

# Student InterCouncil

Monday, March 29, 2021

WebEx Meeting

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

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**Attendance: Ankita Podichetty, Brittany Trinh, Cem Dede, Kate Wall, Niharika Leela, Omid Hadj, Rachel Buckley, Rohail Momin, Jayanta Mondal, Melissa Yang, Sharmily Roy, Sonia Patel, Swati Mohapatra, Alison Kiley, Mariaelena Boyle, Medina Colic, Nour Alia, Rachel Pham, Tanvi Visal, Elia Macha**

**I. Call to Order/ Welcome/ Approval of Minutes .....Rachel Pham, *SIC President***

- Call to order at 6:02 pm
- February minutes approved

**II. Advisor Announcement.....Eric Solberg, *VP of Academic and Research Affairs***

- A. Tomorrow UTHHealth will have a virtual site-visit for accreditation of our school for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Without approval from this accreditation body, all other accreditations would be rendered null.
  - Will be meeting with 130 individuals via 45 minutes sessions over the next two (2) days.
  - All services, schools, and bodies will be involved.
  - Part of the “reaffirmation of accreditation” process is also a quality enhancement plan.
    - Makes institution focus on how to continually improve education programs and student outcomes
    - Required by the Board of Education
    - Approximately 3 years ago, UTHHealth identified places to enhance student learning across all schools (will discuss outcomes at a later time).
- B. Reporting procedure as response to site visit.
- C. When our self-study was presented, SACSCOC
- gave us a preliminary report. Out of 72 standards, they wanted more documentation on 6 of those standards.
    - They wanted an audit of FY financial reports, which was not possible since FY ended a week before due date
    - Other 5 were addressed
    - After this visit, school will submit more reports and may have to send follow up reports within 5 months to address anything left

**III. Quality Enhancement Plan.....Rebecca Lunstroth, JD, MA, *Director, Quality Enhancement Plan***

- All about enhancing student learning.
- Standard 7.2: an institution’s commitment to enhancing the overall quality and effectiveness by focusing on issues that are important to student learning.
- Standards measured by:
  - A topic identified through its ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation process

- Broad-based support of institutional constituencies
- Identification of topic:
  - Lead the development of advanced standards of care models of delivery and healthcare policy
  - Develop and deliver innovative educational models in healthcare
  - QEP identification process:
    - 14 proposed topics
    - 4 selected for further development based on priorities, institutional plan and SACSCOC criteria
    - 4 LOI and full proposals and selected HP<sup>2</sup>
    - HP<sup>2</sup>
      - Genesis of the idea was based on student comments
      - Had a baseline survey of students: time spent learning about health policy
        - Majority reported not at all or too little
  - QEP team established 3 student outcomes:
    - evaluating key factors in how policy is made and changed in the US healthcare system
    - Explaining the role of government and non-government agencies play in science and scientific innovation
    - Analyzing how policy influences how healthcare is accessed, delivered and financed in the US.
  - This was an iterative process
- University Action Plan (UAP)
  - 1. Faculty development
  - 2. Civics 101
    - Know how laws are made
  - 3. Health Policy Simulation:
    - interprofessional activity
  - 4. Enhance Existing Curricula
    - Making policy aspects of curricula more explicit
  - 5. Health Policy forums
    - Funds/opportunities for schools to bring in local/ state/ national leaders to discuss relevant related to our population
  - 6. Advocacy modules
    - Showing how policies are changed, so we know how to drive change in the future
- Assessment
  - Assessing if learning has improved through involvement
- Our SIC role?
  - Talk up/ promote this – what do they mean but talk up?
  - Provide ideas on what we want to see/ thoughts
- FAQ
  - Who should participate?
    - This is going to be more for senior learners
    - Not going to be every single learner

- Would this be an all-day event? Would there be reflection after this? What does that look like? What's the timeline for this?
  - UAP will take place in different ways in schools over 5 years
  - Everyone will likely participate in Civics 101
  - Other modules, participation will happen depending on needs and students
  - Not a one-time event, will be embedded over 5 years
- What is the pace of roll-out for this program? Is this for future students only?
  - Depends on what school you're in and what program you are in.
  - Some of the schools will be embedding this into courses
- One of the first enhancement plans in the nation to focus on healthcare policy.
- How do we provide feedback? How to interact with this committee?
  - Contact Professor Lunstroth: [Rebecca.lunstroth@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.lunstroth@uth.tmc.edu)
- UT Student Advisory Council also working in a similar direction, will the student advisory panel want to work with SAC?
  - Yes.
  - Forming a student advisory panel

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### A. Student activities.....Nour Alia

- a. Had a successful run for wellness week
  - i. 200+ total participants
  - ii. 30-40 students attended each virtual class
  - iii. 20+ IG posts
  - iv. 60+ run participants
  - v. A questionnaire sent out to ask for suggestions
    1. Positive overall feedback, many students voiced that they got to learn something new
  - vi. Highest participation we've ever had for a sports day
- b. Project funding
  - i. Funded Wellness Week, and most of the funding went towards monetary prizes
- c. Public Relations Committee
  - i. Promoting the SIC Disaster Relief and Positive Impact scholarships due in April (everyone please continue to promote the scholarships)
- d. Mental Health
  - i. Last Board of Regents meeting, the board had a discussion about the services provided to our students and have renewed interest
- e. Diversity Committee
  - i. Had a meeting for the Diversity Committee
  - ii. Each school does not have a unified way to survey
- f. Outreach
  - i. Successful Toy Drive
  - ii. Put in orders for books for Books Between Kids
  - iii. Virtual Science Fair event
    1. A few of the committee members volunteered as judges
  - iv. Have the final volunteering event at the Houston Food Bank

1. Register/sign-up under our group
  2. This Thursday at 6PM, please let Brittany and Sonia know that you won't be able to attend, or if you have any questions
  3. You do not have to stay the entire time
- g. Scholarship Committee:
- i. SIC Academic Scholarship and Toshi Nikaidoh Scholarship applications reviewed and scored.
  - ii. Ad Hoc Committees
  - iii. More than 60,000 doses of vaccine administered
- h. Environmental Wellness/ Recycling
- i. Working with SPH to work on recycling program
  - ii. UT System SAC have been talking about this

## V. Upcoming Semester

### A. C. Volunteering events

- a. Need students to volunteer at COVID vaccination site

**b. Link to COVID vaccination project volunteering:**

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4b7dd15731484e5aa8d4cfc9e91b51fd>

### B. Deans' Dinner

- a. In-person Deans' Dinner at IMM on Tuesday, April 27, 2021
- b. Dinner outside, following presentation indoors in the large atrium
- c. Usually have scholarship recipients attend, but will not be inviting them this year to keep the attendance numbers low, due to Covid-19 guidelines.
- d. Attire will be Business Formal
- e. Send committee reports to Rachel ASAP

### C. Scholarships

- a. Gave \$30,000 in Covid-19 scholarships in the fall. SIC had \$40,000 available for the Disaster Relief and Positive Impact scholarships and Mr. Charlie Figari and Auxiliary Services has matched the funding by providing \$30,000 towards the scholarships
  - i. 240 \$500 scholarships each, distributed based on percentage of enrollment to each school and regional campus
- b. Rachel Pham announced to the SIC that during her meeting with Dr. Colasurdo, he advised that he would be matching our scholarship fund, so more people can receive the scholarships
- c. Was also posted on Canvas announcements and shared virtually
- d. So far had 71 for Positive Impact scholarships and 100+ for the Disaster Relief scholarships
- e. PLEASE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO APPLY!
- f. Are SIC members allowed to apply?
  - i. Yes, since each school has their own scholarship committee and we won't be reviewing those applications

### D. Budget

- a. Niharika has a meeting set with Charlie to review the budget and will provide an updated report at the April SIC meeting

### E. HOOP Committee

- a. Reviewing policies about Staff receiving gifts.

- b. Got asked by the Executive Council how HOOP reviews their policies and how policies are prioritized
  - c. Do we want to set up an ad-hoc internal committee for HOOP (i.e. more than 1 person?)
  - d. Motion to create an ad-hoc committee to aid the HOOP committee representatives to review any policy, Charlie and Eric deem appropriate to review. Approved**
- F. Next and (last of this year) meeting date: Monday, April 19, 2021

## VII. Officer Nominations

- A. President: Kate Wall, Sonia Patel, Niharika Neela
- B. Vice President: Sonia Patel, Nour Alia, Omid Hadj, Jayanta Mondal
- C. Secretary: Sharmily Roy
- D. Treasurer: Kate Wall
- E. Historian: Cem Dede
- If you are vacating the SIC position, your SGO will fill your position
- Officers will fill out an application and voting will happen through survey polls
  - Different from the pre-COVID norm
  - Have to fill out an application per position

## VII. Advisor Announcements

- Robbery in TMC
  - On Sunday evening, a UT employee was assaulted and robbed of her cell phone.
  - UT Police caught the assailant.
  - Please encourage individuals to be extra cautious and diligent.
  - UT Police is trying to do extra patrols in the garage.
- UT Housing Email
  - Past few days had some odd occurrences
  - Resident at one of the buildings reported that a lady was sitting at the stairs of a building. Later she entered an unlocked apartment and grabbed the resident's (different resident) phone.
  - Please report any odd occurrences to UT Police.
- Meeting 3/29 with Executive leadership
  - Great feedback from Rachel, Omid, and Sonia
  - Mentioned the in-person events coming up: Graduation (May 2nd and May 23rd) at Minute Maid park
    - Those who are graduating will receive a SIC sash at Deans' Dinner
  - Deans' Dinner at IMM:
    - Available and reserved, but they have strong guidelines in place
  - Dr. Colasurdo encouraged SIC to request meetings when needed
  - Members of the SIC have that voice, always bring it forward

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn approved at 7:54pm

## Additional Links:

- **Link to COVID vaccination project volunteering:**  
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/4b7dd15731484e5aa8d4cfc9e91b51fd>

- COVID Vaccine Site FAQ: <https://inside.uth.edu/covid-19/faq>
- Houston Food Bank:  
<http://houstonfoodbank.civicore.com/index.php?section=indGpRegistrations&action=conditional&fwID=61935>
- SBMI COVID Dashboard (will eventually include vaccine data or have a link for it posted): <https://sbmi.uth.edu/covid-19/data-dashboard>
- SPH's COVID 19 Dashboard: <https://sph.uth.edu/dept/bads/covid19-dashboard>
- DSHS TX COVID info:  
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>
- DSHS TX Hub Providers page:  
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx>
- Enrolling to become a Vaccine Provider:  
<https://enrolltexasiz.dshs.texas.gov/emrlogin.asp>

Respectfully submitted by Ankita Podichetty, on 3/29/2021  
Approved by Student InterCouncil on 4/29/2021.