**Senate: September 26, 2013**

Roll called at 11:08

Minutes edited and approved

**Officer reports**

**Committee reports**

**Old business**

**New business**

**Open forum**

President Robinson: I just wanted to explain my presence here the last few weeks, and say that I really appreciate how you are all here representing the student body. I would like to show my hope and vision for Senate. Are you aware of how we are doing commencement in the spring? I will go over how it will work, so we all understand. There will be two graduation exercises as before, but global students and campus students will not be separated; we will also include our Houston and Dallas campuses. There are lots of people in administration who have collaborated to make this work. There is a lady there named Gerry Forbis who is serving as secretary, she has been here through the formation of LeTourneau and has seen how graduation has changed from the very beginning. Last year, Belcher was filled to over capacity with graduates and their friends and families, violating fire code. With the split, we will cut down on that, and make it safer. We will not have an outdoor ceremony. There was an idea to give out tickets for graduates and limit the number of guests they can bring, but that is not in the spirit of graduation as much, their friends and families will want to share that day with them.

Senator Carter: With commencement, if there are so many people already, why are we adding online programs and their graduates?

Senator Lehman: Have they thought about graduates wanting to “repeat”, walk in the morning then watch their friends walk in the afternoon?

Senator Connor Phillips: Could we go to another city to hold the graduation in a larger building?

President Robinson: I think we are just going to stay in the Belcher center, keeping it on campus, to create the right atmosphere for graduation.

Senator Carter: If we are already at capacity, why are we expanding graduation numbers?

President Robinson: We are expanding as majors expand, there are changes in graduation and class structure, and these ideas come from the bottom up, which speaks to campus unity. It may not be walking the stage with friends, but exemplifying what a LeTourneau diploma means by having all students graduate together shows that LeTourneau is all one thing, everyone is part of one team, etc.

Senator Wagner: It is not unity, when they are walking in two separate groups.

President Robinson: That is an issue of logistics, but by grouping majors it will make it easier to do.

V.P. Koreis: By chopping the traditional class in half, then the online class in half, and adding the smaller half to the larger half, the resulting group will be smaller than just the larger class in its entirety.

Corey Ross: Graduation is an event where parents and friends and family can come and share the graduation of students, it is not ideal to have it this way, but we can form the plan more as time goes on.

President Robinson: By sharing this information with you, I hoped to bring your attention to it. If there are any other issues you are concerned about, know that V.P. Koreis passes your concerns on to me when you voice them to him. It is valuable to give him feedback, and though it might not change the issue, it is still valuable to hear your opinion. I just wanted to make myself available for that. I want to cultivate a sense of trust there. In the past, student government has exacerbated problems instead of solving them, and I would like to work toward solving the issues.

President Robinson: Another order of business, two administrators want to develop a fight song for LeTourneau, to be used in the athletic context, and that sort of thing. The alma mater is good, but it is very reverent. Terry Dikey is talking to a composer right now to come up with a tune from scratch for the fight song, with lyrics written by students. They wanted to approach Senate with the idea to possibly offer prize money to encourage students to participate in this. On behalf of them, I would like to suggest this to you here in Senate.

V.P. Koreis: The prize is looking like it would be about $250, from things we have done like this in the past.

Senator Scott: Do we need to submit this to a committee or should we bring a bill to the floor?

V.P. Koreis: If everyone is in agreement with this idea, then we can make it a bill.

Senator Thompson: Do we make a panel for this?

Senator Connor Phillips: Do we write the lyrics, and then they mold the tune around them?

President Robinson: Yes, music is written around the lyrics, as any music nerds like me would agree to! They are wanting the lyrics to be very short, about 8 lines, but yeah, it will be pretty legit!

Corey Ross: The timeline we are working around would allow fall break for students to invest time and energy, but that would be a really short time frame for that to be written, performed, and recorded by the composer.

V.P. Koreis: So how much money do you think we should offer?

Senator Ramirez: The more we offer, the higher quality lyrics we will get, I would think.

Senator Scott: We need to talk to the financial committee, and see how much we can offer, then pray about it.

V.P. Koreis: We have about $9,000 that will not be going toward clubs; we can use part of that.

Senator Carter: There are lots of students on campus who could be a part of the band recording this, so the song would be written, played and recorded by students.

President Robinson: That’s a good idea; I will present that to Terry Dikey.

Senator Hussey: I like the idea of it being performed and recorded professionally, so that in the future we can have a model for our campus bands to mold after it.

Senator Mueller: I would be more likely to sing it if it was recorded professionally.

President Robinson: Yes, the deal right now is that he will record it.

Senator Ramirez: We do have a jazz band. In regards to the prize money, $200-$250 sounds like a good idea.

Senator Shah: Is there any prayer for before games and competitions? So, before starting the meeting, there is a prayer, and then we start playing the fight song?

Senator Nemati: I think that $500 would get people’s attention much more than$ 250, so I think we should offer that for the prize money.

Senator Lehman: Is it worth that much?

Senator Olsen: It will only be 8 lines; $500 seems like a whole lot. Could there be multiple prizes, like, first, second, and third prize?

Senator Ortiz: I wish we wouldn’t talk about this in open forum. I think it would be better if a group of students got together to work on lyrics instead of just one.

Senator Jacobson: I think we are running out of time, the radio idea was mentioned last week, correct?

Senator Olsen: I have the information. We will need a permit for the transmitter, and license to operate. There are a few other things that I have seen, and I am working on figuring out what needs to be done. If we are the only ones interested in this, we should be ok, but if we are competing against anyone else, who might have better equipment already prepared, I don’t know if we will get the radio station.

Senator Broda moves to adjourn, Senate adjourned at 11:48