

“To lead the student body with integrity and consistency.”

Student Government Association

89th General Body Meeting

6 October 2021



- I. Call to Order - President Johnson
- II. Roll Call – Chief of Staff Gary
- III. Approval of 88th Meeting Minutes
 - A. Senator Valdez moves to accept 88th MM; seconded by Senator Norman; Passed
- IV. Office Reports
 - A. Ryan Eilts- Beta Theta Pi
 - Brand new chapter at Kennesaw State
 - Want to get their name out and for people to understand their chapter
 - Founded in 1839 in Ohio
 - On 131 campuses, 2 are in Canada
 - Principles: Embracing values, growing from accountability, showing that actions speak louder than words
 - Partnering with international organizations
 - Have a lot of support from alumni
 - Founding Father Experience
 - Writing fraternity’s Constitution
 - Looking for leaders (freshmen-seniors) at KSU
 - Follow them on Instagram: beta_Kennesaw
 - Fill out and interest form or contact him at ryan.eilits.org
 - B. Directors
 - Internal Affairs
 - Met with KAB and Senator Rhodes to discuss collaborating on the STEM Art event
 - Split Internal committee into subcommittees (3-4 senators per committee, some senators are in more than one committee)

- Integrating interns during meeting this Friday
 - Subcommittees: General issues, Covid-19 awareness, Programming for events, Student Labor
- Communications
 - 614 submissions
 - Mandate Masks: 38.3% should not 57.9% should mandate 3.8% prefer not to say/other
 - Mandate Vaccines: 48.4% should not 45.3% should mandate 6.4% prefer not to say/other
 - 169 written responses
 - Do not want to post that many graphics, want more SGA content (e-board/senate pics + things that we are doing as an organization)
 - Comms coalition: Started direct messaging orgs on campus
 - Currently have 30 orgs in the coalition
 - Website
 - Uploaded senators and advisors onto the website
 - Creating committee pages
 - Interns, look out for email from her
 - Assisted with voter registration booth with President Johnson
 - Look out for Senator spotlight post on IG page
 - Finishing headshots
 - Whoever wants to take pictures with the pride flag in front of the KSU Sign, let her know.
- Diversity and Inclusion
 - Diversity Week Unity Project
 - Partnering with CCC
 - Spoke with Shameka about an alternative
 - Making mosaic; cutting paper/destroying supplies
 - If you have any ideas, please let him know.
 - Transient Pop-Up Shop
 - October 22nd at 11am in LGBTQ Resource Center
 - Need volunteers on Oct 21st in Willingham

Hall at 9:30am

- Will create coalition with diverse groups on campus
- Collaborating with Internal Affairs to reach out to orgs to assess problems/issues
- Governance
 - Met with Chief Justice Thompson Friday
 - Plan on doing Mock Trial to get justices acclimated toward trial law
 - Opening it up to all of SGA to come
 - If you will be absent or late to a General Body meeting, please email Chief of Staff Gary and I with your excuse.

C. President Pro Tempore

- Sent email about monthly 1:1
 - New senators will have training during their 1:1
- Senator Shoutouts: Taylor Heath (Doing great work and always on top of things) and Orlando Valdez (Accepted into Caravan for Democracy)

D. Treasurer Pfohl

E. Chief Justice Thompson

- Will give presentation at the next General Body meeting to give more information about judiciary process
- Appeal process will be on website, not Owl Life
- Interviewed Associate Justices with President Johnson

F. Vice President Wittmayer

- Setting up vacancy committee
 - Will chair it
 - Includes 3 Exec Board members and 3 senators)
- Owl Life Radio: Amani and Andrew: After Hours
 - Mondays; 6-7
 - Want to help promote events for RSOs and SGA
 - Posting owl life form for orgs and senators to come on the show soon
- If senators have concerns about procedures, please reach out to President Pro Tempore McCroskey.
- Meeting with ECO Owls with Senator Powell
- Attended Presidential Search Committee
 - Listening sessions tentative dates: Either Mondays or Fridays in October (Virtual)

G. President Johnson

- Homecoming: Inviting RAs and KAB Saturday, October 16th at 5pm
- Interview 6 people with Chief Justice Thompson for Associate Justices position
- Student Fee committee will be established
 - Treasurer will be on it and up to 5 other SGA members
 - Let her know if you want to be on the committee

H. Advisor(s) Update

- Advisor Eric Arneson
 - Encourages SGA to attend Homecoming events

V. Open Forum (2 min/officer)

- Please send Officer Reports to Chief of Staff Gary
- Will send out form soon

VI. Old Business

A. Support for Addressing COVID-19 Responsibly Act

- Written by Director Cochran - Internal Affairs
- Edits
 - Updated the number of Americans who have died during the pandemic to 700,000
 - Effectiveness of vaccine: Pfizer 88%, J&J 70%, and Moderna 90%
 - Vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe COVID-19
 - Quoted the USG Policy Manual
 - Added that more resources be provided on the Marietta campus regarding Covid-19 (gloves, hand sanitizing stations, etc.)
 - Calls for SGA to re-implement previous enforcement methods
- Senator Valdez moves to vote on resolution; seconded by Senator Quenneh; Passed to vote
- Resolution Passed

B. Ad Hoc Committee Update

- Previous ad hoc committee was not effective in representing SGA as a whole
- Creating new ad hoc committee
 - Composed of senators, 1 Executive Board member,

and 1 Judicial Branch member

- Nomination for chair: Orlando Valdez
 - Senators: Senator Branche, Senator Powell, Senator Fortson, Senator Edgar

VII. New Business

A. Swear-ins

- Candidates for Associate Justice position: Katie Kojali, Mia Hutchinson, Zae Brewer, Justice Thomas, Kamissha Miles, Radha Patel
- When any member makes an appeal, it will go to Judicial Branch
- Senator Valdez moves to have President Johnson and Chief Justice leave during the swear-ins; seconded by Senator Powell; Passed
- Senator Fortson moves to have Chief of Staff Gary pull all the write-ups on the screen; Senator Norman seconds; Passed
- Katie Kojali reads her write-up
- Senator Edgar moves for candidates to give a 30 second elevator speech; seconded by Senator Williams; passed
- Mia Hutchinson, Zae Brewer, Justice Thomas, Kamissha Miles, and Radha Patel give a short speech about why they want the position, other org affiliations, and their accomplishments
- Senator Valdez moves to interview each candidate one by one; Senator Mann seconds; Passed
 - Vote to interview one by one passed
- Director Cochran and Press Secretary Weston move to excuse themselves from questioning candidates
- Katie Kojali Questions:
 - Senator Edgar: How will you be ethical as an Associate Judge?
 - Involved in many orgs; will act correspondingly and will be unbiased
 - Senator Wahab: Based in all the clubs you are a part of how much time will you contribute to the Judicial Branch?
 - Oversaw the process of the Judicial Branch
 - Have JB meeting times blocked off her schedule so she will be available

- Senator Thompson: Can you give details about your research project?
 - Can't tell too many details because of confidentiality; Will be researching differences in public and private education
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar: How do you plan to compartmentalize since you are close friends with SGA members
 - Don't have allegiance towards anyone; will serve the students
- Mia Hutchinson Questions:
 - Senator Williams: How will your experience in enforcing policy as RA help you in this position as an Associate Justice?
 - Authority figure for residents; will know what freshman and other students want
 - Senator Valdez: Do you have any Model United Nations experience?
 - No, fairly new to the org
 - Senator Yaledah-Bashaar: How will you balance orgs and compartmentalize relationships to maintain ethical decisions?
 - SGA duties are mandatory; very neutral person and love to follow rules; will always try to follow the rules, or separate herself from the situation
 - Senator Wahab: One skill that you have taken away from the roles on campus that will help you in this position?
 - Communication; Must communicate with residents and other RAs
 - Senator Norman: Greatest strengths and weaknesses?
 - Strengths: Honest, time-management, communication
 - Weaknesses: Public speaking because it not something she particularly likes to do but she will do it
- Zae Brewer Questions:
 - Senator Matthews: What skills do you think you can bring to this position?

- Independent thought and a fresh mind
- Senator Rhodes: Define yourself with 1 word and describe yourself with that word.
 - Adaptable; Started political and social work at age 16/17; learned to balance his time
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar: What makes you passionate about the work that you do?
 - Realized in elementary school that he wanted to be a leader; Driving force is doing more for others than he does for himself
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar: How will you apply that to your position?
 - Making sure he reads and educates himself on the Bylaws and Constitution as best as he can
- Senator Wahab: Biggest weakness and how do you think you can improve upon that in this role?
 - Do sometimes get hesitant to let his views be known which is one reason why he applied for the position; felt like the court would be a safe space for him to do that
- President Pro Tempore McCroskey: How will you take politics out of it when making decisions about the laws and policies?
 - Learned through his experience with other nonpartisan organizations that he is in on how to put his political party aside to carry out business; rated the most moderate delegate in the Senate Youth program for 20-21
- Senator Williams: Since everyone is a student, how do you plan on rendering judgement in cases where your knowledge of policy may be limited?
 - Would carefully make decisions by studying his weak points; will try to interpret the best he can
- Senator Thompson: How are you going to be impartial to other ideologies given that you are vocal about being a Democrat?
 - He is able to put his beliefs to the side; he has the experience doing so, considering the

nonpartisan orgs that he is in

- Senator Valdez: How will you compartmentalize your relationships between Chief Justice and yourself as well as another justice that is a part of your organization (Young Dems).
 - They are two different organizations; I will strictly handle business with Young Dems and SGA as separates
- Senator Ulloa: What are your goals? Why do you want to be a judge?
 - Political sci major; Want to serve in armed forces; want to be a public servant

Discussion:

- VP Wittmayer: We do not want to rush this process. If you are not comfortable, we want to give you more time. We can extend the meeting so we can interview more people but suggests that this goes into a next succession.
- Senator Williams wants to put a motion on the floor to refrain from mentioning the performance of any other candidates when questioning candidates.
 - VP Wittmayer doesn't accept it into motion but does agree. Says to do everything tailored to that; do not mention anything regarding another candidate's performance; Will strike that down if it happens again
- Senator Edgar: Some of you are asking the same questions. If you feel like the questions wasn't answered, ask for them to elaborate.
- President Pro Tempore McCroskey advocates voting on the three candidates that were interviewed today and voting on the other three at the next GB meeting or doing it all at the next GB meeting.
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar motions to vote on the 3 that were interviewed today and vote the other 3 at the next General Body meeting.
- Before accepting motion, VP Wittmayer makes a point of information. The reason why SGA was an RSO was to protect us from being too partisan. University previously had 2 lawsuits for discriminating against certain viewpoints. We don't have that protection anymore because we are no longer an RSO. Word is getting back to him that there is a perception that we (SGA) are too liberal. Candidates are

very qualified, but it does matter about qualifications, it matters about perception. Be careful.

- Senator Powell: Associate Justices are not dealing with the entire school, just the Senate body. Vote for them if you are confident in them, not for their political party.
- Senator Gordan: As long as their actions aren't doing anything to put SGA at risk regarding partisanship, then you have no argument.
 - VP Wittmayer: It is the perception. He has seen this in other college's SGAs.
- President Pro Tempore McCroskey: If we have majority liberals or conservatives on decision making, it will not look good on us. Many of our e-board (Internal Affairs Director, Press Secretary, and Chief Justice) hold positions and are known for their positions in Young Dems.
- Senator Williams moves to extend the meeting to 9:20pm; Senator Valdez seconds; passed
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar motions to vote on the 3 that were interviewed today and vote the other 3 at the next General Body meeting; Senator Valdez seconds; passed
- Senator Harrison: It should be clear on their application that they should be neutral to any political affiliations because it is unfair for them.
- Senator Valdez: He (and his committees he is in) were blindsided about the swear-ins. He thought we were just swearing in the Bagwell Senator. He would like to see more transparency.
- Senator Edgar: If the political party isn't infringing on anyone's rights, lifestyle, race, etc. it doesn't matter.
- Senator Baldwin: We do have three people on the Executive Board who are apart of Young Dems. It unfair to now use that as a point against other people who may be joining the organization because now, we have 2 sets of rules.
- VP Wittmayer: He met Dir Cochran through SGA when he was a senator. He got things done last year and that spoke to this ability of being the Internal Affairs Director. He worked with Dir Weston for 2 years CHS MUN. Both were chosen based on their executive ability to deliver change. The perception is that these candidates are being brought on because they are Young Democrats.
- Senator Williams: He does not feel uneasy about the first candidate because she has experience with other RSOs. One

of the candidates is a freshman and doesn't have experience with RSOs. His experience comes from Young Democrats which makes it a different situation.

- Senator Branche: It is partisan to scrutinize their partisanship. He agrees with Senator Williams; Looking at where their experience comes from is important. It is discriminatory to judge them based off the fact that they are in Young Dems.
- Senator Davis: She wants to clarify that all of Zae Brewer's experience does not come from Young Dems. His experience comes from all of the other organizations that he is in.
- President Pro Tempore McCroskey: As we have seen in history, if one side gets too much power, it hurts our legitimacy and our gov.t. We are not trying to discriminate against any political viewpoints. We are arguing that they actively hold executive board positions in a partisan group. She does not feel like any of the senators are confident in voting anyone in and does not think they have had enough time to take in all the factors. We don't need to vote on anyone right now. We have another meeting. Suggests that senators reread the bios, rethink questions, and talks amongst themselves.
- Attorney General Waits: We should restrict the previous motion and postpone any voting until the next meeting. He does not think they are confident in voting either.
- Senator Yaledah-Bashaar motions to table the voting until the next General Body meeting; Senator Stephens seconds; passed

VIII. Announcements (2 min/officer | 5 min/audience member)

- Senator Valdez
 - Model UN having another meeting tomorrow in Social Science building
- President Johnson
 - Thank you for being here and continuing to stay after. Thank you to the people who came here today, and she is sorry that they did not get to be sworn in or voted on at all. Next General Body meeting is on the Kennesaw Campus.

IX. Adjournment

- Senator Fortson moves to adjourn the meeting; Senator Wahab seconds; passed