I. Call to Order……………………………………………..Michelle Martinez-Rivera, SIC President

Meeting started at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance
Alixandra Baycroft, Nizar Bhulani, Mason Borth, Marian Chen, Kara Dean, Chigozie Dike, Gina Duong, John (Matt) Franzen, Alokananda Ghosh, Morgan Jones, Jillian Losh, Michelle Martinez-Rivera, Pritul Patel, Melissa Resnick, Margie Sutton, Angie Torres-Adorno, Jocelyn Triplett, Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Margaret Wang, Anna Xu

Absent
Pamela (Patricia) Abella, Melissa Bing, Ruben Mendoza, Kayode Oliupinyo

Guests
Mr. Eric Solberg, Associate VP (EVPARA); Mr. Charlie Figari, VP/Chief Auxiliary Officer; Ms. Kathy Rodgers, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (EVPARA); SGO Members: Adriana Stanley, SBMI SGO President; Diana Dang, SOD SGO Treasurer; Peter Haddad, MS Student Senate President; Jasmine Maxwell, SON SGO President; Abigail Sedory, SPH Student Association Associate Director

a. Student Services Fee Proposal……………..Mr. Charlie Figari, VP & Chief Auxiliary Officer

Currently, the Student Service Fee (SSF) based on a full time 12 hour course load for two semesters is $532.65 annually. In the 5-Year budget plan submitted to UT System in 2013, it proposed no increase to the student service fees in Fall 2016 and to increase the fee beginning Fall 2017 to $543.45. Although these proposed increases remain the same as what was presented and approved by students in 2013, UT System has requested that students be re-pollled for these next two years. The SSF breaks down into five different student service areas that are funded from the fee; Recreation, Health, Shuttle, Counseling and Student Government.

Mr. Figari provided justification for the increases in Fall 2017 to the shuttle and to counseling student support areas of the fee. The fee for student shuttle service is proposed to increase from $73.25 to $80.60/ year due to increased ridership and the need for more shuttles. Even after the proposed increase, it is estimated that the fees collected annually only account for 27% of what it costs to run the shuttle. The fee for student counseling services is proposed to increase from $34.45 to $37.90/ year. This increase is necessary to pay for a full time staff, and even after the increase in fee, it is estimated that the fees collected annually only account for about 35% of the total cost to run the counseling center. In addition to increasing the fee, Auxiliary Enterprises will consider billing medical insurance for counseling services to help defray the rising costs.

Ms. Rodgers gave background on the proposal process and elaborated on the 5-Year plan and re-approval of the next two years. She asked for a motion regarding the proposal Mr. Figari presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the increase to the student services fee as presented by Mr. Figari for Fall 2017. Motion was approved unanimously.

b. Title IX Changes and HOOP 59………………Eric Solberg, UTHealth Title IX Coordinator, AVP, Academic & Research Affairs

Mr. Solberg introduced Title IX and the new requirements to the law from the Department of Education. Title IX is an anti-discriminatory law aimed to eliminate sexual discrimination. HOOP 59 is the UTHealth policy, which addresses sexual misconduct on the UTHealth Campus. The changes this year include domestic and dating violence, stalking, and harassment. He presented the correlation between the sexual assault rates and alcohol use on college campuses. Advice was given as to what and how to report sexual misconduct. Student Affairs office, Title IX Coordinator, STOP team, UTPD, and online compliance hotline for anonymous reporting are all resources on our campus to ensure compliance of the law. Even off campus events should be reported when they involve any member of the UTHealth community. All new students receive training at their orientation and this will also be included in the annual online training.
II. Approval of SIC Minutes
A motion was made to approve the October meeting minutes as written. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. Welcome to SGO Presidents…………………………..Michelle Martinez-Rivera and Margaret Wang
Each Student Governance Organization officer from each of the six UTHealth schools introduced themselves. A brief presentation about the Student InterCouncil was given that explained how the SIC can work together with the school governance groups for the betterment of students at the UTHealth campus. Each SGO officer gave an informal address about what they are most excited about for this upcoming year.

IV. Standing Committee Reports
a. Student Activities Report……………………….Margie Sutton
The SIC Fall event has been postponed to early Spring due to the limited participation available at the Houston Zoo based on our limited budget. The new idea is to host an outdoor movie night.

b. Public Relations Committee…………………..Angie Torres-Adorno and Margaret Wang
PR Committee met and came up with a few ideas to improve SIC image among the UTHealth Campus.
A meeting summary will be sent via social media outlets shortly after the meeting to communicate the key points of the SIC meeting to each school SGO. The PR Committee held a table at the SPH Diversity Fair to promote the SIC. The PR committee would like to hold “meet and greets” at each school in the Spring semester. These events will allow for a student survey to be collected highlighting the ways in which SIC could best serve the students.

The newsletter articles are due on Monday, November 23, 2015. The Student Pulse will be finalized and distributed by the beginning of December.

V. Ad Hoc/External Committee Reports
a. Community Outreach Committee………………..Marian Chen and Mason Borth
About 25 turkeys will be delivered to Star of Hope on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 at 1:00 pm.
Toy drive boxes have been delivered to each of the schools. SIC will purchase $500 worth of toys for the drive. Collections for the SIC will end on December 11, 2015.

b. UT System Student Advisory Council (UTSSAC)…………………………….Angie Torres-Adorno and Alokandana Ghosh
1. Academic Affairs
   1. International transcript issues
   2. Transfer students/orientation and credits
   3. Recommendation for open source textbooks (automated services fee)

2. Health and Graduate Affairs
   1. Mental Health – Broad range of mental health awareness, consolidated several ideas that have worked on campuses. Support of mental health initiatives.
   2. Graduate Stipend Adjustments/Career Development – Graduate support recommendation. Specify stipend evaluations and career development opportunities. Already written, in the editing stage.

3. Financial and Legislative Affairs
   1. Affirmative Consent – differences between policies across system and creating a single definition for the entire system. Recommending implementation of an affirmative consent definition.
   2. Motion approved for “Campus Carry UTSSAC Statement” (in support of future recommendations to be made by individual campuses).

4. Campus Life
1. **Title IX Education** – minimum requirements for offices. Drafted requirements such as cultural understanding, addressing issues, and training available.

2. **Non-Smoking Enforcement** – push for consideration of student health and safety. Issues are still happening after recommendation that was passed last year. Bringing attention to issues that were not considered.

3. **Maternity Policy** – mostly affects graduate institutions. Procedures in place, but no policy. Creating policy system wide at institutions.

4. Hiring minorities in faculty and staff – touching on student importance in hiring minorities, why we want to see it happen.

**VI. Old Business**

**a. Budget Update**

_A. Smuthri Vijayaraghavan, SIC Treasurer_

A revised budget was presented showing the decreased allocations for SIC Salutation, and Public Relations (PR) giveaways since these items were paid for by the fund allocation from the President. It was also noted that additional funds were brought forward from last year leaving an extra $14,120.74 remaining in the SIC Operating Budget for expenditures this year.

A motion was made to approve budget revisions as presented to include the changes to the SIC Salutation and PR giveaways, an allocation for $5,000 to be put towards the Corpus of the SIC Scholarship endowments, to add a line item for United to Serve Volunteer Event in the amount of $3000, to add $500 back to the PR giveaway budget to provide items for the Spring meet and greet sessions, to add $1,000 to the SIC Fall Bash, and to add a line item for discretionary funds in the amount of $1000.00. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to amend the previous motion to change the reallocation of $500 to the PR giveaway line item to $1500.00 so that the PR committee could purchase necessary equipment such as a camera for SIC to use at all events. The motion was seconded and passed.

**b. Boo Bash Report**

_A. Michelle Martinez-Rivera and Margie Sutton_

The Boo Bash report was presented and it was suggested the SIC, if this event is funded again in future years, allocate the money on a reimbursement schedule. Due to rain the event was moved into the School of Nursing building, and roughly 200 students, faculty and staff attended the event. Most organizers agreed that more diligent planning and communication would make the event run more smoothly in the future. It was also noted that participation by SIC members was not adequate and all future events must be better attended by SIC members for events hosted by SIC.

**VIII. Announcements**

_a. Students at the School of Dentistry were complaining about the French Corner food service contract. The students at the SOD have started a petition in this regard to present to Auxiliary Enterprises who handles food contracts at UTHealth._

_b. T-shirts have arrived. Please pick up the one with your tag._

_c. SIC Salutation videos have been uploaded to YouTube and the SIC website._

_d. There is a large pest problem at University Housing Phase I. University Housing has changed their pest control process in response to this problem. Pest control used to be done on request and upon move out. Now there will be pest control spraying to each building on a bi-yearly basis._
e. First year medical school formal on January 15th, 2016 a Night in New Orleans. Proceeds of the event will go to Doctors without Borders.

VIII. **Adjournment**
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.