

Student Inter Council

Monday, October 21, 2019

University Center Tower (UCT) Room 1726 (17th Floor)

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order & Minutes ApprovalTristen Tellman, SIC President

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. Tristen polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes from September 14, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

In attendance: Tristen Tellman, Jeff Ackroyd, Sehej Hara, Oluchi Nwaobia, Jayanta Mondal, Arlene Cortez, Alexander Wheeler, Paul Emeony, Ankita Pondichetty, Liang Wu, Michelle Mun, Sonia Patel, Alexandra Zingg, Rachel Buckley, Brittany Trinh, Rohail Momin, Evit John, Micaela Sandoval, Rachel Pham, Niharika Neela
Eric Solberg, Yuliana Nunez, Charlie Figari

Absent: Kelsey Park, Anik Banerjee

Advisors: Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs, Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer, Yuliana Nunez, Senior Executive Assistant

Guest: Dr. Robin Dickey, Academic Ombuds, Office of Academic Ombuds

II. Advisor announcements....Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs Yuliana Nunez, Senior Executive Assistant Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer

Mr. Figari advised that the SIC budgeting and revenue was deferred to October as per UTHealth policy.

III. Office of Academic Ombuds..... Dr. Robin Dickey, Academic Ombuds

Dr. Robin Dickey provided the Student InterCouncil (SIC) members an over view of what is the Office of Academic Ombuds (OAO) and what does it. Dr. Dickey advised that the Ombuds office is a safe and confidential place where students and faculty can discuss issues, concerns and provide information about resources available here at UTHealth. The meetings with the Ombuds office can be held both either phone or in person. A handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.

IV. Committee Updates

Student Activities Committee.....Alexandra Alvarenga and Anik Banerjee

- Salutation
A review and over all summary of Salutation.

- Sports Day
Ms. Arlene Cortez provided the SIC member a few reminders and update on the current planning of Sports Day. She advise that Sports Day is scheduled for November 2, 2019 starting at 9:30 am with alternative date of November 16, 2019. She remembered all members to attend and participation is required and a sign-up sheet will be going out everyone to sign-up. She also advised that the T-shirt order is progress and they be ready in time for the event.

Operations Committee..... Jeff Ackroyd

Mr. Jeff Ackroyd advised that the minutes from the April meeting are still pending approval and reminded the members that these minutes included approved changes to the SIC Bylaws.

Mr. Ackroyd advised that the committee is currently working on adding an attendance and notification requirements to the Bylaws.

Mr. Ackroyd shared the results of the Salutation Survey.

- 220 students sign-in and 108 survey completions
- School of Dentistry had the highest number of attending students.
- 60% of the students that attended Salutation were returning student.
- The survey notes that the lowest metric was publicity. Mr. Eric Solberg suggested to that next year publicity for Salutation could begin in summer and early fall to maximize exposure. Second items that could use improvement based on survey results is food it was requested that there be more vegetarian options.

After Mr. Ackroyd shared the survey result the floor was opened to members to provide additional feedback and suggestion

- Add a vendor map for easier flow of traffic
- Vendor Survey

Scholarship Committee.....Micaela Sandoval

Mrs. Micaela Sandoval provide an over view of Mercedes Benz House Call - UTHealth Scholarship Development Event that the SIC officers attended. She advised that Mercedes-Benz USA has donated ~140k dollars in scholarship funds and that SIC may have the opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with Office of Development to potentially distribute more scholarships.

Public Relations Committee.....Evit John

Mr. Evit John provided an update regarding the SIC website and also the currently status of Sports Day publicity. He advised that Sports Day flyers have been placed on UTHealth shuttles and advised on both Facebook and Instagram.

Project Funding Committee.....Sehej Hara

Ms. Sehej Hara presented two project funding. The first request was from the Association of Minority Biomedical Researchers – Empowerment in Science teach-in series. She advise that they are requesting \$500 (\$125 per workshop) for printing materials, food and beverages. As of now they have funding for speaker fee and additional materials. The floor was opened for discussion and questions.

- How do they plan to distribute the funds?
- How do they plan if funding is approved to recognize the SIC as a sponsor of the event?
- Members questioned how event would be promoted to reach and engage all Schools
- Members questioned prior year’s attendance and projected attendance

The second project funding request came from Healthcare Innovation Challenge based out of CPIC and contest format. Ms. Hara advised that it unclear how much funding they are requesting and how they will students that are not competing will be able to participate and engage in the event.

Ms. Hara advised that she would ask each organization for the clarifications and will provide an update to the next meeting. As clarifications were still needed the decision was made to defer vote for the funding request until next meeting.

Ms. Hara advised that she presented at the School of Public Health Student Organization meeting on project funding.

Diversity/Mental Health Committees.....Micaela Sandoval, Tristen Tellman, Paul Emeony
Provided a summary of schools' Diversity initiatives and peer-to-peer mentorship frameworks. A PowerPoint is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Community Outreach.....Brittany Trinh, Sonia Patel
Potential community outreach opportunities and prospectus for holiday drives the committee chairs assessed previous years' projects and have developed a list of 5 volunteer organizations, working to delineate opportunities for SIC to provide materials and volunteer hours.

InterFaculty Council.....Jeff Ackroyd
Mr. Ackroyd provide an brief over view of the October IFC meeting he advised that during this meeting there was a Legislative update advising that there are several UTHealth related bills up for funding votes in Texas Senate, including CPRIT renewal. He advised also that Mr. Solberg present on the Visiting scientists program and provide the IFC member the Visiting Scientist Task Force recommendation.

HOOP Review Committee.....Ankita Pondichetty
Ms. Ankita Pondichetty provide a brief over view of the last HOOP Review Committee meeting. She advised that at the last meeting they spoke about the Achievement award program for eligible employees and that it may be reinstated. She advised that the Disability policy has been removed as it is redundant with inclusion policies.

Student Services Committee.....Sehej Hara, Rachel Buckley
They advised that the first Student Services meeting for the fall is scheduled for November 20, 2019.

Safety Council..... Rachel Pham
Ms. Rachel Pham advised that they have not had a Safety Council meeting as of now.

Academic Council.....Micaela Sandoval
Mrs. Micaela Sandoval provided an over view of the last Academic Council meeting. She advise that during this meeting they discussed Accreditation and that currently schools are collecting achievement and diversity data for use in university accreditation self-study. This is an opportunity to collect more detailed sociodemographic information on all UTHealth students

TMC-SAC.....Jayanta Mondal
Mr. Jayanta Mondal advise no update at this time.

V. SIC Business.....Yuliana Nunez, SIC Advisor
Ms. Yuliana Nunez advised that two possible dates have been selected for the Deans Dinner April 20th and April 22nd an email will be sent out once a date is selected.

I. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Michaela Sandoval, on 11/06/2019.
Approved by Student InterCouncil on 11/11/2019.