



**USA Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Motion to begin the meeting: Bella**

**Second: Sarah Sun**

**Meeting start time: 8:03**

1. College Day of Service

- Bella: I want to check in with all of you and make sure everything is going well. If you need help with planning or marketing we can help out.
- Sarah Sun: We have on campus and off campus events planned. We are pretty well prepared. We have a 30 minute program with a keynote speaker. We are focusing on the marketing piece right now. Our flyers are up. On top of mind in the UT college day of service instagram page. It is difficult to coordinate, but we do still have some time to get a lot of stuff up there. IF you have graphics with details, it would be helpful to send them my way.
- Bella: We are doing our campus to community event. We are volunteering at the St. George children's museum. We invited all of our clubs to host activities based on their clubs for the children. 10am-3pm. Everything is looking good, t-shirts and lunch, open to all students and community to volunteer.
- Joe: There is a competition between U of U and BYU to raise the most in a food drive. We are using the hype of the rivalry game. I'm not sure if it is being coordinated with BYU or not. Either way, using the rivalry to hype up the food drive is helpful. It's more of just using the hype of the rivalry for marketing. marketing wise it is on our main instagram and other departments.
- Colter: SUU is doing ours on the 8th. We are doing a blanket tying night. It is marketed as a campus events. We are including as many clubs as we can. I am waiting on the marketing and will send them over tonight. We don't expect a huge turn out. But it is nice to use an already planned event.
- Sarah Heywood: We partnered with the city and our service club. The city is giving us locations and we will split up and weed and rake leaves. We expect great attendance. We have a ton of RSVPs. The City is providing a lot of supplies. I have sent some marketing and will send more.
- Matt: We have a non profit zoo and will be helping them put up their Christmas lights. All of our marketing was approved and will be sent out. We are encouraging everyone to find a project that they can attend and we will post those.

- Emily: We are doing our day of service as a tailgate. We are making kits to serve the community before chewing on your community. We will be donating the kits afterwards. We have kits from a lot of places in the community and on campus. I'm hoping that by using the tailgate we will have good attendance.

## 2. Initiative Discussion

- Bella: We have been talking about potential initiatives. I think we can focus more on what students are struggling with and see if we can find any similarities between all of us. If we identify one struggle statewide then we can support students in that. If we pick initiatives, I would love to assign specific leads on this so we can plan this accordingly. I asked everyone to prepare around 3 things that students love and 3 things that they struggle with.
- Sarah Sun: One thing that has been top of mind is that we have a focus on students serving students. That is our slogan for the student association. We would love to collaborate on being engaged and making change without having that infrastructure. One thing that is beneficial is all of our resources. We have our office of belonging, and other resources that would typically fall under student government. The office of belonging is similar to a DEI office. We need to help students find the resources they need.
- Bella: For me the top three are student life and engagement, relationships with professors, support from faculty and staff. Struggles are time management and motivation, finances, food struggles, and meeting people.
- Joe: Skiing, life center, the gaming center. Some struggles are parking ticket debt. We have been talking about a fund where if certain students are in debt and can't pay those tickets we can set aside money to pay for students in certain situations. You can't register for classes if you have parking debt.
- Colter: Good resources, great campus life and location, good faculty and staff connections. Struggles include: ramifications of HB261, we have a lot of faculty fear of what they can and cannot do. It is fear of what they can and cannot say. On campus student wages are a huge concern. This is an initiative that I came up with when campaigning. We are also seeing food concerns. We have students that don't know how to make nutritious meals or they don't have enough money for food.
- Sarah Heywood: Community and tight knit and friendliness, our wellness resources are doing very well, campus and student life, we are getting better attendance. Struggles: Finances, balancing time, we have heard that people get bored on the weekends. We are going to have activities set up on Saturdays.
- Matt: Student life, there is always something going on, involvement opportunities are very easy to find, outdoor and indoor recreation (skiing, climbing, ARC, campus rec.) I agree with the HB261 struggle, the testing center has been a struggle with wait times, it is hard for students to wait that long to schedule a test. Another one is that it is hard to get a good paying job, and housing struggles.
- Emily: Positives: affordability, class flexibility. Some challenges are academic challenges of managing life and school, more accessible tutoring options and easier access to resources. Students find it difficult to engage in social and campus life, a

suggestion was more casual events. Another big thing with HB261 is how our resources are kind of hard for students to find. All the resources have been adjusted, moved or taken away.

- Muskan: I see us tackling this in 2 ways. we can pool our USA lever or the USHE lever which is a system wide approach. For me I want to make sure that what USHE works on aligns with the strategic plan: Access, financial value, completion. Those are the things we are looking at. Some of the struggles sound very institutional focused. The thing that sticks out to me is finances. That clearly falls under financial value. We can look into components of affordability and see what lines up. It is interesting to hear about how HB261 can put a damper on campus and some have not had problems. every campus will be requesting approval of support centers. That is something that USA could work on.
- Sarah Sun: I love how you highlighted being in line with the strategic plan. As far as taking on the HB261 ramifications, I think that if we talk about belonging and inclusion, we can preserve what DEI helped students with.
- Bella: I am understanding, I'm trying to review the HB261 details to figure out what we can do.
- Sarah Sun: It's the idea of an office of belonging. It has been helpful here and a lot of resources can fall under belonging. How realistic is it to rebrand DEI to belonging.
- Joe: A bunch of centers were taken away and we had 2 created, student success and cultural engagement. VPs and presidents are going to USHE to advocate but is it for these new centers or the old centers that do not exist.
- Muskan: They are looking for approval on the new centers that they have created.
- Sarah Sun: What other universities have done the same as the U?
- matt: It is something that we are working on.
- Bella: We closed down the centers that violated DEI. We rebranded clubs and took in that director. We now have coordinators for student belonging. Our MISA area is now our Club Hub that includes cultural clubs and we have had a huge growth in our clubs branch of UTSA.
- Sarah Heywood. We changed the multicultural center to partner more with clubs. Since we remodeled and changed it to the connection center, it is still being used. Students are doing well with the change.
- Colter: The Q center and the CDI were dissolved. But the staff over those have been hired to other positions where they can still help. We don't have plans to form a center of belonging or inclusion right now.
- Bella: We have summed it up to 2 things, financial support or HB261 support. If we have leads on each, I'd love to see ownership on those. Do we want to do one or both?
- Emily: If we continue to poke at this HB261 I think it can bring a lot of anger and frustration from students. At the end of the day, I dont think a lot of student voices were heard.
- Joe: I would add on to that. I think that if you start events where we can cater to students affected by HB261 that are open to all that isn't something that would anger anyone. I don't think that spaces for students to express themselves would be negative.
- Colter: I would say that from my perspective, we are seeing a lot of confusion and fear from the faculty and staff perspective. I don't know if that is somewhere for us. I think that if we are voting, I would take on the financial initiative.

- Joe: Can we have time to come up with specific ideas around these two things? I think it would be cool to vote but without specific ideas we aren't at the time to vote on it yet. We could reconvene with ideas before we vote.
- Bella: Absolutely, I am just trying to narrow it down. One thing is that we don't have a December meeting, so I wanted to get the ball rolling. If we could have ideas for January that would be great.
- Matt: I would be willing to meet in December.

### 3. Student Fees

- Bella: This has been a changing conversation. It is tough when everyone is hearing different things. We need to all get on the same page. As I was talking about leads on initiatives, Matt, Muskan, and I are taking the lead on student fees. With that Matt is making a list of all the representatives in the Higher ed sub committee. I think that the best way is to have conversations with all of the senators and representatives. We need to make sure that all of those conversations are the same. If we can all prepare talking points and questions, that will be the more effective way to go about it.
- Muskan: I want to make sure that our efforts are coordinated and strategic with the USHE effort. We want to all be saying the same thing.
- Joe: I talked to president randall. He gave the advice that we could fill a room and have the senators come down and we can have all of our colleges and our student governments to voice our disagreements. That was the advice that I was given so I want to hear thoughts on that. I don't have all the details on that. To my understanding, there is an open room in the capitol building where you can go to express concerns. We could all meet in that room and have senators come down to hear what we have to say.
- Bella: Can you update us after that meeting? via text or phone. Any more updates?
- Matt: Just make sure that we can accurately represent our students.
- Bella: If you have questions and can answer theirs it is going to go further. Be prepared in your student fee process.
- Joe: Are each of us reaching out to senators?
- Bella: I know that Matt had a list that corresponded to presidents and areas.
- Matt: I will make a tracker of who we have spoken to with notes.
- Bella: The best way to go about this is to go to the government relations person so the meeting can have the university representative included. It is best to find a representative that is connected to your school.
- Emily: Can you send out action items of what we need to do?
- Bella: Yes with that tracker and action items It will be sent out.

**Bella motions to conclude the meeting**

**Matt seconds.**

**Motion passes.**

