

Sept. 9 Meeting

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

sga, senator, email, students, questions, resolution, committee, vote, people, university, minutes, senate, agenda, bill, hearing, voting, campus, mott, issues, election

SPEAKERS

Senator Bryant, Senator Ngetich, Student (guest), Senator S. Johnson, Guest Ganger, VPLA LeBlanc, Senator Noble, Senator Bellow, Senator Mott, Senator Clotilde Lair, Senator Broussard, Senator A. Johnson, Guest Annette Diaz, Joy Ballard, Senator Fretz, VP Jayson Ray, Senator Plasse, President Romero



S



VPLA LeBlanc 00:10

With 16 out of 23 senators present we do meet quorum. Okay, next we'll be moving to approval of the agenda. Are there any corrections or changes to today's agenda?



Okay, With no objections to the agenda, it is approved.



Approval of the minutes, Are there any corrections or changes to the minutes from first meeting? We have the minutes that we took on August 26. Are there any corrections or changes to those minutes? Okay, with no objections to the minutes they are approved.

Next we'll be moving into communications and announcements. Are there any senator communication announcements non SGA related? Senator noble, can you please put a timer on for three minutes?

V VPLA LeBlanc 05:42
Okay, hearing none, we will move right along. miracle. First up is governance. Senator, Noble do you have a report for us today.

S Senator Noble 05:55
Yes. Okay, the Election Day resolution. I had three committee members. Vote for it. Three did not vote. Christine Bourgeois she was being voted on for Election Commissioner had one person vote for her. He said it was because she was senator before she was also president, but he felt like she would be a good candidate for that position. So that's all I have for today. Also for the governance committee If you guys are not receiving emails from me, or if I have the wrong email, please let me know that way. We can stay in constant communication, or if you are confused about anything just let me know. I'll put my email in the chat box. Thank you.

V VPLA LeBlanc 07:25
Senator, look you the rest of your time for questions.

S Senator Noble 07:29
Yes.

V VPLA LeBlanc 07:32
Okay. Does anybody have any questions for the governance committee? Hearing none, We will move along. Rules. Senator Johnson. Do you give any reports for us today?

S Senator A. Johnson 08:01
Yes, I do.

V VPLA LeBlanc 08:05
Okay, three minutes. we'll reset the clock.

S Senator A. Johnson 08:14

All right, out of the five senators in my committee, only one voted yes for the supreme court justices, while the others abstained. From what I can gather, this was mainly due to lack of information provided to us about the nominees. We did meet quorum for the Election Commissioner. But that was because we recognize Senator Bourgeois as a candidate before I'm saying for the resolution, because that was there was substantial information that followed the guidelines that allowed for us to agree to add this to the agenda, and I yield the rest of my time for questions.

V VPLA LeBlanc 08:56

Does anyone have any questions for the Rules Committee head? Hearing none, we will move right along. Next finance, Senator Fretz do you any reports for us?

S Senator Fretz 09:21

I do have a report, I wanted to let everyone know that finance was able to pass the resolution that was to be placed on the agenda for this evening but was unable to reach quorum for the Supreme Court nominations and the Election Commissioner nomination. I suspect that this was due because we just had some delays, a little overwhelming multiple emails are kind of going back and forth. So I'm going to do my due diligence in the future to make sure that everything goes out on time. So there's plenty of time but if you're not receiving the email, or you need help, or if you didn't want to vote, or you had questions about voting, that's why you did vote please let me know because I did have enough quorum for the resolution but not enough quorum for the nomination. So just let me know about that. I do have to start marking attendance in the future now that we've gotten past this first couple weeks of school, first couple weeks of school, so if there's any issues that you're having, and that's why you're not voting, let me know. I also wanted to update everyone in the Senate that I have been working with engineering student Andrea Sturman on the issues with ProctorU. I'm currently waiting on documentation from her that states all the details gives me all of the information. I am not an engineering student. I'm currently not using ProctorU. So she's doing everything she can to give me as many details as possible. I've also worked with Senator noble to retrieve all the proctorU terms and regulations along with all of the university our university's privacy guidelines. So at this time, we have not created a resolution but you but we are working towards one. We have a thread that's going I'm reading everybody's thread and input. So if you want to be added on to that ProctorU you thread and you want to be a part of the resolution creation, please let me know. I'll put my email in the chat as well and I yield the remaining

time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 11:18

Does anyone have any questions for the finance committee head? Okay, hearing none. Next we will be moving along with our agenda, and that will be Student Affairs. Senator Bryant do you have a report for us?



Senator Bryant 11:55

I do. Good evening everyone. the Student Affairs can Mini was able to meet quorum on the three issues being the Supreme Court nominations, the resolution and the Election Commissioner for Christine Bourgeois on all three of those issues. Unfortunately, Senator Augustine Johnson was not able to vote on any of those issues, however. I now allow the other senators within the Student Affairs Committee to voice why they voted. In agreement with each of those issues, but I voted yes. For the Supreme Court nominations, just so that SGA can be more populated. I voted yes for the resolution, because I think it's something I definitely agree with in terms of the election, what we can do with that. And far as the Election Commissioner with Christine Bourgeois, i think she will be a great Election Commissioner. I think she does think she's done great work as a senator and Past SGA administration's. If Senator Brendan Mott and Senator *unknown name* would like to chime in on why they voted yes,



VPLA LeBlanc 13:12

Point point of order. This is just the committee reports at the moment. Any reasons why you vote against will be done at the appropriate time.



Senator Bryant 13:25

Gotcha. Thank you. I yield the rest of my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 13:32

Does anyone have any questions for the student affairs committee? Hearing none, we'll move right along to other reports. President Romero do you have any reports for us today?

P President Romero 13:49
I do have quite a few.

V VPLA LeBlanc 13:53
Senator Noble. Set the clock for six minutes, please. . Okay, Madam President, you have six minutes to speak.

P President Romero 14:04
Okay. I had a meeting yesterday with UL system, schools, all the presidents and we came up with a service project for hurricane Laura. that service project is called a Thanksgiving basket project. So the consensus among the group was, everyone's doing stuff right at this moment for hurricane Lauren. And we want to make sure that in a month from now, two months from now, they still get supplies and the supplies don't stop. So what we're going to do is we're going to put together Thanksgiving baskets for students, at McNeese And we're going to donate perishable goods, stuff like that or anything you think a hurricane victim might need or a student might need at McNeese and we'll put the baskets together in SGA and ship them off to McNeese. And if we have extra supplies, we'll start doing this around the community as well. But we're more or less focusing on McNeese students since they are part of the ULS system. Um, so that's that I'll have more information soon. like I said, we just had the meeting yesterday. So, we're gonna work out all the details and have an actual plan and I'll be able to relay that to y'all. I had a meeting Friday with Tim Duncan, which is the Director of Athletics and they are starting initiative called privateers for equality. And they do things like voter registration, reach out voter education. And that all has to do with some issues that happen with Tim Duncan, the athletic director, and he just wanted to spread awareness on what voting does for a community and what that can change. So, in that, we are going to partner with Tim Duncan on Election Day, and he's working on turning the HPC into a voting place. when he does that, we can social distance and volunteer by handing out water for the long lines and all that fun stuff. And he'll have more information for me to coming up. I just want to make sure y'all are aware of what's going on. Dr. Goalz and President Nicklow has asked us to do more, I guess advertising for wearing your mask and stuff. So something I came up with to do on our social media is we're gonna take pictures in the white masks, we have in the office and basically I'm going to post on Instagram and it'll have like a little short bio of you as a senator or exec member or judicial member, whoever you are. And you can say like a little quote on why you wear your mask. So for instance, I wear my mask because my mom has an older immune deficiency, and I need to protect her, like something along those lines and just to, you know, show people that it's important to wear masks and social distance. so if you're interested on doing that, Email me and you can come into the office and I can

take a picture with my phone and we're gonna make cute Instagram posts and share it and hopefully people will want to come get more masks and stuff. And lastly, just a reminder, we have free Coronavirus testing at the lakefront arena for everyone. I hear it's really fast, and they're really nice over there. And it's really good. Accurate testing, I guess you could say. So if you're worried or if you have insurance issues, go get tested at the lakefront. And that is all I yield my time.



VPLA LeBlanc 18:52

Does anybody have any questions for the president at this time?



Senator Bellow 18:58

I do. Senator Alex Bellow Okay. So regarding the Thanksgiving baskets, I know you mentioned, madam president that we will be compiling them and then shipping them over there. Lake Charles is my hometown. So I've been doing some outreach. I was there yesterday. And so I think in order to add a personal touch, I would be willing to drive down there and distribute those baskets to those students, if that is something possible, and of course would welcome me any other volunteer. the needs down there are massive and the attention is not great. So I think No adding a personal touch might be a little bit more significant. If that's something you all would like to do.



President Romero 20:09

Yeah, I'll definitely make a note of that. I, this is what I have to say about the meeting. I don't disagree with the Thanksgiving basket project. We took a vote on two projects, and that was the project that more people agreed on out of the nine institutions. So if y'all want to try something else, or if you have any ideas of something we can do just as our SGA I'm open to hear our ideas because I do think, you know Lake Charles, even though it's a big city or a big city of Louisiana, you know, they're not getting the attention that, you know, some cities might get if the hurricane had There are areas so if anyone has any ideas or anything, for rsj, please reach out to me.



VPLA LeBlanc 21:10

Great. Does anyone else have any questions for the president at this time?



Senator Plasse 21:16

I had a question. Just like a quick question. you had said, you know, taking pictures in the

office with your phone with us wearing the mask? Did you have a preferred timeframe for that? Or is that something we'll discuss later? Or what? What's the general timeframe for that?

P

President Romero 21:36

So my office hours are Tuesday 12:30 to 4:30. And then Thursday, 9:00 to 4:30. So that's the only times I'm there. I could come to campus 1:30 on Fridays to 4:30. But generally in those times, that's what I would prefer. And if it doesn't work out that way. And you know, you can't make the time like, take a nice selfie. Like, we can do that too, you know, and just email it to me what we'll figure something out. It doesn't have to be, you know, fancy on my phone now, you know, I was just suggesting and I have like a portrait mode or something that like, does fancy camera stuff, so.

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Senator Plasse 22:21

Okay, thank you. No problem.

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VPLA LeBlanc 22:25

Great. Does anyone have any have any questions for the president at this time? Hearing none, we will move right along. Next is vice president. Vice President Ray. Do you have a report for us today?

V

VP Jayson Ray 22:42

Yes, I do.

V

VPLA LeBlanc 22:44

You have six minutes to speak.

V

VP Jayson Ray 22:47

Hey everyone so the total amount in the center operating account is \$39,498 and 75 cents. We still don't have the total for the reserve account but the 14th day of classes was yesterday so we should be getting that number very soon. I'm starting to plan our fall senator retreat, which will likely be right after the SGA elections in October. Just a note on that every senator is required to attend at least one retreat per year to remain a senator

in good standings. And I will let y'all know whenever I get the date set in stone, so y'all will know ahead of time. And then lastly, just a reminder that SGA constitution and code of laws are available and open to all students, via the websites. If you have ever have any questions or concerns about your responsibility as a senator or how SGA is to operate and i yield there is my time for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 23:53

Does anyone have any questions for the Vice President at this time?



Hearing none, we will move right along. Next is vice president of Legislative Affairs. That would be me. I have six minutes to speak. And I do have some things to talk about.



VPLA LeBlanc 24:16

So it was brought up to my attention that we do have people who don't understand our bill process and how bills flow through Senate how bills and resolutions flow through senate and what that needs to be. It was brought up to my attention by my execs that we actually don't have that process outlined in our laws at this time. With that being said, we have discussed how that will go. I actually have a document that our wonderful coordinator worked with me on over the summer. that dictates and shows everyone how bills are passed. I will talk with joy about possibly up Uploading that to our SGA website and emailing that out to the senators that we currently have. And the next thing I have is responding to your committee heads. Everybody's getting the emails that the committee heads are sending. I've been instructed that you are getting them because there is a delivery mechanism that shows them, who's getting them and who's not getting them and who's reading them and not reading them. If you are reading the emails and not responding, when the time is called when they send me their voting record, you are marked absent from that committee meeting. After three unexcused committee meetings, you will be marked absent for one senate meeting. After three unexcused senate meetings, you will be removed from the role from SGA and you would not be able to rejoin at any capacity for that year. I hate to do that to anyone. I'm not that type of person. And I really would appreciate it if we all paid attention to our emails. I understand that COVID has hampered A lot of us and a lot of us are using that to our advantage. I get it. I understand. But our emails are our best friends at this time. Please, please, please review the emails that your committee heads are sending you. If you are not getting them. My email is in the chat. Please email me because the deadline that I have given all committee

has to send me the voting record is Monday at noon, because I have to send out the agenda as well as the supporting documents before 4:30 on Monday SGA coordinator has to plan her day for Wednesday. So we have to get this information in as soon as possible. If you feel as though you do not have enough time to review the document, and that that committee head is not sending it to you in enough time to review the documents, please let me know. We can figure this out guys, but what we will not do is look at the email and don't respond. Because that that that just defeats the purpose of what we have to do as the senate body the next thing that we have is Oh, I kind of said everything about that. Time to review the info. We did mention that as well as the bill and resolutions deadlines, which is Wednesday. If you would like to have a bill sent to you if you would like to have a bill on the agenda, floor bills and resolutions can be submitted by any one who is a student of the university. So for our guests, if you have ideas and you want to send something to us, you have the power to send Me a resolution or bill to be heard by the Senate and passed. All of that information can be found on how to draft them as well as examples on the SGA website. You also have at your leisure, the senators that are in your college, you can talk to them, they can help you. If any senators do not know how to do this, and how this should go. The SGA website is sga.uno.edu. If any senators or anyone doesn't know how to draft a bill or how to formulate a resolution, you can find that information on the SGAwebsite. There is also in the Senate rules and procedures, how the bills and resolution numbers that you see that I have on the agenda with that resolution is and all of that and how we formulate that. All of that information is on the website in our SGA rules Senate rules. procedures and in our documents and forms section. And that's it for me. I yeild the rest of my time for questions. And I have three minutes plus whatever I have left from the other one.

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Senator Broussard 28:16


Senator Broussard College of Liberal Arts. I did have a question. As far as committee meetings so, are we primarily doing that over email then? Because I was under the impression that we were going to try to do independent zoom meetings, but I'm new and I'm not really sure how a lot of that works. So


V

VPLA LeBlanc 29:34

typically, it has been happening over email, where you just simply get the email you review the legislation, or Let's say we have a bio from someone who is trying to be appointed to Senate or spring quarter, whatever, you will review that document and then you would just vote via the reply all selection to the committee, how you vote. If you vote no You have to give her an explanation as to why you're voting no. If you abstain or if you vote yes, you know, other than that, that's it. However, if your committee head is asking


that you join in via some other form of meetings via zoom or what have you, that is at their discretion. And if you guys are okay with that, then you are more than welcome to meet that way.


 Senator Broussard 30:39
Thank you.


 VPLA LeBlanc 30:41
Alrighty. Does anyone else have any questions?




Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary study. I want to use out some accountability for my for myself because my my committee has to send out the email and I just wasn't clear on me needing to vote On the supreme court or the Election Commissioner, however, so I want to accept accountability for myself in my mouth. However I think we may want to rethink or put a little bit more thought into giving us some more background information on people who's being nominated for these positions.

 VPLA LeBlanc 31:24
point of order senator bellow, this is the question section. Do you have a question for me?

 Senator Bellow 31:30
Oh, no.

 VPLA LeBlanc 31:31
Okay. That can we can wait for our open forum for you to mention that So reserved that for that time, but I'm listening to you. Does anyone else have any questions?

 Senator Ngetich 31:44
Senator Ngetich , college liberal arts, um, so, uh, maybe this is a dumb question, but is it necessary for us to reply all?



Okay, So it is necessary, it is necessary to reply all because that keeps the email chain that I receive in order.



Senator Ngetich 32:13

it gets very cluttered. When I'm looking at 20 emails, I'm trying to figure out which one I need to reply to



VPLA LeBlanc 32:20

Well, your email, for example, the one that you will be responding to, you will be responding to them to the first email that you receive, which is the committee heads email, not the other ones that you would see. So that will be the very first email that should pop up in your email law. Now unless you have your, your email configured a different way, then that may be different for you. But I know anytime when I was a committee head and when I was in a committee, the no matter who replied, I would always get that first email letting me know the principle email, shall I say? What's going on? And then after I reply, I would see everyone else's.



Senator Ngetich 33:02

I got all of the emails as they came in, in my inbox, and I don't know it just seems like that could be a little bit more efficient.



VPLA LeBlanc 33:12

Gotcha. Well, you may want to look at your, the way you have your email configured. Does anyone else have any questions for me at this time?



A senator Vitali College of Liberal Arts motion be recognized as Present. Sorry, I'm late.



Senator Mott 33:32

Second, Brendan Mott, Jr. at large.



VPLA LeBlanc 33:38

So now we have 17 out of 23. Senators, we meet quorum. Does anyone else have any questions for me at this time?



Senator Plasse 33:51

Hi, Senator Plasse sophomore, Senator at large. I had a quick question. I'm still new to all of this. So I was wondering what's the main difference between a Bill and a resolution if there is one because I'm also looking at the SGA website, where you said you could find like how to draft a bill or resolution and I'm only seeing a sample bill. So I don't know if there's another document I'm missing.



VPLA LeBlanc 34:13

Okay. We will discuss that during open forum. You bring it up during open forum. Does anyone else have any questions for me at this time? Hearing none, we will move right along. Next is the Vice President of programming she does not have a she did let me know she does not have a am a report for us. So we'll move along to the advisor. Advisor Ballaard do you have a report for us today?



Joy Ballard 34:47

I Do.



VPLA LeBlanc 34:47

You have six minutes to speak.



Joy Ballard 34:50

All right, awesome. Um, so welcome. Once again, because this is a Privateer plunge event, I will give my announcement for our new people. So if you are here for privateer plunge, first of all, welcome. At the end of this meeting, I will pull a report that will automatically Tell me your name and who logged in and I'll use that to give you privateer punch credit. So there's no need to send me an email or anything. You are good to go. If you're in the meeting. You're good to go. Um, that being said, I've seen a lot of questions about how to join. So first of all, I will tell you a little bit about how SGA works. We have four branches of government. This is our legislative branch, the Senate, which you are in right now. And then we also have a judicial branch that operates exactly is that it's a court that handles

SGA matters. We have a programming board, which our Student Activities Council, they plan lots of fun events on campus and things for students. And then we have an executive branch. Which is comprised of all the people that just gave reports. So, that is who's in sga and kind of what we do. Um, I am always happy to answer other questions and talk, but we do have elections coming up. So for everyone to know, fall elections are only for senators. So we're not electing new executives, those are elected in the spring. This is just to give an opportunity to fill empty Senate seats. So if you are here and interested in joining student government at on the 21st of this month, you can sign up to run in our elections. We will have some open forums where we will discuss what like how to run and kind of the details, but we have 26 open Senate seats at the moment so there's plenty of room if you are interested in running an election. Feel free to come to that. Because that hands 27 Senate seats. So once again, plenty of room for anyone who wants to join us. So that's my note on elections. Now for my senators. Senator Mott had a fantastic idea, and has helped us create a Discord server. For those of you who don't know what discord is, it is an app where you can have different channels to have very structured conversations around certain topics. It's really cool. I personally find it really convenient and an easy way to organize my thoughts around the topic and everybody can have their own little groups. So whenever you join the discord, you'll be given a role. So like, I would mark, you would be given a role as a liberal arts senator who's in the committee for Student Affairs. So you would have specific channels in that Discord server to talk about student affairs matters, and to talk with your other liberal arts senators. I would also encourage y'all to approach this might be a much more efficient and organized way to run your committee votes. Because I do not disagree with the fact that replying all to emails is sometimes confusing. Um, so if you are interested, well, all of this senators you're going to get an invite to this Discord server. Give it a try. Check it out. If you hate it, you know, it's fine, but what have you lost? Just download the app. Check it out. It's fantastic. Alright, um, another note, I gave this note tonight execs this week, and I'm going to give it to you all. Quick email etiquette tip. If you are emailing everyone in the Senate, or even if you're just emailing your committee, it might be helpful to blind cc people in your emails. reason for this is there are a lot of reasons that people may not go by the name, but they have registered with the university. So whenever you just simply send out an email to everyone it shows you sent it to, which might reveal information that other people don't want you to know. So that being said, as just a nice pro tip, blind cc emails if you're sending it to more than an immediate group of people. It's just helpful. Jayson mentioned the trainings that are coming up. I'm really excited about those things. Look out for that. Um, Desmond did a very good job of explaining committee heads and what our committees do what y'all need to be voting on. The only thing that I will add to that, that I did have written down that I wanted to just say briefly, is, I know a lot of people abstained in committee votes, because they didn't know enough about the person. And I 100% understand where you're coming from. But I would also say, you're just voting to put them on the agenda. And

particularly with things like Supreme Court appointments, those people are going to come to the meeting, so that you get to talk to them. So by putting it on the agenda, you're going to get a chance to meet with these people and have an actual conversation. Also, just because you vote yes. And your committee does not mean that you have to vote yes. Whenever it hits the floor. You can absolutely vote yes for it to be on the agenda. And then once you hear more about that person, or that bill, or whatever it is, change your mind and vote no. It's not a big deal. But it really just helps us get things to the Senate floor, so that everybody has the opportunity to hear them. That being said, Do I think you should do your research? Yes. Do I think you should just blindly vote yes, for people? Absolutely not. But I think there's a balance there that we need to work on finding. And finally, I used to give concentration fun facts. I'm going to try to get kind of back in the habit of just giving like an SGA fact. So today's SGA Fact is, what does an SGA advisor do? Because I get a lot of emails about all kinds of things, and nine times out of 10 they're not my job. Nine times out of 10 I have to say, hey, you really need to talk to Desmond that You really need to talk to Julian. So, that being said, I want to tell you what I do. So as a government conference that I led this summer, I think we summed it up very well. Y'all also know I love all of the cheesy things. So an SGA advisor is someone that is on your team, T EA M. It's an acronym. So first of all, they are a trainer. I am here to teach you how to follow the rules that you wrote. I don't get to write your rules. I don't change your rules. But I do study your rules and help train you to follow them so that we can be consistent. I'm also an explainer. Unfortunately, this is the worst part of my job. But sometimes the university has rules that maybe y'all don't understand or just don't have access to because why would you? So it's my job to be in the middle, and help explain to you where the university is coming from, and also help explain to the university where you're coming from. So I'm kind of the middle person. And I'm an advisor. Anybody that has ever talks to me knows, I will give you Joy's opinion on just about anything. And most of the time, I'll tell you, it's Joy's opinion. I'll tell you, what's the rules, and then I'll say, but if you want to know what I think that's part of my job, too, is letting you know what I do. What do I think you should do? Literally, to give advice, that is what an advisor does. And finally, I'm here to motivate you. I love Student Government. I believe in the power of a student government. And it's important. I think it serves a very important purpose on a university campus, and I'm here to motivate you to do that job. that's what I do. I don't make rules. I don't enforce rules. All of that is student jobs. I'm just here to help. And with that, I will yield whatever time I have left for questions.



VPLA LeBlanc 44:10

Reset the clock to three minutes pleas for those who have a question Senator Noble. Does anyone have any questions? Any senators have any questions? Or does any guests have a question for the advisor? A senator would have to yield their time to you. Yes. Senator

bellow. You look like you have a question. Okay, okay. Hearing no questions for the advisor, we will move on to new business. I'm so excited. This is the first week we've had new business guys Do I have a motion to hear new business?



Senator Bellow 45:12

Motion to hear her Senator Alex Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies.



Senator Plasse 45:19

second. LindaPlasse senator sophomore at large.



VPLA LeBlanc 45:25

Thank you. first piece of new business we have is resolution SR.F20I 001. The Election Day resolution will the authors and sponsors of this bill, please take yourselves off mute and state your name for the record?



Senator Clotilde Lair 45:49

Hi, I'm Clotilde I am your Senator of College of Engineering.



Guest Ganger 45:58

I'm Molly Ganger. And I am a mechanical engineering major of the college of engineering.



VPLA LeBlanc 46:06

Wonderful. Okay, you have six minutes to introduce your bill and 10 minutes for questions. So Senator noble, remember that for me, okay.



Senator Clotilde Lair 46:18

This is a resolution to recommend the administration of you know, University of New Orleans to in state election day November 3 2020. And here after the first Tuesday of the after November 1 an even number years to be declared a class holiday, whereas November 3 2020, is the general election as Americans voting is our right and our duty. There is no place more important for any person to be on Election Day other than the voting booth.



Senator Fretz 46:50

We the Student Government Association, call on administration to lift up the voices of the student body and the university as a whole by declaring the highest party on election day to be going out to vote, whereas we call on administration as leaders in our community to take a stand in the efforts to get more voters on the poll, whereas it is more important for students to have voice in the election and to encourage them to be civil engage, whereas students may not have as much time in the day between school and work to go out and vote. Therefore, a class holiday would encourage voting among the students of the University of New Orleans, therefore, students would have an opportunity to travel back to their precincts to vote. Therefore, the students of the University of New Orleans could represent themselves and thereby the college and the unit and the government through choosing their elected leaders.



Senator Clotilde Lair 47:53

be it resolved that the University of New Orleans student government association that election day November 3 2020 and every first Tuesday after November 1 and even numbered years is henceforth declared a hall class holiday. I'll let Molly speak a little bit more on that because she was really important in writing this.



Guest Ganger 48:16

Um, thank you, Senator. I don't want to take up too much time because I definitely want to have plenty of time to answer anybody's questions. But I did want to just take a couple moments to introduce myself. My name is Molly, as I said, I'm a mechanical engineering major. And I just wanted to bring to light the fact that this resolution really came as a solution to a personal problem I was having I was looking for information on the University website and just shooting out some emails just trying to find out what I was going to do if I had classes I couldn't get out of on election day or exams or labs, or we just know how school goes. So I was just kind of trying to see what I could come up with to make a plan to make sure that I could go vote. And I really couldn't come up with anything. As far as I've been able to find out there currently is no accommodations for skipping class and stuff like that on November 3. Um, Case in point, I do actually currently have an exam scheduled on November 3 and another one The day after. So it's definitely an important issue. And one thing that we all know from being in school is that if you have a question, there's probably a million other people who are thinking the exact same questions. And so if I'm having scheduling issues, I can absolutely guarantee that there are other students and faculty members out there who are having the same issues and encountering the same problem. So this is just a question that I raised and I kept raising it and kept asking it Until this resolution came together, which I'm really proud of, I'm really happy with it. And I

think that Senator Lair did a really good job of writing it to meet the moment and really call our university out to stand out and do something a little bit different and really stand by the voices of our student body. So I'm really excited to be here and I'm excited to see all of you and yeah, I'm happy to see where this is gonna go.

S Senator Fretz 50:31

Um, I'll take back to you for me, if you don't mind. Um, we are a government in and of ourselves. So I think we all understand how important voting is. But I especially wanted this resolution to pass because it's it's important for all of our students to be able to have a day where they can go out free of any worries that they might miss a class Or they might miss the ability to go back to their precinct or anything like that. And so they can go out and they can vote for people to represent themselves and the university, and so that they can have a voice and they don't have to miss it because of other obligations. And that's all I wanted to say on that. I yield the rest my time for questions.

V VPLA LeBlanc 51:27

Okay Senator Noble set the clock for 10 minutes for questions, please. Does anyone have any questions for the principal author and sponsor?

S Senator Fretz 51:44

I do. Haley Fretz graduate at large. Do we know why we haven't been given off for this before? Maybe. I mean, I know that Joy is a paid employee. She might be able to give us more insight on that but do we know why it's not been offered before

S Senator Clotilde Lair 51:59

Don't know All I know is that no one in Louisisana has it set up to where this is the holiday Yet.

V VPLA LeBlanc 52:12

Great. Does anyone else has any questions for the principal author and sponsor? Hearing none, will the principal author sponsor now put themselves back on mute? Thank you so much for introducing this bill. And might I add, Molly did reach out to me several times. And I'm glad that this has actually gotten through. So thank you so much, Molly. We will now enter the initial debate. Does any senators rise in opposition to this resolution? Okay, hearing none. Okay. The next three minutes will be controlled by the principal sponsor of

this bill. Do you have anything to say? Anything else to say?

S Senator Clotilde Lair 53:28
Just what I said before, that's about it.

V VPLA LeBlanc 53:31
Okay. Okay, so next is Do we have any senators that rise in support of this resolution?

S Senator Broussard 53:41
Matthew Broussard, Senator College of Liberal Arts, I'd like to rise in support of this resolution. I think this is a terrific resolution. There are many, many barriers to voting right now. This is the minimum we can do this as a School, obviously, workplaces and other things. The fact that not everybody especially UNO has access to transportation back to their own voting districts and things like that all present significant barriers, but every barrier that we can assist in removing, I think it's our duty to do so.

V VPLA LeBlanc 54:22
Great. Thank you, Senator Broussard. Are there any other senators that rise in support of this resolution?

S Senator A. Johnson 54:34
Sure. Okay. Senator amber Johnson College of Liberal Arts. I would like to rise in support of this bill, due to the fact of the increasing voting lines that have become an issue in the city of New Orleans. Even though they are kind of dying down. I feel like this would be a very great resolution to set an example for the other universities in the New Orleans district. To kind of realize that this is becoming a problem and that we need to find a way to resolve this for our students and to encourage them to be a part of their community.

V VPLA LeBlanc 55:08
Any other senators thst rise in support

S Senator Plasse 55:14

Senator Linda Plasse sophomore Senator at large. I also agree that this is a terrific resolution. I really especially think that since we are University and all of our students are at that age where there are becoming able to vote and the national elections or they have been able to vote, I think it's our job as a university to promote participation in national elections. And like Senator Broussard was saying there are already a lot of obstacles that people are facing particularly this year due to COVID-19 and issues with mail in voting as stated by our president of the United States. So I think any little bit that we can do as a university to really promote voter participation as our civic duty, I think that is just a fantastic idea.



VPLA LeBlanc 56:00

wonderful



Senator Bellow 56:02

Senator Bellow Interdisciplinary Studies, I rise in support of this resolution. I want to commend the author, authors and the sponsors of his resolution, I believe it's important that all students are involved in the voting process that we challenge our university to support that process. I think it's a forward thinking resolution because simply I would have just not going to class, who cares. But I think you know, that's probably not the smartest thing to do. So challenging the university to you know, give us a day off. I think it's spot on. So I commend you all and I rise in support.



VPLA LeBlanc 56:54

Great. Next, we will move on to the amendments. Are there any amendments To this resolution? All right. So now we will enter into final debate. The first three minutes will be controlled by the senator to rise and opposition of this bill to any senators rising opposition to this resolution. Are there any senators?



Senator Plasse 57:36

Permission to vote Maddie senator at large



Senator Clotilde Lair 58:00

Clotilde Lair College of Engineering .



VPLA LeBlanc 58:10

All right, this will be a roll call vote guys with a yes or no and abstention to whether or not this resolution will pass. *** Resolution Roll Call Vote*** ***17 Y, 0 N, 0 A*** With 17 yeses, zero knows and zero abstentions. This resolution has passed the Senate. It will now move to the executive branch. for consideration. It will To the SAC to possibly become a full on SGA compound to be sent to the presidents of our university. So congratulations to the principal sponsor and author. Next, we will move on to the next item on our agenda, which on campus Housing and Dining *unknown* committee reinstatement. Now let me give you guys just a little bit background about this. This committee was something that was brought up and it really didn't do as much as it could have. Um, so now I've been asked to re instated back in because we do have some issues with on campus dining and housing. And with my whatever power is that is invested in me. I hereby reinstate that committee. Into our Senate. I have nominated, and since I'm saying this, we're going to move also moving to nominations and appointments. Senator Brendan Mott to serve as that committee. Senator Mottis a very passionate person, And he's very passionate about this committee. So Senator might if you want to unmute yourself and introduce yourself and state why you are a proponent, and you want this committee to come back.



Senator Mott 1:01:33

So Hello, my name is BrentonMott. I'm the junior senator at large. And the reason I am passionate about this committee is so i a little bit of backstory is that I have lived on campus since basically my first day at UNO. I've always known I wanted to live on campus. So it's been something important to me. And I've seen so many different changes from the new dining services company to all kinds of other changes and sometimes these changes are not the best of our students and I've also think that a lot of students who live on campus don't necessarily have the voice that, that they should have like a lot of, first of all, a lot of things on campus have like really limited hours that negatively affects the students live on campus, including Dining Services, like the latest anything is open is like 7pm. And some people don't want to eat it eat earlier than 7pm. And then another issue is that like, there's just it doesn't seem like there's really many resources for us. I mean, we can talk with our, with our housing staff members, but I think that we need something of an SGA level to to better promote advocacy for students who live on campus.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:02:43

Wonderful. Thank you Senator Mott. So what we will do now set an amount is put you in the waiting room. And we're going to talk smack about you. Okay? *giggle* All right, guys. So we have six minutes for open discussion would anyone like to rise in support or

opposition for Senator Mott? To be the committee head of the ad hoc committee on campus, housing and dining.



Senator Fretz 1:03:36

Senator Fretz graduate at large. I'd love to support. Senator Mott. He is always present at our meetings, whenever there's any issues with housing, food, anything that's on campus, he is the first person to say something. So I'm happy to see that he's going to have an executive role and as create, you know, the best possible committee for this because it certainly is needed.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:04:01

Great, thank you Senator Fretz. Any other senators at this time,



Senator Plasse 1:04:11

Senator Linda Plasse sophomore, Senator at large. I would also like to rise in support of making Senator Mark the head of this new committee. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for many years at this point. And I know he is very passionate about everything he does. And he truly has the best interest of students at heart and I know that he would be a powerful force in this position. And I know he is personally, as he said, affected by the different decisions made by Housing and Dining as he has lived here, as I have since day one a freshman year. So I really do think he would be a fantastic choice for this.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:04:50

Great, thank you Senator Plasse. We will now move on to a vote. We have to do this by Roll Call ***Roll Call Vote*** ***17 Y, 0 N, 0 A*** 17 yeses, Zero no's, zero abstentions. This person passes. All right, Senator Mott. Congratulations. You are now the committee head for the ad hoc committee on campus dining housing. Congrats!



Senator Mott 1:06:51

Thank You!



VPLA LeBlanc 1:06:52

You're welcome. Now, any senators that are interested in joining this committee. At first, I

was just going to pull up Some people and just say Here you go. And I'm gonna be nice and say okay, I'm going to give you guys until Friday to email senator Mott as to whether or not you want to serve on his committee. Senator Mott can you please put your email in the chat room forth, please? We'll do

S Senator Mott 1:07:20

Actually, that's incorrect. Let me put my actual email.

V VPLA LeBlanc 1:07:26

If you know Senator Mott does not have enough people then I will start sending some names to him and reaching out to you guys. I'm more than Sure. You guys are gonna want to do this committee. So great. Next, we got to move into open forum. In this we will have 12 minutes to speak. This is for anyone that includes our wonderful guests. And this is for anything for the betterment of SGA. Okay, we have 12 minutes, so if any senators or non senators would like to speak at this time, just we just ask that you please state your name for the record.

S Senator Plasse 1:08:28

Hi, Senator, Plasse sophomore, Senator at large. Um, earlier, I had kind of asked us and he told me to bring it back up during open forum. So talking about the differences between a bill and a resolution. Again, I'm new to this. So I know it's a lot of language that I'm still learning, so I apologize for that. But, and also on the SGA website, it had a sample bill, but not a sample resolution. So I was wondering if there was a document I was missing.

V VPLA LeBlanc 1:08:53

Okay. So let me so to answer that question. Okay. You had like two parts, two questions. Okay, so for the first one, to tell the difference between the two bills and resolutions are actually written the same way. It's just that the language is different, the formatting is the same, but the language is different. And there are previous bills and resolutions that are on the website. I forgot to say this, that you can follow as far as how that will work. But I will talk with our coordinator and we maybe can get the resolution sample up there. My apologies. That is not there. Um, but how you can tell the difference between the two is if you look at the previous ones that are on there, they will tell you and the very first thing that they say, in the little brackets is a bill or a resolution. So that's how we know which one it will be, as well as the numbers. The number section of them will be different because a bill starts with a B and the resolution will have an R in it also I really, really encourage

you guys to read our rules and procedures and SGA laws, just to kind of get some sort of I mean, and this is for senators and non senators who wish to be in senate read the laws, they are a great foundation to how they how we operate. They're not perfect. Just like our federal laws, they're not perfect, but they are our foundation on what we base things on in.



Senator Fretz 1:10:37

Piggy back off of that, which something that we talked about in our executive meeting today. Not always is this the case please do not Mark me as saying this is permanent, but not always is this the case, but nine times out of 10 a bill has some form of financial relation to it. So the finance committee would need to see that kind of stuff, whereas not always like today's resolution is Finance and money involved. Not always as the case but that's one way to help you kind of detect back and forth besides obviously the labels and the titles.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:11:09

Right. Thank you, Senator Fretz. For for that information. Does that answer all of your questions? Senator plots?



Senator Plasse 1:11:22

Yes, it does. Thank you.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:11:25

Thank you for your question. Anybody else have anything to say? For the betterment of SGA we have 12 minutes.



Guest Annette Diaz 1:11:35

Hi, my name is Annette Diaz. I am a visitor. I have never been with I've never seen the SGA or, or Well, I've heard from you guys before and I've one question about that. But I'm sorry if I'm sniffing, I don't have Corona. It just allergies. Um, but I have a couple questions. If I've run out of time, I can ask these two people individually. If You guys tell me who to ask? Because I have them written down, around. Hi. So my first question is, why isn't there a separate Discord server for non SGA members to join, I can understand why an exclusive SGA member discord is advised. But it would seem to be beneficial to make one to encourage you to get involved before they have to run for the Senate and get thrown into

a mess that they had no idea like knowing about

S Senator Bellow 1:12:25
Advisor Ballard can answer that for you.

J Joy Ballard 1:12:29
let me come in. Um, so here's the thing, we used to have this fantastic app called UNO social and it was a forum for all students to talk to each other. And then we had some problems, um, which I can go into detail later, but they were some pretty serious problems. Um, so basically, if we opened it to all students, someone would have to moderate an app with nine thousand potential people saying whatever they wanted, and that has proven to be problematic in the past. So, here's what I can tell you. Um, we are always available by email, which is the formal communication of the university and is trackable, which helps keep us all out of trouble. Um, in the meantime, I can tell you all and this will be news for everyone else, too. We are working on bringing UNO social back. But it is going to be a limited version of the app with some serious moderation. It will still be a fantastic avenue for people to connect. But basically, we just got to figure out the logistics before we turn everybody loose and one application that we can monitor.

G Guest Annette Diaz 1:13:54
Okay, I think I would still suggest that maybe for people who might want to run The senate but don't know much about it, then they can get an invite and they can really get background check. Because I totally understand that people are awful. And students are 18 and 19 year olds, and we're all terrible, um, but I would definitely recommend that and along with that question to piggyback off of that question, I would also like to mention that in that maybe you guys should make it an option up there isn't the question.

V VPLA LeBlanc 1:14:28
Going to finish it?

G Guest Annette Diaz 1:14:29
Someone else in the chat said could senators create a discord independently and moderate? That's

J Joy Ballard 1:14:35
my feedback from as your advisor I strongly discourage that but also love the person. We don't have an answer that you can keep answering asking your questions.

G Guest Annette Diaz 1:14:46
Okay. Um, I would, suggest to make the agenda public. I understand that everything is extremely well regulated and each person gets three to six minutes of explanations, as well as three minutes of question time, but it's hard to follow us guests who are just joining us. Um, and maybe also adding a transcript of yalls points, either like a bullet point list of what you guys are trying to say. Or if you guys have everything exactly written down a transcript of what you guys are saying, just so that that accessibility could be offered.

J Joy Ballard 1:15:31
The agenda not being available is 110% my fault. It is supposed to be on the website. And, you know, it didn't happen this week. I will get it on the website next week. And that can be fixed because you are correct. That really is a problem. So we can fix that. Um, as far as the transcript we do post word for word. Everything that is said in this meeting would end normally within a week of the meeting being finished, so people can Go back and see what we talked about.

G Guest Annette Diaz 1:16:02
Okay. Ah, okay also, I was just curious on how students feedback on the fall term and UNO incoming freshmen got used. Who got that information? Or where did it go? That was a question back in July, about concerns or thoughts or feedback that students that the incoming freshmen students were having about COVID-19 protocols and regulations, and I never got an answer back on how that was being used.

V VPLA LeBlanc 1:16:35
So I can answer that question. Our wonderful president SGA President asked us and asked me and some of the other execs to reach out to the students to see how did you feel about returning to school in the fall that information? Well, I don't know if I was the one who emailed you or the president emailed you but I emailed Every single person who read you who emailed me back with the question, that information was given to our administration during a monthly meeting in July, because we did tell them that we will in June that we will be reaching out to the students to see how they feel about coming back

in August. We got according to what from the record and according to what I received, as well as our president, what she said we got and we got mixed signals and mixed, you know, feelings about everything. But our president did hear your comments. Um, as far as from a broad standpoint of how our students were feeling that specifically because I received a ton of emails, but I did sit down and respond to everyone, if our president Romero if you would like to piggyback off of that and answer some things or add on to that.

P

President Romero 1:18:02

I'm trying to think if you were, if you're referring to the actual survey, or just the comments that people were emailing us

G

Guest Annette Diaz 1:18:11

the comments.

P

President Romero 1:18:12


Okay, um, so as far as the comments, I compiled a list of all the comments. It was overwhelming amount. So I tried to do an automatic email to let people know that my email received it. And I don't know how successful that was. But we've received so many emails and what I did was I compiled a list of the emails and I basically wrote down three columns. People who want to return to school people who didn't want to return to school or people who were indifferent about it. I could say that more than half of the students said they did not want to return to school, but a lot more than what we thought students said that they did want to return to school. And, you know, with a school of 9000 students administration can't, you know, put school on hold or, you know, change things for all students whenever it's not a direct, I guess, consensus on whether or not we should stay at school. Plus, you know, the university has their own reasons. But basically what that was was just for me to get an idea of what the students wanted. So I can relay that to administration. And that doesn't mean that administration won't do what they think is best. It was just a way for me to best direct your opinions and feelings about returning to school.


G


Guest Annette Diaz 1:20:02


Is it possible and think and I did get your email, I hope that you run into I think it was law school. Hope that everything would that went well, because I got that email from your computer. Um, but I was, um, is it possible to get in touch with administration directly from


a normal students email just to ask them about like how everything about that was like felt or how they responded to it because they don't understand.


 Senator Noble 1:20:34
Time!


 VPLA LeBlanc 1:20:35
Um, has been called for open forum.


 Senator Mott 1:20:40
Motion to extend time by six minutes Brendan Mott Jr. at large.

 VPLA LeBlanc 1:20:44
We have to extend it by the nature of the principle the time of 12.

 Senator Mott 1:20:50
Senator Mott motion to extend by 12 minutes from the jr. large

 Second *unknown speaker*

 Senator Noble please reset the clock for 12 minutes. Miss Diaz.

 President Romero 1:21:09
Thank you. Senator. Mott yeah. So is there someone that I could talk to in the administration to see how that was handled or how the information was used? Also, I just have questions for administration on the COVID-19 response. Um, you can reach out to our Dean of Students Dr. Goalz. she, her email can be found on the website somewhere. Um, oh, it's there. Sorry. Thank you joy. There it is in the chat! are there any more questions?



Um, I just wanted to say that Senator Mott's committee with the food thing I forgot the exact name already, but I thought it was a great thing to talk about. I don't know if I should email about this about to him directly. But I had a lot of questions and a lot of concerns regarding that. And like, how cafeteria and everything the times were used in response to the to the COVID-19 regulations or protein Blake cautions and how they conflicted directly with class times. So awesome. I think that was a great idea. And that's all I don't know if I should yield my time. But thank you guys for listening. Hope I answer



Senator Mott 1:22:32

To answer your question, you can email me and I do actually work for student housing as well. So if I can't answer your question, I can direct you to the person who can answer your question.



Awesome. I don't, because kind of was a factor in me not coming to school other than everything else that was concerning me with COVID-19. But I will definitely email you. Thank you so much for your diligence and patience. I appreciate it. No problem.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:23:00

Is there any anyone else ?



Student (guest) 1:23:04

Yes Hi, I'm Michael H. in college of engineering. I have an idea to bring up about the fall semester and possibly every semester following this semester. Um, I feel like UNO should hold a second course evaluation a few weeks after school starts after the semester starts so that students can tell teachers or advise teachers of what their difficulties are in our class and what the teachers could possibly fix. Because we have them at the end of the semesters, but the like, I haven't really seen any advances from last semester. In fact, from last semester, I've seen things get worse. Because we started out in, in school, and then we transferred to online, so the teachers don't really know what they're doing. And I feel like we got teachers didn't really get any help out of that. Because we were partially, we were basically hybrid, the whole semester. So I just feel like that would be a big help for both the students and the teachers. And that's all I have to really say.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:24:35

Thank you for bringing that up, Michael. We do have some College of Engineering senators here that you can reach out to. We also have our Student Affairs Committee again, his name is Ivan, Brian. Ivan, if you want to put your email in the chat for Mr. *unknown* to email you about this to see you know, what it is that we can do, be it if we need to write a resolution or something like to that degree, but Michael, we do have senators in your college that you can reach out to as well. Okay. So and they are listed on the SGA website, I believe one of them is senator Clotilde Lair who's in here. So, definitely reach out to us. Thank you for bringing that up. And with the help of the senators, we hope that we can get this cleared up for you. Thank you, is there anybody else who has anything to say for the betterment of SGA.



Senator S. Johnson 1:25:34

Senator Sarah Johnson College of Liberal Arts, I just wanted to bring up a recent problem with housing which has to do kind of with Senator Mott's ad hoc committee, um, especially this weekend, I've noticed but I've also noticed the past and there's been an issue of garbage collection around campus. I work at the University Center and I cannot tell you how many times the garbage bins have been overflowing in the front to where The birds are picking food out of the garbage cans out front. And especially this past weekend. I live in the Pontchartrain Hall North and the garbage rooms where we bring our garbage. Each floor has their own garbage room and then it's supposed to be collected periodically. And it was so full I could not open the door. There was garbage spilling out all over all over the floor. And I understand there was a transitioning to a new company, but from my understanding the new company started on September 1, so I don't understand how it could have still been an issue for someone to come pick up our garbage on over the weekend. It was completely unsanitary. And then after when they finally picked up the garbage of I think it was yesterday morning. There is an elevator that they use to pick up all the garbage from all the floors and it was the whoever cleaned that like ended up collecting All the garbage left a huge mess all over the elevator floor never cleaned it. It was disgusting. And it's always an issue of just it's the rooms where you bring your garbage are never cleaned. I could not I had a garbage in my room because I did not feel like I wanted to go in that room and put my garbage in there was already overflowing. I couldn't even walk in, you know. So that's something we definitely should discuss in that committee. And we need to talk to housing and facility services about that. Thank you, Sarah, for that information. Brendan. I know you've heard it all.



Senator Mott 1:27:34

So I am actually aware of this issue because I have seen it because I live in South Hall and

it's happening in both buildings, actually. It's also happening throughout campus. I've seen the garbage bins in the UC, I've seen them in the library. I think it does have to do with the transition to the new company, but I will definitely talk with, um, with supervisors and housing and see how we can alleviate this issue in the future.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:27:57

Thank you, Senator Sarah. Just stay on Brendan for that. Does anyone else have anything to share with us?



Senator Fretz 1:28:08

Motion to adjourn.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:28:11

motion has been called to adjourn.



Senator Mott 1:28:14

Senator Mott Second junior at large.



VPLA LeBlanc 1:28:17

So moved. I adjourn this meeting at 6:30pm you guys have a wonderful, wonderful week and weekend and I will see you all next week.