

Student InterCouncil

Monday, March 23, 2020

WebEx

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order and Approval of MinutesTristen Tellman, SIC President

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM. Tristen polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes from the February 24, 2020. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

In Attendance: Tristen Tellman, Sonia Patel, , Arlene Cortez, Evit John, Rachel Buckley, Rohail Momin, Brittany Trinh, Alexandria Zingg Guzman, Ankita Podichetty, Michelle Mun, Paul Emeonyi, Sehej Kaur Hara, Liang Wu, Oluchi Nwaobia, Michaela Sandoval, Anik Banerjee, Jeffrey Ackroyd, Alexandra Alvarenga, Jayanta Mondal, Alexander Wheeler, Eric Solberg, Charlie Figari, Nedra Booker and Yuliana Nunez

Guest: Dr. LaTanya Love, Dr. Sudhakar Selvaraj, and Ms. Meredith Raine

Absent: Melissa Burgos, Niharika Neela, and Melissa Yang

II. Advisor Announcements.....Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic & Research Affairs, Yuliana Nunez, SIC Advisor, Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer

III. Updates on COVID-19 at UTHealth.....Dr. LaTanya Love, Vice President for Diversity and Leadership Development, Dr. Sudhakar Selvaraj, Director, Student Counseling Services and Meredith Raine, Executive Director of Public Affairs

a. Student Health & Counseling Services, Dr. Love

Student health remains open with triage occurring over the phone and testing capabilities through drive through site. Copays should be covered by student and employee insurance, but Dr. Love stressed that students receiving an unexpected bill should contact Student Health for assistance.

b. Student Counseling, Dr. Selvaraj

Telemedicine and tele-counseling have developed the capacity to see students and xpatients without in-person visits. Insurance will still be charged, but the charging experience should remain streamline. The number of calls has not markedly increased thus far, but will be re-evaluated in ~1 month for more complete data.

c. Student Counseling, Dr. Zahn

Discussion of hiring an additional staff psychologist. Funds have been made available by Mr. Figari to allow this position to be created for a full-time position.

d. Public Affairs

Sonia Patel asked about distributing updated information through social media, Mr. Solberg suggested linking directly to the established UTHealth FAQs. Public Affairs will be working with SIC to create and distribute any relevant content for students.

V. Committee Updates/Proposed Final Products

- a. **Student Activities.....Arlene Cortez and Alexandra Alvarenga**
Crawfish Boil has been officially postponed and Deans' Dinner at the Cooley Center has been officially cancelled due to COVID-19, more details to come regarding changes.
Tristen – Deans' Dinner will likely go to an online format, but awaiting confirmation on this change.
- b. **Project Funding.....Sehej Kaur Hara**
ISA project proposal: International Diversity Fair proposal with estimated budget total of \$1000, but SIC funding is requested at \$500. Advertising plans are expected to go through the school and their own social media. Sehej will follow up with questions from the council about food budget and discussions of controversial topics. Recommend postponing the event until the fall. After answers have been received, we will discuss this project further at the April meeting.
- c. **Public Relations.....Evit John**
Currently working on putting together The Pulse though it is more difficult to find material with the cancellations of SIC Spring events. Will consider highlighting funded projects in The Pulse and social media.
- d. **Mental Health/Diversity CommitteesTristen Tellman and Micaela Sandoval**
Due to COVID-19 some of the preparations for this committee have been impeded. The committee will still generate a report with the data that has been collected and present this to the leadership.
- e. **Outreach Committee.....Sonia Patel and Brittany Trinh**
Community service opportunities that were previously planned have been cancelled with the exception of the Ronald McDonald house catering donation still going through.
Presented a proposal for Books between Kids donation (\$500) and UTHSPH garden supplies (Nourish program). The vote for Books between Kids was conducted via WebEx poll and passed with the recommendation that these books focus on STEM and protagonists of color. The Nourish Program donation more details needed regarding supplies and will be discussed at the April meeting once additional information is provided.
- f. **Operations Committee.....Jeff Ackroyd and Tristen Tellman**
Bylaws for the Student InterCouncil have been edited. These bylaws will be distributed and SIC members will review and suggest changes by Friday, March 17th. The bylaws will be voted on to finalize in the April meeting.
- g. **Scholarship Committee.....Micaela Sandoval**
Application have been received and Yuliana will provide applications for scholarship committee to review. Charlie updated with additional money for the scholarship pool for next year. Hopefully we can therefore offer more needs-based scholarships next year.
- h. **Ad Hoc Committees**
Parking.....Paul Emeonyi
Mr. Emeonyi advised that UTH does not control parking at the TMC, focused on UTH operations such as increasing express buses and routes. Mr. Figari posited that routes hit the hotspots. Rachel suggested extending the stop time at other schools and/or balancing stop times.
Environmental Wellness and Recycling.....Rachel Buckley
Ms. Buckley reached out to Ms. Pat Sanchez regarding recycling bins at the School of Dentistry. She advised that approval is needed to move bins to be more accessible to students. Ms. Buckley is using School of Dentistry to demonstrate successful model in a school that did not previously

have a recycling infrastructure. Ms. Buckley collected information from each school's model and will provide her findings in a written report.

VI. SIC Business and Important Dates.....Tristen Tellman, SIC President

- a. Update on International Student report
Ms. Hara offered proposal for several issues facing international students. Delay in interfacing with Office of International Affairs due to COVID19.
- b. Officer Nominations
Nominations will go online with voting to follow. Election results will be announced at the April meeting.
- c. Ms. Tellman reminded members that committee reports are due April 3, 2020.
- d. Spring Meeting Date
 - April 20thUpdate on Events:
 - Ronald McDonald House volunteering cancelled, but catering donation proceed as scheduled.
 - Crawfish Boil – April 3, 2020 **POSTPONED**
 - Scouts' Event – **CANCELLED**
 - Dean's Dinner – April 22, 2020 **MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

VI. Other Business/Open Forum

Mr. Eric Solberg introduced Ms. Tanedra Booker as replacement for Mrs. Corrine Nice. She will transition into SIC advisor over the next few months.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting the adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tristen Tellman, on 04/16/2020.
Approved by Student InterCouncil on 4/20/2020.