



UNT SGA 44th Student Senate Fall 2016 Session
Hale & Cole Administration
Wednesday, October 19, 2016

- I. Call to Order** [5:30 p.m.]
- II. Opening Ceremonies**
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - b. Texas Pledge**
- III. Roll Call**
 - a. 40 Senators present**
- IV. Guest Speaker**
 - a. Christa Coffey, SGA Advisor** [Note: Speaker delayed until next meeting due to debate on legislation.]
- V. New Business**
 - a. Discuss and Vote**
 - i. F2016-3 – Carbon Neutrality Bill** [5:38 p.m.]
 - 1.** Sen. Muric: Motion to open a period of discussion for 5 minutes.
 - 2.** Sen. Corpus: Motion to amend time limit to 8 minutes.
 - 3.** Sen. M. Mercado: I explained this legislation to the best of my ability to some students in my classes, and most were on board after careful explanation.
 - 4.** Sen. C. Johnson: I had similar reactions in my classes and UPC.
 - 5.** Q, Sen. Talati: Why does this need to be a law?
 - a.** A, Sen. A. Miller: Any student fee increases are sponsored by a state legislator because they require Texas Legislative approval.
 - 6.** Sen. Horick: I looked into the idea of adding a time frame to the bill in order to defer the fee until Spring 2018 similar to how the Union Fee was delayed by two years. This was well



received by many of the students who I spoke to, but would require an amendment.

7. POI, Sen. A. Miller: Amendments risk killing the bill because it would have to go back to the GSC for approval and their next meeting is after the deadline for referendums.
8. Sen. T. Miller: The logic of moving back the fee might be backwards.
9. Sen. Horick: The fee wouldn't likely start until Spring 2018 anyway, given the necessary approval processes. This just helps reassure students that their costs aren't going up right away.
10. Sen. C. Johnson: While it might kill the bill, we need to make sure the bill reflects what we want before it leaves this chamber.
11. Sen. Sennet: Motion to extend period of discussion.
12. Sen. Nathan: I don't see a reason to put it off if I am going to still be here and pay for it regardless.
13. Sen. Sanders: What about changing "hour" to "credit hour?"
Would that have to go back to GSC?
 - a. A, VP Cole: Yes
14. Sen. Smithson: If we change it, we would kill it, so whether we like the changes doesn't really matter. Josh [Facilities guest speaker], what is your opinion of the bill?
15. Josh: The idea is great, and if the funding mechanism were to be approved that would be great too, but I am concerned about some of the carbon accounting and people misunderstanding the legislation.
16. Sen. A. Miller: I agree that there is some questionable accounting, but do you think it is possible to get renewable energy to the University?



a. A: The impact to the University is virtually zero. The way to do it would be to spend money on building things efficiently, and offsetting with conservation. The alternative to this would be a simple dedication to offsetting.

17. VP Cole: Amendments will not kill the bill.

18. Sen. C. Johnson: Motion to amend “hour” to “credit hour.”

a. VOTE: Amendment fails.

19. Sen. Sennet: I would not understand this with the current wording. Maybe if we to take a step back and reword it.

20. Sen. Sanders: Instead of changing the referendum, could we clarify with a whereas statement so that it does not have to go back to GSC?

a. A, VP Cole: Yes.

21. POI, Sen. C. Johnson: Can GSC vote electronically?

a. A, Sen. A. Miller: Yes, but GSC has not been able to reach quorum with electronic voting.

22. Sen. T. Miller: Would adding an asterisk still require GSC approval?

a. A, VP Cole: Yes.

23. Sen. Sobocinski: Motion to extend period of discussion.

a. Q, I don’t see why we have to change anything when we can just explain it to students.

24. Sen. Belokin: The people who are going to see this are the people that we make aware of it. We might as well just explain our intentions with the current wording.

25. Sen. T. Miller: I agree with Natalie, and I think this is what tabling is for. I, along with the people who I have



explained this to, understood it as “credit hour” without needing to change the actual wording.

- 26.** Sen. E. Mercado: I don’t want to distract with the verbiage discussion, but we are going to be advertising to students that we are carbon neutral even though we are still using non-renewable energy. This is being used as a marketing tool and there are other things that we can do with that money to make an environmental impact.
- 27.** Sen. Sennet: I was not here for the last two meetings and other senators have not been able to explain what’s going on. If we can’t explain it to each other, how can we explain it to students?
- 28.** Sen. Muric: I think that before this meeting, Adam did post on the page to inform yourself and come prepared and that’s what we’re doing during this time. I understand RECs a little more now. However, I do not understand what you mean by accounting.
- 29.** Josh: Carbon emissions cannot be measured exactly as they are created. What you end up doing is taking a really complicated equation and going through that process to figure out what you are actually using and trying to offset. What you are talking about with RECs and offsets is that you’re taking the green energy credits that already exist and buying those. Rather than creating a new solution, you are buying the accounted green energy credits from somewhere else.
- 30.** Sen. A. Miller: The vender the Denton uses has a program called Earth Era that reinvests our money into renewable energy.



- 31.** Sen. E. Mercado: [Explains RECs] My concern is that there are other things that we could do with our money.

 - a.** Sen. A. Miller: We don't necessarily have to spend this money on RECs
- 32.** Sen. Sobocinski: Are we going to see a change on campus when this is enacted?

 - a.** Sen. A Miller: Yes.
- 33.** Sen. Muric: Is it true that this won't directly affect us? I want to know if this is going to save the planet.
- 34.** Sen. T. Miller: I understand people's reservations, but we are the University of North Texas. This bill may be affecting people outside of us, but we are innovators. Isn't that the point? To make changes for the state instead of just ourselves?
- 35.** Sen. M. Mercado: I feel like we are stuck on the RECs. I just want to clarify that we don't have to spend this specifically on RECs.
- 36.** Sen. Smithson: How many windmills would we have to buy to go carbon neutral?

 - a.** A, Josh: It's a complicated database and math to answer that question.
- 37.** Sen. Aguayo: Eric, do you think that the cons will outweigh the pros for this bill?

 - a.** A, Sen. E. Mercado: I have reservations about RECs, but there are alternatives like the Tesla Power Pact.
- 38.** Sen. Alvarado: The bill could fund any sort of moves towards carbon neutrality? We need to get the ball rolling to get this on campus.
- 39.** Sen. M. Mercado: Motion to limit discussion to three minutes



- 40.** POI, Sen. Talati: You have to look at this logistically. Administration is wary of anything fee-related, especially relating to energy. Adding money to the We Mean Fund could be an alternative.
- 41.** Daboya: Do you believe this bill is beneficial to the University of North Texas?

 - a.** A, Josh: Yes
- 42.** Sen. E. Mercado: Who decides where these funds go?

 - a.** A, Josh: expenditures would go through the typical approval process, specifically Facilities.
- 43.** Sen. Corpus: Move to table the bill.
- 44.** Sen. Muric: Motion to discuss tabling the bill.
- 45.** Sen. Muric: We need to still discuss this and make sure we understand it. This needs to go to the students rather than get tabled.
- 46.** Sen. T. Miller: We are making the assumption that the administration passes this. The second assumption is that the state passes it.
- 47.** Sen. C. Johnson: I don't think that just because this bill was raised during our session means we have to be the ones who carry this out. We need to be as clear and intentional and precise as possible. I agree that we need to table this.
- 48.** Sen. Corpus: I think that this is a little vague and that Senate isn't 100% sure it can even get passed as a referendum.
- 49.** Sen. Horick: I think we are forgetting the time constraints here. If we table this bill now, we don't realistically get to revisit this topic for years. While I agree with Cam that we do not need to be the Senate to pass this,



we have to consider the Texas legislature. If we wait on this bill, it won't get to the Texas legislature in time and they won't be able to discuss it until Spring of 2019. While it might be incomplete now, we can explain it and add more legislation in the future. If we table now, we drop the ball.

50. Sen. Muric: I move to close the tabling discussion.

51. Sen. Smithson: Motion to vote on tabling.

i. Bill will not be tabled.

52. Sen. Sanders: Motion to vote on bill via clicker

i. The bill does not pass as written.

53. Sen. E. Mercado: Motion for revote.

54. Sen. E. Mercado: Motion to move to period of discussion for four minutes

55. Sen. T. Miller: The whole point of this is to ask students if they would support the establishment for a fee? But we could come in later with clarification.

56. VP Cole: Motion to period of recess to discuss clarification of bylaws

57. VP Cole: Motion to end period of recess [6:50 p.m.]

58. VP Cole: Bylaw clarification: Revote motion must come from a senator on the losing side.

59. Open period of re-voting

a. VOTE: passes and goes to student referendum

ii. F2016-2 – Transportation Fee Bill [6:52 p.m.]

1. Sen. E. Mercado: Motion to open the floor for voting via clicker.

a. The bill passes.

iii. F2016-1 – Summer Senate Seats Bill [6:54 p.m.]

1. Sen. M. Mercado: Motion to vote by clicker

a. The bill passes.



- b. Read and Discuss**
 - i. F2016-4 – Pets on Campus Resolution [6:55 p.m.]**
 - 1. Sen. M. Mercado: Please read the information provided and send me any questions that you may have.
- VI. Officer Reports [Note: In the interest of time, Officer and College Reports will be posted internally on the SGA Facebook Group.]**
 - a. Chief of Staff**
 - b. Director of Leadership & Development**
 - c. Director of Administration & Policy**
 - d. Director of Public Relations**
 - e. Director of Student Affairs**
 - f. Director of Campus Outreach**
 - g. President**
 - h. Vice President**
- VII. College Reports**
 - a. Arts & Sciences**
 - b. Business**
 - c. Education**
 - d. Engineering**
 - e. Merchandising, Hospitality & Tourism**
 - f. Music**
 - g. Public Affairs & Community Service**
 - h. Visual Arts & Design**
 - i. Honors**
 - j. Mayborn School of Journalism**
 - k. Information**
 - l. TAMS**
- VIII. Adjournment [6:55 p.m.]**
- IX. Announcements**
 - a. Safety Tour at 7pm on the Library Mall**