



**UNDERGRADUATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
MINUTES**

*Tuesday, September 1, 2020*

[Meeting Slides](#)

**I. Call to Order**

**II. SGA Mission Statement**

**III. Presentations**

- **New Advising Platform Demo**, Kim White and Andrew Jarrett [[deck](#)]
- **House Leadership's Open Positions**, Tolga Ustuner [in meeting slides]
- **House Leadership's Statement on BLM**, AJ Joshi [[statement](#)]

**IV. Open Forum**

- a. Nate Knauf
  - i. I used to be a UHR representative and as RSO policy changes and I'd like to offer my advice. In the past I advocated for UHR to outsource work to JFC. The RSO changes are alarming because it de-democratizes the distribution of funds. SGA was free to democratically decide how to distribute the Student Activity Fee. There is no language I see that allows for student government to provide amendments or suggestions to funding allocation. The criteria listed under policy says that JFC must follow RSO policy without room for nuance of common-sense decision making. Some students are receiving \$1500 in funding at a \$80 buy-in- the student activity fee.. I believe that other organizations deserve that level of funding. I urge the body to reject this policy. I believe the organization that brought up a lawsuit frauded the body by providing a description of the event that was not related to the event and that the Institute is reacting to the pressure of litigation. It is especially alarming that the student body has no democratic control over funding during the middle of a pandemic and financial crisis.
- b. Mael-Sanh Perrier
  - i. Some of the policy is new, some of it has been in work for at least a year as I served as the JCOC chair. The lack of financial oversight from any elected body is alarming. I have seen the SAF come to good use. The organization mentioned by Nate is not the only litigation against Georgia Tech.

**V. Officer Reports**

- **Report of the Vice President of Communications**, Grace Swift
- **Report of the Vice President of Student Life**, Mykala Sinclair
- **Report of the Vice President of Campus Services**, Emmett Miskell
- **Report of the Vice President of External Affairs**, Samuel Ellis
- **Report of the Vice President of Internal Affairs**, Alton Stovall
- **Report of the Vice President of Academic Affairs**, Jackson Caruso
- **Report of the Joint Vice President of Information Technology**, Cy Heffley

- **Report of the Joint Vice President of Campus Organizations**, Joyce Karanouh-Schuler
  - **Report of the Joint Vice President of Finance**, Josh Eastwood
  - **Report of the Chief of Staff**, Caleb Torres
  - **Report of the Executive Vice President**, Kyle Smith
  - **Report of the President**, Brielle Sain
  - **Report of the Advisor**, VP & Dean John Stein
  - **Report of the Secretary**, Angad “AJ” Joshi
  - **Report of the Treasurer**, Mason Favro
  - **Report of the Speaker**, Tolga Ustuner
- To view officer reports, click [here](#).

## VI. Roll Call

<https://forms.gle/hkLOOSxrKZDrx4x67>

## VII. Fast Track

## VIII. Old Business

- a. **21J008** Creation of the Joint Policy Response Committee - **Author: Mason Favro**
  - i. **Rep Favro:** I yield my time to JVPF.
  - ii. **Interim JVPF:** The RSO policy (related to the allocation to the SAF and the hierarchy of tiered organizations) has had heavy impacts on SGA as a whole and student organizations. This committee would be made of 2 UHR members, 2 GSS members, 2 RSO leaders from outside of SGA. [Referencing the charter:] These measures are short term adjustments to make sure people have access to RSOs. I'd like to mention the amendment suggested by the treasurer which would make for the body of UHR to approve the RSO leaders appointed.
  - iii. **Rep Alexander:**
  - iv. **Interim JVPF:** This was intended around providing immediate resources to RSOs to help them navigate changes around changes in policy.
  - v. **Rep O'Neal:** I see the people appointed to the committee from exec are both cabinet members, could you explain the reasoning for picking them and their related experience?
  - vi. **Interim JVPF:** These changes affect both undergraduate and graduate students. In terms of qualifications, I have extensive experience as a treasurer in RSOs, and have served on MVAC. I can't speak to Joyce's qualifications.
  - vii. **Speaker:** I now open up the floor for discussion.
  - viii. **Rep Shirk:** The new policies from USG are blunt and lack an understanding of how student orgs at Georgia Tech work. I believe thos committee is important. I motion to pass per unanimous consent.
  - ix. **Rep O'Neal [in chat]:** I second
  - x. **Rep Agawaral [point of information]:** What policy was handed down to us?
  - xi. **Dean Stein:** A lawsuit from an outside group (not a student group) was filed against Georgia Tech which means it was filed against USG. The DA's office became the lawyers. The policy came under the scrutiny of GT Legal and the DA's office and they determined there were major flaws with the policy. When the situation is resolved, GT Legal will come to the body with an explanation of why policy has to be changed. However, until then they cannot share more information
  - xii. **President:** This has been mandated on us, please reach out to Tolga, Josh, Jason, or I with any questions. We are trying to get answers ASAP.
  - xiii. **Speaker:** I would like to return to the time yielded to the VP Internal to explain their qualifications.
  - xiv. **Interim VP Campus Orgs:** My qualifications have been working within and around RSOs and I am focused on how to best serve them.
  - xv. **RESOLUTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.**

b. [21U003](#) 2020 Executive Cabinet Appointments - **Author: Brielle Lonsberry**

- i. **President:** This bill confirms the appointment of the following individuals:
  1. Chief of Staff: Caleb Torres
  2. VP of Academic Affairs: Jackson Caruso
  3. JVP of Campus Organizations: Joyce Karanouh-Schuler
  4. VP of Campus Services: Emmett Miskell
  5. VP of Communications: Grace Swift
  6. VP of External Affairs: Samuel Ellis
  7. JVP of Finance: Joshua Eastwood
  8. JVP of Information Technology: Cy Heffley
  9. VP of Internal Affairs: Alton Stovall
  10. VP of Student Life: Mykala Sinclair
- ii. **Rep O'Neal:** How did people apply to this position and how were they appointed?
- iii. **President:** We had many responses, I don't know how many exactly. Advertised to the student body, through chit-chat in SGA, and publicized on social media. We chose by structuring our cabinet around our goals of what we wanted in our cabinet and in the individuals: we wanted experience, diversity, and diversity in all senses. We chose at the beginning of the pandemic and while we knew about the lawsuit so we wanted people who would be able to do a tough job.
- iv. **Rep Shirk:** How many individuals served on your election campaign?
- v. **President:** 3 of them
- vi. **Rep O'Neal:** How many were from opposing campaigns? How many applications came from campaign teams in general?
- vii. **President:** 2 of them were from opposing campaigns. We were not trying to avoid opposing campaigns.
- viii. **Rep O'Neal:** Permission to yield a series?
- ix. **Speaker:** Granted.
- x. **Rep O'Neal:** 3 people from your campaign, how many people applied from your campaign? 2 people from others, how many people applied from others?
- xi. **President:** I would have to go back to the records, I am not sure, but more than 3 from our campaign.
- xii. **Rep Agarwal:** What were the benchmarks for diversity?
- xiii. **President:** Nationality, sexual orientation, race, gender, campus involvements. Diversity becomes a much more complicated question when you're trying to look at 10 people and we're aware that no 10 people can fully represent a student body. We tried to tailor each person to their role to the best of our ability.
- xiv. **Rep Joshi:** Is anyone graduating this semester?
- xv. **President:** Yes, one member is graduating. Kyle and I are working on a transition plan.
- xvi. **Rep Joshi:** Permission to yield a series
- xvii. **Speaker:** Granted
- xviii. **Rep Joshi:** Who is that member?
- xix. **President:** May I get permission to discuss that?
- xx. **Speaker:** Yes
- xxi. **President:** I just got permission to share, it is Emmett Miskell.
- xxii. **Rep Favro:** How long would it take for you to get the information about the application numbers?
- xxiii. **President:** It's being pulled right now.
- xxiv. **Rep O'Neal:** Were you aware that the individual's graduation date would be in the fall when they applied?
- xxv. **President:** We did not know but we were aware it was a possibility.

- xxvi. **Rep Joshi:** What is the Greek-life breakdown of the Cabinet?
- xxvii. **President:** 4 out of 12 are Greek [IFC/CPC], including myself.
- xxviii. **Speaker:** We now move into discussion, discussing one position to position.
- xxix. **Rep Alexander:** What happens if someone isn't passed?
- xxx. **Speaker:** Because the bill is presented as all of them together, we would propose an amendment to vote on the other members.
- xxxi. **Rep Shirk:** If we choose to table this bill, the board will continue to be able to act in an interim and so I suggest that we table this bill to next week after newly appointed representatives have time to meet members of the cabinet.
- xxxii. **Speaker:** Is that a formal motion?
- xxxiii. **Rep Shirk:** Just a suggestion for now.
- xxxiv. **Rep Favro:** I would like to move to table this bill until the end of the new bills so that the information requested [regarding recruitment practices from campaigns] can be found.
- xxxv. **Rep O'Neal [in chat]:** second
- xxxvi. **Rep Alexander [friendly amendment]:** Can we pull data from past cabinets to get context for these numbers?
- xxxvii. **Rep Favro:** I agree with the amendment, and rescind my motion. I now move to move the item to the end of new bills.
- xxxviii. **Rep Shirk:** Second
- xxxix. **Rep O'Neal:** if we wait a week could historical context even be found?
- xl. **President:** We can try our best, but we don't have access to any formal data sets so we would have to manually find the cabinets and the campaign teams of past years.
- xli. **Rep Shirk:** I yield my time to interim Chief of Staff
- xlii. **Interim Chief of Staff:** I have the data from the applications and I will be going through that momentarily. However campaign websites tend to expire after a year.
- xliii. **Rep O'Neal:** Pooja & Haigh's [USGA President & EVP for 2019-2020] campaign site is down, for frame of reference.
- xliv. **Rep Natale:** I yield my time to interim VP External Affairs.
- xlv. **Interim VP External:** There were no I have been working 20 hours a week for this position over the summer in a highly auxiliary position. Historically, UHR does not question cabinet members. I did not campaign for this team, I did not advocate this team but I have worked hard over the summer.
- xlvi. **Rep O'Neal:** It is the representatives' constitutional right to question interim cabinet members. I have been a VP in the past. Please don't let your fear of the future occlude your ability to ask questions.
- xlvii. **Rep Favro:** I yield my time to the President.
- xlviii. **President:** I appreciate your questions. I speak from Kyle and I, each of our members has been incredible this summer and in the last few weeks and have made great relationships with administration.
- xliv. **MOTION TO TABLE 21U003 PASSES 21:3:2**
- c. **21U004** Creation of the Long-Term Strategic Restructuring Committee - **Author: Mason Favro**
- i. **Rep Favro:** I authored this bill alongside the speaker of the house and I will let them speak on it.
  - ii. **Speaker:** Summarizes the document
  - iii. **Rep Alexander:** how would internal restructuring be related to this? How would spots be allocated?
  - iv. **Speaker:** I imagine that members would come from all branches, including the executive branch. The internal restructuring committee cannot work in certain powers but ultimately it's going to be a collaborative effort with internal restructuring committee.

- v. **President:** Have you discussed details of this proposed committee with members of the executive cabinet?
- vi. **Speaker:** I have discussed the nature of the committee with the JVPF who has voiced a positive perspective. I believe I have also explained this concept to the executive branch during a meeting.
- vii. **President:** Permission to yield a series?
- viii. **Speaker:** Granted
- ix. **President:** Have you talked to graduate leadership? This affects them and their plan to deal with this
- x. **Speaker:** I have consulted with the grad president over restructuring in general and they have expressed an unsureness in changes which is why I think this committee is important to navigate those changes.
- xi. **Shirk:** motion to pass via unanimous consent?
- xii. **PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
- d. [Out of order.] **Speaker:** We can now return to Chief of staff who has more information regarding
  - i. **Interim Chief of Staff:** I have more info now regarding bill 21U003.
    - 1. 31 applicants total
    - 2. 5 applicants from opposing campaigns (one was offered a position but turned it down, and another was offered the position)
    - 3. 3 applicants came from from winning campaing (3/3 were selected)
    - 4. These were how many applications we received for each position:
      - a. Chief of Staff: 4
      - b. Finance: 4
      - c. Campus Orgs: 5
      - d. IT: 4
      - e. Academics: 7
      - f. Campus Services: 4
      - g. Comms: 5
      - h. External: 6
      - i. Internal: 6
      - j. Student Life: 4
    - 5. Any other questions about applicants and their qualifications can be directed towards us on Slack.
  - ii. **Speaker:** I'd like to personally thank the interim Chief of Staff for getting this info
  - iii. **Rep O'Neal:** how does that 31 break down? I know people can apply to many positions
  - iv. **Interim Chief of Staff:** 31 applicants, many many more applications

**IX. New Business**

**X. Special Topics**

- a. **President [point of order, out of turn]:** we (myself and graduate president only got high level information about the bill 21U004.
  - i. **Speaker:** Everything I said was truthful from my point of view. I felt inspired from the meeting to create the resolution but was not directed to do so. I apologize to Madam President if I made incorrect conclusions.
- b. **UHR Open Discussion**
- c. **Constitutional Amendments in concert with Freshman Election Ballot**

**XI. Announcements**

**XII. Presidential Review**

**XIII. Adjournment**