**Student InterCouncil (SIC)**  
**Tuesday, October 22, 2015**  
**University Center Tower (Rm 1726), 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

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<th><strong>I. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes</strong></th>
<th><strong>Alixandra Baycroft, SIC Vice President</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Meeting started at 5:36 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>A motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.</td>
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**Attendance**

Pamela (Patricia) Abella, Alixandra Baycroft, Nizar Bhulani, Melissa Bing, Mason Borth, Marian Chen, Chigozie Dike, John (Matt) Franzen, Jillian Losh, Ruben Mendoza, Pritul Patel, Melissa Resnick, Margie Sutton, Angie Torres-Adorno, Jocelyn Triplett, Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, Margaret Wang, Anna Xu

**Absent**

Kara Dean, Alokananda Ghosh, Morgan Jones, Michelle Martinez-Rivera, Kayode Oliupinyo

**Guests**

Dr. George Stancel, Executive Vice President Academic and Research Affairs; Mr. Charlie Figari, VP/Chief Auxiliary Officer; Ms. Kathy Rodgers, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (EVPARA); Ms. Meredith Raine, Executive Director for University Communications, Mr. Andrew Heger, Manager for University Communications

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<th><strong>II. University Guest Speakers</strong></th>
<th><strong>Dr. George Stancel, EVPARA</strong></th>
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<td><strong>a. Best Practices in Social Media</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Meredith Raine and Mr. Andrew Heger</td>
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<td>UTHealth has an active presence on social media, including: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Flicker, and Instagram and those specific pages can be found at the bottom of the UTHealth website. It was stated that University Communications can help promote SIC events and information and could serve as a valuable resource since they have already established a large following and can help promote continuity between academic years as the SIC members are only elected for a one year term. A survey was taken as to which social media platforms SIC members use and Facebook was the most widely used, and Twitter had the least participation. A comment was raised that SIC would like help gaining recognition as most students when asked specifically about our events have heard of them but did not associate the event with SIC, and what our role on the campus is. Another comment was made suggesting that using Pinterest may generate more traffic since the new Google search engine algorithm is closely linked to this social media platform. Advice was given for best social media practices, including the representation of UTHealth you make on your personal social media pages, and also what is allowed to be posted from a university compliance standpoint. The public relations committee will discuss this in more detail with Ms. Raine and Mr. Heger.</td>
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<th><strong>b. Campus Carry</strong></th>
<th>Dr. George Stancel, EVPARA</th>
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<td>Dr. Stancel reiterated SB11, and highlighted that the proposed exemptions made by each university president must be submitted to the UT System Board of Regents, and approved by the legislature before going into effect September 1, 2016. He highlighted the currently proposed areas of exclusion, which would include: hospitals and patient care areas, child care facilities, laboratories with flammable chemicals, compressed gas or other biohazards (e.g. viruses, harmful bacteria, etc.), animal care facilities, and areas where proceedings of emotional nature may take place (Human Resources, Student Affairs) and that these areas may consider signage only during these events. At this time no decisions have been finalized and he opened the floor for comments. SIC members asked about exclusion zones for faculty office hours, the admissions offices, multiuse buildings where the clinic space is near classroom space, and whether or not there was a gauge on whether UTHealth students/faculty/staff were more concerned with their safety at work or on their commute to UTHealth. It was noted that the comments made during the town hall meetings reflected that those who spoke up felt that their safety on UTHealth campus was not the main reason for obtaining a concealed handgun license. SIC members asked about increased law enforcement and the possibility of having UT Police escort after hours to a small radius around campus. Dr. Stancel believes this has been discussed previously but will suggest it again.</td>
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Dr. Stancel and members of the Campus Carry working group held town hall meetings over the last two weeks, where a short presentation regarding the facts of Senate Bill 11 was made and followed by an open discussion and question/answer session. The town hall meetings were relatively well attended, and the distribution of students, faculty and staff seemed proportional. One student suggestion was received outside of the town hall meetings requested that there be an exclusion room in each building in which meetings could be scheduled if the organizer or attendee preferred the meeting to be in an exclusion zone.

III. Standing Committee Reports

  a. Operations Committee

The Operations committee will discuss the recommendations made by Legal Affairs to the amended bylaws which were approved last Spring once the final list of recommendations are received. Additionally, the Operations committee will work with the Co-chairs of the Public Relations committee to address social media guidelines that can be incorporated into the bylaws. The co-chairs for the standing committees and ad-hoc committees were announced.

  Student Activities Committee: Ruben Mendoza and Pamela (Patricia) Abrella

  Community Outreach Committee: Marian Chen

  Selection Committee: Chigozie Dike and Jillian Losh

Community outreach will elect a second co-chair following the meeting.

An announcement was made regarding SIC communication and the frequency at which SIC members check and respond to SIC correspondence via their UTHealth e-mail account.

  b. Student Activities Committee

First meeting was held last Friday, October 17th to discuss the fall activity. Many suggestions were made including, family bowling, golf tournament, go-karts, a day at the zoo, after finals movie night, etc. The proposed dates are November 14th/15th, and November 21st/22nd. The SAC Committee has decided to narrow down the selection to the family bowling day, Houston zoo (daytime) and Houston Zoo Lights (6-9pm). Discussion regarding the number of tickets that would be available, how to handle the registration/pickup, the limits per family, and possibility of making proportional adjustments to the tickets allotted for each school based on student attendance. It was also suggested that the event encourage interaction between students and facilitate a collaborative environment. A suggestion to limit the food so more students could attend was made, and the idea to serve hot chocolate instead of food would be a good option for the zoo lights. A vote between the three options was made and Zoo lights, pending availability, was selected. The SAC committee will have to plan the event quickly to ensure adequate advertising. Any remaining funds will be used to host an after finals movie event.

IV. Ad Hoc/External Committee Reports

  a. Community Outreach Committee

The committee will continue to support the Star of Hope with a Thanksgiving Turkey drive and will participate with UTPD again for the annual toy drive. Boxes will be assigned to each school and members of the committee will work to organize the event. It was asked that the toy drive also be included in the Family Fall bash.

  b. UT System Student Advisory Council (UTSSAC)

The UTSSAC met from September 11-12, 2015 in Austin, Texas. A list of the issues that will be addressed by each subcommittee are outlined below. The UTSSAC Representatives will work with their committees to address these issues. SIC representatives will also provide feedback about the proposed strategy of UTH Health to implement SB11 Campus Carry.

  • Academic Affairs:

    Transfer student issues, helping students know what classes transfer and scholarship expiration before graduation; transcript issues, official transcripts from home countries, possible translation services; tutoring services, costs associated and how some are able to offer for free; and textbooks, copies in libraries, which ones are provided, standardize across system, free open source textbooks.

  • Health and Graduate Affairs:

    Mental health, especially for professional level students; career development options post-graduation; stipend standardization for graduate students; insurance protection for those who take leave of absence.

  • Financial and Legislative Affairs:

    Graduate student stipends, how they are issued out and how they are financed; alcohol policies on campuses; Title IX policies, broader definitions issued out, affirmative consent possibilities; tuition possibility after Sept. 24.
• **Campus Life:**
  Maternity services and leave, daycare facilities on campuses, availability and costs; breastfeeding areas on campus; maternity and paternity leave, how much is paid and how many days they get off; campus safety, alcohol policy enforcement; mental health awareness and initiatives; educational and awareness component of Title IX; surveillance on campuses and safety of buildings, accessibility services, lighting and police coverage; student enrollment, research minority student percentages and faculty and staff, difference between minority and international students; promoting task force for LGBT students.

V. **Old Business**

a. **SIC Budget Update**
   A reminder that SIC approved $500 project funding for SPH diversity fair and $250 to support the Boo Bash. The SIC T-shirts have been ordered and should arrive next week.

b. **Salutation Update**
   The salutation event ran smoothly, and 212 attended. 131 (62%) of students completed the SIC Survey and 73% said they would recommend the event to others. 52% ranked all aspects of the event highly, and most comments received were positive. Details regarding the survey results can be found on FILR. The breakdown of the budget for the event is as follows:
   - Total Budget: $6,000 from the Presidents office
   - Spent $5981.00 total; $455 for parking, $4697.00 for food, and $829.00 for the SIC pens and Fire HD tablets for the raffle

c. **Boo Bash**
   Seven SIC members have volunteered to help with the event. SIC is responsible for helping with the decorations and minor sweets. The rain contingency plan is to hold the event in the SPH building since they have a liquor license, and an e-mail notification will be sent to all students if this is the case. The event was not well organized and the plans have changed several times regarding the contribution of SIC. It was suggested that if we co-host this event in the future, we decide ahead of time what SIC will be responsible for, or only provide the funds as a reimbursement process. Additionally it was mentioned that the other schools did not contribute as much as they had the past year since SIC was contributing. Each schools contribution was: SBMI $20, GSBS $300, SPH $300, SON $300, SIC $250, the dental and medical school did not participate again this year.

VI. **Announcements**

a. **UTHealth University Center Tower Building Parking**
   Auxiliary Enterprises is researching the parking situation for the UCT parking garage due to recent overcrowding. Currently students receive 1.5 hours of free parking since UCT holds several student services offices (e.g. Registrars office, Financial aid, etc.) but this will likely be removed as of January 1, 2016.

b. **Tuition and Fee Proposals for Fall 2016 and Fall 2017**
   The Board of Regents will allow each university to submit Tuition and Fee proposals for Fall 2016, and Fall 2017. The proposals must be based on the 5 year plan that was submitted during the last proposal period (Spring 2013), but must include new student input. The proposals are due to UT System by December 11, 2015.

c. **TMC Student Volunteer Day**
   The Texas Medical Center Student Activities committee is planning an all TMC volunteer day at the Houston Food Bank for November 7, 2015. Registration can be found on their website, or via the SIC TMC representative.

d. **UT Student Regent and THECB Student**
   Nominations are now being accepted for the UT System Student Regent and THECB Student position. The SIC Selection committee will make recommendations to Dr. Colasurdo following the November 13, 2015 application deadline.

VII. **Adjourn**

a. **Motion to Adjourn**
   A motion was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.