110th Student Senate Meeting Minutes 3/19/2024

In Attendance: 110th Student Senate Chamber, Advisory Murphy,

- Roll Call
- Approval of the agenda
  - Motion to add bylaw changes
- Speakers Podium
  - Riley
    - Caswell
- Finance New Business
  - Motion to see as read
    - Approved
- Finance Committee Old Business
  - Motion to see in Block
    - Approved
  - Motion to approve
    - Approved
    - One abstention
- Finance Committee New Business
  - Motion to see as read
    - Approved
- Finance Committee Old Business
  - Motion to see in Block
    - Approved
  - Motion to approve
    - Approved one abstention
● Orgs New Business

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<th>3/7 meeting:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent &amp; Protect</td>
<td>4-0-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Cancer Society</td>
<td>5-0-0*</td>
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- Motion to see as read
  - Approved
- Motion to expedite
  - Approved
- Motion to vote
  - Approved

● Proclamation Return 24 hour Library Access

SMU Student Senate

Legislative Number: S.110.P05  Final Vote: 0-0-0
Author(s): Matt Hanwood  Senate Secretary: Michael Castle
Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. K.C. Menges  Senator Speaker: Cannor Ferguson

Proclamation Affirming the Return of 24-Hour Library Access

WHEREAS
The Southern Methodist University Student Senate expresses its profound gratitude for the restoration of 24-hour access to both library and collaborative workspaces.

ACKNOWLEDGING
The role that open access to the library plays in fostering academic success of students and its consequential impact on shaping perception of SMU's academic prestige among prospective students.

RECOGNIZING
The recent restriction of library hours from 2:00 AM to 7:00 AM deprived the student body of late-night study access and use of collaborative workspaces.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED
The 115th Student Senate hereby affirms the University's latest decision to reinstate 24-hour access, recognizing its crucial role in fostering academic excellence and upholding the University's esteemed reputation. The 115th Student Senate is grateful for the reinstatement and urges for the perpetuation of the 24-hour library access for the foreseeable future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tatum Morris
First-Year Senator

Hamilton "Reese" Hanwood
President, Major Senator

- Motion to vote
  - Did not pass
- Motion to reconsider
  - Unanimous approval
● Rotunda Expansion

SMU Student Senate

Legislative Number: S 110-02
Final Vote: 46-0-0

Author(s): Meyer Castle
Senate Secretary: Michael Castle
Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. K.C. Morse
Senate Speaker: Connor Ferguson

A RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE SENATE ROTUNDA SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND CREATE ELIGIBILITY FOR FIRST-GENERATION FELL GRANT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

WHEREAS
The Southern Methodist University Student Senate passed S 108-Rotunda to support low-income SMU students and allocate $100,000 every year to the Rotunda Scholars Program from the DFYF Scholarship account.

ACKNOWLEDGING
The DFYF Scholarship accounts $348,000 that is not currently being allocated to the student body even though the funds were raised from student fees to benefit low-income students in the form of scholarships.

RECOGNIZING
The DFYF Scholarship saw an annual revenue of $33,000 in the 2023-2024 academic year while spending an average of $19,000 in expenses on the Senate Rotunda Fund.

RECOGNIZING
The partnership created between the Rotunda Scholars Program and the Student Senate in the form of the Senate Rotunda Fund has been greatly successful in providing purposeful, beneficial, and substantive scholarship support for low-income SMU students over the last two years. This successful program has enabled dozens of students to take advantage of numerous SMU opportunities such as supplemental academic terms, books/course materials, study abroad, etc.

RECOGNIZING
Over the last two years, the SMU Fall Generation Initiative under the Student Academic Success Programs.

● Massive Budget overhaul Legislation

SMU Student Senate

Legislative Number: S 110-02
Final Vote: 46-0-0

Author(s): Meyer Castle
Senate Secretary: Michael Castle
Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. K.C. Morse
Senate Speaker: Connor Ferguson

A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF SENATE FINANCING

WHEREAS
The Southern Methodist University Student Senate should promote equitable allocation of student fees to foster engagement in campus and further the academic experience of the university.

RECOGNIZING
That in the 2023 calendar year over $757,000 was swept from Charter University Organization budget accounts, with 500,000 being swept in the Fall and $257,000 being swept in the Spring.

RECOGNIZING
The current Senate Financial Structure per the Student Senate Bylaws is significantly overcomplicated for the Finance Chair, Student Body Treasurer, Student Association Comptroller, Student Senators, and student organizations.

RECOGNIZING
The Finance Chair and Finance Committee are overwhelmed with weekly requests and are unable to evaluate the efficacy of the Senate Financial Structure.

RECOGNIZING
The Finance Committee is no longer able to fully fund annual budgets during the Spring Budget Retreat, causing programming organizations to receive funding in Weekly and Summer Senate.

RECOGNIZING
Summer Senate is intended to help organizations plan events in August, however, in recent years the fund has been used to help annual budget programming.

○ Motion for debate
○ Motion to Vote
  ■ 46-0-0

● Officer Report President Alarcon

○ Outdoor seating update
• Membership timeline Jude Lugo

• Investments Chair Nomination
  ○ Motion to approve investments chair Vimal
    ■ Approved 2 abstentions

• Officer Report Vice President Bombito
  ○ Counselor video has been filmed
  ○ Blanket project
    ■ Working on logo

• Officer Report Secretary Castle
  ○ Giving Day
  ○ Hilltop Excellence Awards
    ■ Willis M Tate
      ● Dr Klyne Smith
        ■ Outstanding Administrator Award
        ■ Outstanding Staff Award
        ■ Outstanding Trustee Award
  ○ Legislation Questions
  ○ Ramadan Invite

• Adjournment