



**UNT SGA 44<sup>th</sup> Student Senate Fall 2016 Session**  
**Hale & Cole Administration**  
***Wednesday, October 12, 2016***

- I. Call to Order [5:30 p.m.]**
- II. Opening Ceremonies**
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance**
  - b. Texas Pledge**
- III. Roll Call**
  - a. 39 Senators in attendance**
- IV. Guest Speaker**
  - a. Dr. Lynn Stucky, Candidate for Texas House District 64 [5:32 p.m.]**
    - i.** Dr. Stucky is a local veterinarian and Republican candidate for Texas House District 64. He strives to represent constituents rather than be a politician. He has lived and worked in Denton county for more than 30 years and raised his three children here. More information at [www.lynnstucky.com](http://www.lynnstucky.com)
  - b. Geary Robinson, Director of Transportation Services**
    - i.** [5:37 p.m.]
    - ii.** We are looking to have students help test a pay-by-hour Park Mobile system, allowing students who are on campus infrequently to pay for parking rather than purchase a parking pass.
    - iii.** ZipCar: rental car by the hour for students' use. Should be available in January. Owned by AVIS. We will have 4 cars on campus (2 in Lot 49, 2 near Crumley). Requires UNT affiliation (faculty, staff, students) for use. Only revenue for the University is the requirement for ZipCars to purchase Reserved Parking spaces. Students pay hourly rate and fill car with gas.
    - iv.** Sent information about overcrowded busses. DCTA is adjusting routes (moving bus from Mean Green to Discovery Park) in order to



avoid leaving students behind. Discovery Park stop has been moved, saving 8-10 minutes on route times.

- v. We are correcting errors in planning with regards to moving Resident students to Fouts lot. There are currently about 600 spaces empty. This is being readjusted for next Fall. If Fouts is torn down to create a new track and field facility, the excess space will go to Parking and Transportation, creating 1000 new spaces. This will help negate lost spaces for the new residence halls, new Greek facilities, CVAD building. While this (new Greek facilities, CVAD building, new residence hall) has created a lot of discussion, we believe that building facilities is important given University growth. Consider that UNT is a landlocked 800 acres with an Interstate through the middle. The area previously discussed for a new baseball stadium is being considered for approximately 600 additional spaces. Building a surface lot there is more economical than building a garage at the rate it cost to build Highland St. Garage.
- vi. We provide roughly 2.3 million passenger rides annually to DCTA, but are not the largest financial contributor to that system. We do provide students, which is important given that their federal funding is tied to the number of passenger rides. With the growth of the University, we can't keep parking cars on campus and we need a better transportation to make this work. We own 18 busses, DCTA owns 60. We pay \$51/hour for bus usage. We will be looking at other models at other universities to ensure that we are using the most efficient model to do business
- vii. Q, Sen. E. Mercado: Can I talk to you later about real-time tracking technology for individual parking spots?
  1. A: Yes



**viii.** Q, Sen. M. Mercado: When Fouts gets torn down and 1000 spots are added, will any of those be Eagle spots to offset the losses in Kerr lot?

**1.** A: Yes

**ix.** Q, Sen. Fraser: Are the bus routes up for discussion?

**1.** A: Yes, those discussions will go through me.

**x.** Q, Sen. A. Miller: Is the NT Daily article information accurate that claims we will be paying an extra \$20 million in interest on the Highland Parking Garage?

**1.** A. Yes, in the end the garage will cost approximately \$40 million dollars in part due to interest.

## **V. New Business**

### **a. Senator Appointment**

**i.** Jordan Gill, College of Visual Arts and Design [5:53 p.m.]

**1.** Sen. C. Johnson: Move to open period of voting.

**a.** VOTE: 20 Yes, 19 No

### **b. Read and Question**

**i.** **F2016-1 – Summer Senate Seats** [6:48 p.m.]

**1.** Q, Sen. Muric: Is this going to the student body?

**a.** VP Cole: No. It is just proposed as a constitutional amendment. If it passes, it will come through later as a bylaw change.

**2.** Q, Sen. Sobocinski: What was this before?

**a.** A, Sen. A. Miller: 10 senators

**3.** Q, Sen. Talati: Has there ever been an issue of having less than 10 Summer Senators?

**a.** A, VP Cole: I can only speak to this summer, but there were only about 15 interested.

**4.** Sen. M. Mercado: Motion to open period of discussion.



5. Sen. Sanders: I was interested and available for Summer Senate, but was unable to because the 10 seats were full.
6. Sen. Aguayo: I think part of the reasoning behind this legislation is that Summer Senate could have gotten more done with more senators.
7. Sen. T. Miller: I am in support of this, but I personally did accomplish things. While Summer Senate did not pass legislation, some senators were able to accomplish a lot.
8. Sen. Lotze: What is the absence policy for summer senate?
  - a. A: Sen. T. Miller: It was stated that you are required to attend all sessions. However, this was not enforced.
9. Q, Sen. Santori: Is there a cap?
  - a. A, Sen. A. Miller: Not currently.
10. Sen. M. Mercado: Motion to limit discussion to another minute.
11. Sen. E. Mercado: Adding a cap is just one more rule
12. Sen. Lieng: Is there a reason not to have more senators?
13. Sen. Horick: The main argument against more senators is the issue of non-attendance. If we adjust quorum or attendance rules, this could be addressed.
14. POI, Sen. A. Miller: There is a bylaw amendment in the works that would adjust quorum based on the number of summer senators in attendance.

**ii. F2016-2 – Transportation Fee**

1. Sen. A. Miller: The transportation fee has been capped at \$3.50/hour for since 2003 years. This change needs to come from us and be backed by the students. This could help us avoid things like the additional interest being paid on the Highland Street Parking Garage. We presented this to the



GSC this week and they approved and raised the proposed rate to \$5/hour.

2. Q, Sen. C. Johnson: Can you clarify the changes resulting in the schism between UNT PD and Parking and Transportation?
  - a. A: Yes. Primarily, there is a joint budget for the two departments. The departments were previously operated together, but have since been separated.
3. Q, Sen. Nathan: What do we pay?
  - a. A: \$3.50 per credit hour
4. VP Cole: You are more than welcome to make amendments next week.
5. Sen. Nathan: You could have a stronger argument if you stated how much growth we have experienced since 2003.
6. Q, Sen. M. Mercado: It is currently capped at \$3.50/hour?
  - a. A: Yes, we think that it would need to be capped higher, but were concerned that a higher cap might concern students and fail to pass.

**iii. F2016-3 – Carbon Neutrality [6:15 p.m.]**

1. Q, Sen. T. Miller: How long did it take you to research this and are you confident in this legislation?
  - a. A, Sen. A. Miller: Yes
2. Q, Sen. M. Mercado: What is a Renewable Credit or a Carbon offset?
  - a. A: Renewable energy credits are basically you voluntarily paying more for the energy you get from your local non-renewable sources to lower the cost of renewable energy for those who live in an area where using renewable energy is an option. This



invests in renewable energy, making it possible for us to get renewable energy infrastructure in the future.

3. Q, Sen. Muric: What would this do for the University?
  - a. A, Sen. A. Miller: In my opinion, it would be a huge marketing tool for us. We can mean it when we say We Mean Green.
4. Q, Sen. C. Johnson: Are we actually reducing any of the universities emissions?
  - a. A: Yes, we are required to do so by Texas law. We are reducing emissions by 2% every year, but this lets us go carbon neutral faster.
5. Q, Sen. Nathan: Does this have anything to do with the windmills?
  - a. A: Yes, in the sense that it has to do with renewable energy.
6. Q, Sen. Muric: Will this reduce pollution in the area?
  - a. A: It depends on where the closets wind farm is.
7. Q, Sen. Gregory: How long will it take for the infrastructure to be built to have renewable energy here?
8. Q, Sen. Belokin: Is there anything that you would like to see considered for an amendment?
  - a. A, Sen. Horick: One thing that we believe needs to be considered is the timing of this fee. It will take time to get this approved by the students, the Board of Regents, and the Texas Legislature. With that being said, I believe this is more likely to pass if we add an amendment that implements this fee in Fall 2018. Like with the Union Fee, students will be more willing to accept the increased cost if it is 2 years away. I have an amendment in mind for this.



9. Sen. Sobocinski: The referendum is not completely clear that it is a fee of \$1/credit hour. Changing this could clarify for students.
10. POI, Sen. T. Miller: This is capped at \$1, but could it be adjusted?
  - a. A: Yes, it could be lower.
11. Sen. Sobocinski: Motion to allow Grant Hale to speak.
12. Pres. Hale: I want to provide context from conversations with administration. As Sen. Horick mentioned, this requires student, Board of Regents, and Texas Legislature approval. The Texas Leg does not want to increase student fees. For example, the student Rec. fee did not even make it passed board of regents. With respect to the transportation fee, I am sure that we are all in agreement that this is necessary, but make sure that we have all of the information that we have an appropriate fee amount.
13. POI, Sen. A. Miller: Did the rec fee go to a student vote?
  - a. A, Pres. Hale: No.
14. POI, Sen. A. Miller: I was told by the Office of the Lt. Governor that student-led initiatives would be considered despite legislative objection to fee-raises.
15. POI, Sen. A. Miller: The way that the Texas House legislation is written, I have a feeling that this fee is going to need to be re-affirmed every two years by the student body.
16. Sen. Sobocinski: Motion to allow Christa Coffey to speak.
17. Christa Coffey: I know that I am having a hard time understanding, so in order to explain the concepts to constituents, can we consolidate some of this information into an easier to understand, less scientific explanation.



18. Sen. Talati: UNT's slogan is We Mean Green, but in Texas, a leading state in the union for renewable energy, we are using a large percentage of non-renewable energy and emitting large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. The state provides funding for renewable energy initiatives. While \$1/credit hour is a lot, carbon neutrality means we are neutralizing our carbon output. The We mean Green Fund's original goal is to reach this by 2040, but we can cut this date back by 22 years. We could potentially be one of the top universities in the nation and be competitive with top schools in terms of Energy usage.
19. POI: Sen. T. Miller: According to the presentation, we would be the nation's largest purchaser of renewable energy.
20. Q, Sen. Lotze: Could we get an "elevator speech" version?
  - a. A: Yes
21. Q, Sen. Hawkins: So this is an expensive marketing tool?
  - a. A, Sen. A. Miller: Yes, but also huge for the environment.
22. Sen. Corpus: Motion to open period of discussion.
23. Sen. Nathan: I am for the fee increase for Dept. of Transportation, but I think some people are angry and need more information in order to convince them.
24. VP Cole: This period of discussion is specifically for the Carbon Neutrality legislation.
25. Sen. T. Miller: We are talking about a max of \$12/hour and I think most people's objections are due to a lack of understanding. I pay more than \$12 a semester for Chik-fil-a and this could actually help the environment.



26. Sen. E. Mercado: The difference between this and Chickfila is that this is required and will be added onto a raised transportation fee. Chick-fil-a is voluntary.
27. Sen. Horick: For clarification, the fee is based on your enrollment, so while it is \$12/semester if you are taking 12 hours, it is higher or lower depending on the number of classes in which you are enrolled.
28. Sen. E. Mercado: There are many videos available to explain these concepts [Renewable Energy Credits etc.]
29. Sen. C. Johnson: Paying a little bit more for these services will increase the quality for everyone.
30. Sen. Aguayo: We need to talk about it in positive terms. A fee increase can scare people, but we need to explain the benefits which outweigh the costs. You are paying to attend a school and possibly have a better experience here, in the process you can be helping the environment.
31. Q, Sen. Sobocinski: Would there be a limit to the cost per credit hour?
  - a. A, Sen. Talati: Currently no. Would y'all be in favor of a flat fee?
32. Q, Sen. E. Mercado: What happens if the revenue exceeds the costs of energy?
  - a. A: Sen. A. Miller: There is currently carbon accounting done every two years, and should the fees from one year exceed the amount of carbon that we use, the fees will decrease the next year. One way that we can ensure this would be to change the legislation to require reconsideration every two years.
33. Sen. Benitez: Could we get a list of the pros and cons of the bill for our constituents?



- a. A: Yes, although the primary 'con' is simply the increased cost to students.

34. Sen. M. Mercado: Motion to end the period of discussion.

**VI. Officer Reports** [PLEASE NOTE: Officer and College Reports were made internally in the interest of time.]

- 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** [6:58 p.m.]

**IX. Announcements**