I. Call to Order……………………………………………………..Alix Baycroft, SIC Vice President

Meeting started at 5:40 p.m.

Attendance
Alixandra Baycroft, Nizar Bhulani, Melissa Bing, Mason Borth, Marian Chen, Chigozie Dike, Gina Duong, John (Matt) Franzen, Katherine Langston, Jillian Losh, Camille Range, Melissa Resnick, Margie Sutton, Morgan Jones Thigpin, Angie Torres-Adorno, Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Margaret Wang, Anna Xu

Absent
Pamela (Patricia) Abella, Alokananda Ghosh, Swati Goyal, Michelle Martinez-Rivera, Pritul Patel, Jocelyn Triplett

Guests
Dr. George Stancel, Executive Vice President, Academic & Research Affairs (EVPARA); Mr. Eric Solberg, Vice President Academic & Research Affairs (EVPARA); Mr. Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Officer, Auxiliary Enterprises; Ms. Kathy Rodgers, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (EVPARA).

II. Approval of SIC Minutes
A motion was made to approve the February minutes as presented. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. Student Activities Council…………………Margie Sutton and Smruthi Vijayaraghavan

An update regarding the crawfish boil was provided. The SAC has decided to move forward with the DJ from the School of Public Health as the entertainment option for the event. The orders for the sunglasses and koozies have been placed, as well as the beverages and food. Auxiliary Enterprises will donate 30 cases of bottled water and have assisted the SIC tremendously in placing all of the orders for the event. As of now the SIC has spent $3657.68 on the beer, gifts, wristbands, parking, DJ and additional room charges. Still outstanding is the final cost of the crawfish, miscellaneous supplies, and additional tables and chair rentals which is estimated at just under $10,000.00. A SIC Duty Sign Up sheet was distributed for all members to select their times for helping at the event. The vendor for the crawfish was selected and it is estimated to cost about $7,000.00.

b. Operations Committee………………………………Alix Baycroft

A presentation of the bylaws was made. A motion was made to change the attendance requirement from 50% to 75% of meetings in a semester and 75% of SIC events. The motion was seconded and approved. A motion was made to approve the bylaws as presented with the 75% changes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The SIC amended bylaws will go forward for President Colasurdo’s approval before being sent to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for final approvals. Once all approvals are received the amended bylaws will be loaded to the SIC website.

c. Public Relations Committee…………………..Margaret Wang and Angie Torres-Adorno

The spring Pulse newsletter was published in March and loaded to the SIC website. A new SIC camera was purchased to be used at SIC events. The PR Committee has been holding SIC Meet-n-Greets which are informal mini focus groups at each school. The Medical School, Public Health and Nursing schools have all been completed. All SIC members were encouraged to come and help with receiving feedback from their schools. In addition to gathering feedback, these mini focus events allowed SIC members to be recognized and help the students understand what we do. The next meet and greet is coming up at GSBS in April. The PR committee will compile summary report from the focus groups to be shared with SIC members to possibly come up with recommendations to UTHealth executive leadership. A “door prize” was used as an incentive for students to participate and offer feedback during these events. Gift cards not to exceed the amount of $25.00 were approved to be used as door prizes at each school.
d. **Scholarship Committee**…………………………………………………….………Margie Sutton

Applications were due for the SIC Scholarships on Friday, March 18, 2016. We received 32 applications for the SIC Academic Scholarship, 14 of the Hajibashi Memorial Leadership Award which will be reviewed by the SIC Alumni Association, and 15 for the Toshi Service Award. Each award will be in the amount of $1000.00 this year and the Scholarship Committee will have our selection made by April 11th so that the award recipients can be notified and join us at the SIC Deans Dinner on April 25th.

e. **Community Outreach Committee**........................................Marian Chen and Mason Borth

Everyone is required to attend the UT House Medics event and registration is still ongoing. It is expected that 60 volunteers are needed for both weekends and currently only 14 students are signed up. SIC members were encouraged to go back with flyers and get the word out to their fellow students.

IV. **Ad Hoc/External Committee Reports**

a. **University Safety Council**……………………………………………………Melissa Resnick

The University Safety Council met on March 17, 2016 and discussed several topics including wellness, safety, and the Zika virus. The council addressed the tobacco-free campus status and documented the smoking cessation programs through UT Physicians. It was also noted that there has been a paradigm shift where students have been more self-aware and there are now three meditation areas on campus. Additionally a UTHealth sponsored heart walk is upcoming. The overall safety of the campus has remained the same and there have been a decrease in crime levels near the south campus. There is an effort to check parking lots for lights that are currently burnt out or not working and they expect to remain vigilant especially with the upcoming events such as the super bowl next year. Zika virus continues to be a threat in Texas with 23 cases confirmed (22 being travel-related), 10 in Harris County. University sponsored travel remains restricted to 37 countries, personal travel is not however and students should consider the warnings published by the CDC which can be found at cdc.gov/zika.

b. **Interfaculty Council Report**………………………………………………Margaret Wang

The IFC meeting was held on March 17, 2016 and one topic of particular interest to students is the discussion of how faculty teaching will factor into tenure approval. The IFC will be suggesting a peer-review approach, with both stylistic and content reviews, as a necessity for promoting faculty. Many schools do a student review process right now which some faculty feel is skewed, as mentioned during the last SIC meeting.

V. **New Business**

a. **Call for SIC Officer Nominations**........................................Alix Baycroft, SIC Vice President

1. President- Margaret Wang, Smruthri Vijayaraghavan
2. Vice President- Marian Chen, Melissa Resnick
3. Secretary- Alix Baycroft
4. Treasurer- Smruthri Vijayaraghavan
5. Historian- No nominations were made.

VI. **Old Business**

a. **Deans Dinner**……………………………………………………………………Kathy Rodgers

The date is April 25, 2016 and a final poll for RSVP will be sent in April. The scholarship award recipients will be invited to attend and if all SIC members and guests are present we can expect around 50 people. The SIC officers will prepare the powerpoint presentation and program for the event.

b. **Project Funding**.................................................................Smruthri Vijayaraghavan

The application from the Hispanic Student Dental Association was awaiting a response in regard to an incomplete application under funding status. No response was received from the student contact regarding the funding status, so this application was tabled.

VII. **Announcements**

a. **Outstanding Women in Science**........................................Jillian Losh

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) will be sponsoring a lecture with Dr. Rebecca Richards at the Rice BRC at 5:30 pm on March 30, 2016.

b. **UTSSAC Recommendations**........................................Alix Baycroft

A copy of the recommendations will be sent to all SIC members once UTSSAC finalizes the report to submit to the Chancellor.
c. **Campus Carry Recommendations**...Dr. George Stancel
   The UTHealth proposal for campus carry exclusion zones and recommendation was submitted to the UT System Board of Regents by President Colasurdo earlier today. An announcement will be forthcoming from the President to all UTHealth students, faculty and staff in regard to UTHealth’s proposal.

d. **TMC Library Building Usage**...Dr. George Stancel
   A question was posed to the SIC members in regard to possible usage of the Library building space next to the McGovern Medical School if the library remained open 24/7 for possible a possible study area. Suggestions were made that although longer hours would be nice, the parking remains an issue and most students felt that if their own school had a work space/library with longer hours that would be more frequently used and provide more space and monetary resources for alternative uses of the library building.

VIII. **Adjournment**
   A motion was made to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved.
   The meeting adjourned at 7:10.