

## Despite nullified election, SGA marches on

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Tejano Tribune

The Student Government Association is moving forward to improve campus life and to keep their next elections system fully functional and clear.

During last semester, the SGA faced a vot-

ing system failure that corrupted the votes and forced the organization to revoke the results and fill positions through other means.

The failure was due to technical difficulties with the computer program used for electronic votes.

The system denied

access to computers outside the EPCC server and recorded the same number of votes for both candidates, Consuelo Gonzales and Jesus Cedeno.

Current SGA President Consuelo Gonzales said the association faced some challenges after the incident.

"When we started last

semester, we didn't know what was going to happen because we didn't have an election. We had three members trying to do everything and it was really hard."

The SGA decided to bring new members in the traditional way which by filling out an application, collecting signatures and

going through a selection process by advisors and SGA members.

SGA VV campus representative Robin Kitchen said the SGA is in a renewal stage.

"Right now we are in the process of rebuilding the SGA," said Kitchen. "We just got eight new members, so we are a to-

tal of twelve now."

"We are getting ready for the graduation ball, and looking forward to next semester's elections," Kitchen said.

Now the SGA is working on diversity events and campaigns

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of relevance for both the students and the campus.

Some events include the graduation ball, the SGA banquet, and the state convention where the EPCC SGA will compete with other student government associations from Texas.

Gonzales said some of the future campaigns include promoting the benefits of electronic books as well as educating people how to access e-books in order to save money.

She said the SGA plans to lobby the Texas Legislature to get tax-free textbooks for college students.

Gonzales said that the SGA wants to start a series of campaigns against tobacco use and has a subcommittee to achieve a tobacco-free campus.

Gonzales wants the campaigns to reinforce the current, and rarely enforced, smoking policy of the 15-foot rule and the designated smoking areas. Then the organiza-

tion will start an educational campaign about the effects of third hand smoke and the dangers of smoking for both the tobacco users and the second hand smokers.

According to the Mayo Clinic, third hand smoke is, "residual nicotine and other chemicals left on a variety of indoor surfaces by tobacco smoke.

This residue is thought to react with common indoor pollutants to create a toxic mix."

Further SGA activities also include increasing the support for international students and anti-bullying campaigns,



SGA President Consuelo Gonzales goes through some paper work in her office.

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Gonzales said.

She welcomes students to propose ideas that could enhance campus life and students wellbeing.

"Our goals are always to fight for the students' needs and make sure that they are represented well with the administration," Gonzales said. She said all students are encour-

aged to join the SGA, which has a capacity of 50 members and every campus needs their own representation. New SGA elections are planned to be held at the end of this month.