

# SGA overhaul ushers in new era in student government

By AMBER GAUDET

The Student Government Association held its first public meeting of the semester last week to discuss proposed constitutional revisions and structural changes aimed at streamlining efforts within the organization.

Tuesday's meeting invited members of the TWU community to weigh in on what could become a landmark undertaking for the SGA. President Mya Anderson addressed attendees, explaining how the changes will aid in the SGA's efforts to improve communication, support understaffed branches and clarify senators' responsibilities.

The proposed amendments would heighten the requirements for elected officers, requiring a GPA of 3.0 over the previous 2.5. Other changes include the addition of clarifying language throughout the document and detailing of the changes in senators' responsibilities respective to committee reorganization.

SGA leaders said that the proposed restructuring would increase productivity and allow more collaboration between the Executive Board and Senate members.

"SGA kind of operated as three separate branches, so we were trying to figure out – and have been still trying to work to – bring those three branch-

es together," SGA Executive Vice President Jaleah Logan said.

Changes include the addition of two new committees: the Judiciary Committee and the Public Relations Committee. Each committee will be led by a member of the Executive Board and will consist of committee members from the Senate.

Public Relations, which is currently handled solely by Vice President of PR Madyson Plummer, will gain three senators if the proposed restructuring is approved. SGA leaders hope the change will improve efforts to maintain consistent, open communications with the TWU community.

"We thought they [PR] needed help with their position because it's a lot to ask one PR person, whereas we now have three, to do the work of making the fliers, updating our website, handling our Pioneer Engage, things like that," Anderson said.

The move to amend the Constitution could be described as an ambitious undertaking. Revision efforts have been underway since 2016, and the SGA has not updated the document itself since 2006.

"[The current constitution] currently is not structured for us to be successful in our organization because people have just left it alone throughout the years," Anderson said. "So it does definitely

take that internal effort of saying, 'OK, how can we structure ourselves to better represent the student body?'"

Despite the meeting being open to the public, no one apart from SGA members attended – but the Senate hopes interest in the organization will continue to grow as senators work to devote more resources to outreach efforts.

"We believe that fixing this Constitution and getting ourselves structured so we can better serve the student body will definitely help," Anderson said in response to questions about efforts to improve student engagement.

"It's still a growing process; it's still a learning process – but we always ask for suggestions and questions and any concerns brought to us," Logan said.

Senators say they are taking a long look on improvements and will continue brainstorming ways to provide effective representation for TWU students.

"Change doesn't happen overnight – that's the motto that we kind of keep telling ourselves," Anderson said. "You've got to work in the mud a little bit for it to get where you want it to go."

The SGA will review suggested edits at their next general meeting Tuesday, Jan. 29.



SGA meeting