

SMU 109th Senate Cabinet Meeting Report

October 31st, 2022 | 2:00-3:00 PM | Senate Office

Agenda:

- 2:05 – Start Meeting
- 2:05-2:30 – “Elevator” Updates from all Standing and Topical Committee Chairs and Senate Executive Committee.
- 2:30-2:50 – Discussion amongst common projects/questions/collaboration
- 2:50-3:00 – Finalize Meeting Minutes, Action Items, and approve next Cabinet Meeting Date for 2022.

Attendance:

- Executive Committee
 - Sydney Castle - Present
 - Alex Alarcón - Present
 - Hope Heiden - Present
 - Clayton Meyer - Absent
 - Krish Madhura – Absent
 - Reece Iriye – Present
 - Tulsi Lohani - Present
 - Dawn Norris – Absent
- Standing Committee Chairs
 - Deepu Chinnam – Absent
 - Wade Glover - Present
 - Alesia Foote - Present
 - Anshu Reddy – Present
 - Tiffany Landgraf - Present
 - Kennedy Coleman - Tardy
- Topical Committee Chairs
 - Jo Lew – Present
 - Tamal Pilla – Present
 - Arianna Gonzalez – Absent

Prepared by Parliamentarian Tulsi Lohani
Questions? Email tlohani@smu.edu

Committee Updates

Investment Committee

- Committee was finalized last week
 - o New Process with Chair Reedy
- Calendar with Pitch Dates and Cycles
 - o One before the end of Fall 2022 Semester
- Conversation with VP Alarcón and Treasurer Meyer on things to bring through chamber and the Endowment Board
- 24 Committee Members
 - o Biweekly Meetings. Sundays.

Student Wellness Committee

- Meeting with Michael Molina
- Senator Stripe is leading ID Wallets on our Phones
 - o 2-year timeline due to implementation
- Old Commons Keycard Implementation
- Mental Health Canvas Page revival from Senators Thai and Ferguson
 - o Opt-in or Mandatory?
 - In conversations
- Senator Thomas – RGIS Map for disabled Students
- Health Center
 - o NARCAN and Drug Tests availability
 - o Advocate for safety with drugs on campus
 - o Awareness on O.D. and how to save peers

Campus Services Committee

- Asked for Cabinet Feedback on Library Bookstands
 - o National Heritage Months
 - o Publicize previously unseen areas across Academics
 - VP Alarcón: Civic Topics
 - Chair Lew: Fiction Works from minority authors?
 - o Formats for Stands?
 - Curated Collections?
 - Author Panels/Newly Released Books
 - o Look back on Previous Bookstands and Formats
 - o Secretary Heiden: Ask student input and during HOR?
 - o Google Form/LinkTree
 - o Faculty Senate

- Form under Book Stand for next Month

Organizations Committee

- Forms for new organizations have closed for the Fall 2022 Semester
- Fully booked for the rest of the Semester
- Survey was sent to Organization Primary Contacts and Presidents about
 - Chartering Process
 - By-law Revisions
 - November 15th – Introduction
 - November 29th - Approval
- Meeting with Administrators about Campus Ministry Organizations and Greek Organizations and their rights/responsibilities in comparison to other orgs and how charters work with space availability.

Communications Committee

- Standardization of Communications Committee
- Committee Role Call and Strategic Plan
 - Chairs Gonzalez and Pilla and responded
 - Outreach to other Chairs happening Soon
 - Transparency for Goals
 - Names of Committee Members
- Club Highlights
- Senate Spotlight
- Weekly Senate Update after every Chamber
 - Senator Morales is spearheading this
 - Committee Spotlight
 - Chartered Organizations
 - Senate Highlights
- Website is fully up-to-date
- Workshop

Membership Committee

- Cox Senator Vacancy
 - Closes November 4th on Noon
- Meeting with Parliamentarian Lohani on Friday for Election Code Revisions

Scholarship Committee

- Applications close at midnight
 - 30 applications as of 2:20 PM CST

- Should we extend the application to Friday?
 - An email to the Student Body?
- Decisions will be available on November 29th

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Commuter Concerns

- Overall difficulty with finding community and becoming involved on campus
- Some commuter students are not able to get into Boaz with their IDs
 - IDs sometimes don't allow access into Boaz for students with orange parking permits
- Commuters want a commuter lounge in Hughes-Trigg
 - Preferably equipped with a kitchenette
- More representation of commuters on campus through commuter-focused leadership
 - Commuter students expressed a desire for a Commuter Senator - thoughts?
- Maybe this can be a collaboration with Campus Services?

Accessibility

- Organizing an accessibility walk with Disability Connections and Empowerment to note problem areas on campus
- Working with Senator Thomas and his ArcGIS project that allows students to point-out areas around SMU that are not accessible through an app

Iranian Protests

- Met with MSA and discussed the protests in Iran
- Members of MSA would like to see Senate take a stand on women's rights and autonomy
 - Would like to express the message that the protests are against the oppression of women, not Islam
- The DEI Committee's approach will be dependent on if/how the structure of proclamations are changed

Discussion Notes

- Decide what to pull from the portfolio and put it towards
 - 10 years, definitely invest the money

- \$220,000 towards the Project is a feasible number after Conversation with VP Alarcón and Treasurer Meyer
 - President Castle: DFW SGA Day of Service Project
 - Have the Student Body raise money and raise philanthropic efforts to the community.
 - Something to benefit the SMU Community to help the students long-term?
 - Chair Landgraf: Similar to the Big Event, is this too similar?
 - Chair Lew: Student buy-in is low, the participation rate is below 15%, how can we find a day to give back to the University?
 - Student Union and DEA issues with Organizations Buy-In?
 - Parliamentarian Lohani: Project-based raising instead of Organizations-based.
 - You have to go through the DEA, how are we going to disperse project funds?
 - VP Alarcón: West Dallas STEM School-like impact?
 - Chair Landgraf: Talk to EngageDallas. Disperse external and internal buy-in
 - Secretary Heiden: Alternate Perspective: Focus on Students? Research and Trips related to academics?
 - Promote research and projects?
 - VP Glover: Devil's Advocate: It is supposed to benefit the community outside of SMU?
 - Outside perspective of \$250,000 going to external orgs instead of Finance
 - President Castle: x% of Investment funds go to Finance Committee.
 - Elevate Existing Projects or create New Ones?
 - Should we just give the moneys to Organizations?
 - Aim to take pressure off of Finance Committee and give investment into self-funding for Organizations?
 - Chief of Staff Iriye: Initial Allocation rather than annual investment.
- DEI Spotlight
 - Chair Landgraf: How could I communicate about things better?
 - President Castle: Let's go back to the Conversation about Proclamations, Voice Voices, and a potential third medium?

- Peer-Aspirant Institutions don't comment on International Affairs, should we even do this?
- Proclamations
 - Chair Lew: This is happening on campus; this is what a proclamation should entail?
 - Address specific things on campus to specific groups
 - This is local, this is expressing support for local things.
 - Chair Coleman: Shift the outlet and responsibilities
 - UTSGA Agency Instagram-like
 - Chair Landgraf: Assisting DEI Instagram account with Communications
 - Chief of Staff Iriye: Re-evaluating decentralizing could create more disconnect
 - Secretary Heiden: Use HOR to say "lets address this"
 - Chair Lew: Utilize Communications and Groups in Senate to make targeted videos and graphics.
 - Chair Landgraf: UTSGA Advocacy Panel

Chief of Staff Iriye: Meeting Minutes

- Meeting Minutes
 - Standard Committees: Every week by Friday 6PM
 - Topical Chairs: Every 2 weeks by Friday 6PM
 - Seasonal Chairs: TBA
- Attendance
 - Please have members attend your meetings. Take roll call.

Secretary Heiden: Attendance and Committee Meetings

- Attendance from Chief of Staff Iriye
- Chief of Staff Iriye and Secretary Heiden will be popping into meetings
 - Slack messages will go out beforehand for heads up

President Castle: Agenda Restructure

- Office Reports first
- Potentially pushing Senate to 5:30?