planning for the org mentorship program is beginning soon in collaboration with Deidra.

Committee Updates

- **Community Service – Chair: Kayla Martinez**

- Be on the lookout in Discord for community service opportunities.
- The opportunities for November will be sent out soon and will include options for all campuses and distant learners.
- The committee is organizing a Senate project partnering with a non-profit organization, "Frontera de Salud".
- The project will be an "essentials drive" (e.g., winter clothing, medicine) at all respective campuses to support medical students serving communities in the Big Bend area.
- A sign-up Google Sheet was posted in the chat for anyone interested in participating, including distant learners.
- **Operations – Chair: Amber Jones**
 - The committee is available for assistance with legislation, including helping senators start or review their drafts.
 - One-on-one meetings are available with Amber or James for any senators who are not comfortable with the legislation process and would like practice.
 - She reminded senators that all past legislation is available in the Google Drive to use as examples for formatting.
 - Senators are encouraged to bring campus-specific issues or ideas to the committee, even if they don't seem large enough for formal legislation.
- **Scholarship – Chair: Suha Garasia**
 - T-shirt design ratings from the committee are due by midnight tonight.
 - A fundraiser is being planned, possibly called "Finals sweet give-back," which will involve give-back nights for a full week across all campuses.
 - Distant senators are encouraged to send Suha any local restaurant recommendations in their areas that offer good give-back percentages (around 15-20%).
 - The committee also met with Deidra regarding the phonathon scholarship and grading process.
- **Finance – Chair: Ryan McWilliams**
 - The committee evaluated Special Project Fund (SPF) requests. One request for food was approved. Another request was denied, and the organization was advised to pursue fundraising, with the possibility of receiving funds for pins later.
 - The mentorship program for new organizations will be starting soon. Anyone who knows of an organization that needs help can reach out to Ryan or Alex.
- **Social – Chair: Annaliese Schultz**
 - Dates and times are set for the "Senators and Subs" event on most campuses:
 - Lubbock: November 12th, 12:00-1:00 PM

- Amarillo: October 30th, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Odessa: October 29th, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Abilene: November 4th, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Dallas: November 5th, 12:00-1:00 PM
- Midland: Date/Time is TBD
- **Public Relations – Chair: Sarah Neal**
 - Encouraged all members to fill out the "Member Monday" form.
 - Reminded members to use the second form to submit post requests and the third form to submit pictures for SGA to use.

Legislation Overview

- None this week

Open Forum – Legislative Proposals

Naresh Sah & Manikantha Dunna: No Smoking Behind the Depot and Library

- *Issue:* Students reported that people are openly smoking in the "no smoking" zone behind the depot and library, making students uncomfortable and causing the smell of smoke. This is happening despite multiple "no smoking" signs being present.
- *Discussion:* It is suspected to be staff, possibly facilities or construction workers. President Tonk noted that TTUHSC is a smoke-free campus and suggested the group contact facilities.

Naresh Sah: Library Room Reservation System

- *Issue:* Students reserve library rooms but often do not show up or leave early without canceling the reservation, making rooms unavailable for other students.
- *Discussion:* Naresh proposed an automatic release system for unoccupied rooms or a reminder system to encourage cancellations. Bennett Schackmuth noted that there is a new Director of Libraries who is receptive to feedback and willing to meet. Bennett also clarified that the library uses the same reservation software as classroom support, which does not currently have a feature for automatic removal; it relies on the student to cancel. A policy was suggested where a reservation lapses if the user doesn't show up after a set amount of time.

Naresh Sah: Gender-Neutral Restroom Cleaning

- *Issue:* Several female students have reported feeling uncomfortable using the gender-neutral restrooms (3rd floor library) when they are left unclean.
- *Discussion:* Naresh suggested gentle reminder signs or increased cleaning schedules during peak hours. Bennett Schackmuth and Keri Shiplet clarified that restroom cleaning is handled by Facilities, not the library staff. Keri noted that the Operations Committee can submit a form to Facilities to address this.

Kayla Martinez: Community Service Project

- *Proposal:* Kayla proposed making the Community Service committee's new drive, "Care Across the bend," an official Senate project. The project is a drive for winter clothing, medicine, and healthcare products for the NPO Frontera de Salud.
- *Discussion:* Keri Shiplet clarified that this initiative, while a great cause, does not fit the definition of a "Senate project". Official projects and legislation are

intended to solve issues directly affecting students on campus. The committee can still proceed with the drive, but it will not be classified as an official Senate project.

Post Open Forum

- None

Announcements

- **Keri Shiplet:**
 - There is a medication cleanup event this Saturday in Amarillo.
 - **Student Services Fee Committee Reps:** Applications are needed for representatives from the School of Medicine (SOM), School of Pharmacy (SOP), and School of Population and Public Health (SPPH). This is not a large time commitment. If SGA fails to fill these roles, the university may take this opportunity away. The application will close this Sunday night.
 - **Leadership for Learners:** There are two more sessions remaining for the fall. Students who participate in four of the six total sessions are eligible for a digital badge.
 - **Spring Student Health Insurance Waiver:** The waiver site opens on Friday, October 31st. Students with an approved waiver from the fall will have it automatically cloned for the spring. Students who need to make changes (e.g., turning 26, needing to enroll) must contact Student Life.
- **President Sahil Tonk:**
 - The next SGA meeting is November 4th, and it will be a legislative meeting. Legislative pieces should be submitted over the next week for executive review.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Caleb Martin seconded by Steven Daley. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.