Student InterCouncil
Monday, November 21, 2016
University Center Tower
Room 1726, President’s Boardroom
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Approval of 10/18/16 Minutes 5:30 p.m.------------------------Margaret Wang, SIC President

Meeting called to order at 5:36 p.m. October 18, 2016 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the 10/18/16 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and a vote to approve minutes was made. Motion approved unanimously.


Absent: Alix Baycroft, Swati Goyal, Angelina Williams, and Robert Williams.

Advisers: Kathy Rodgers, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs
Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic & Research Affairs
Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Officer
Corrin Ordner, Sr. Program Manager, Academic & Research Affairs

Guests: Dr. Sudhaker Selvaraj, Director, Student Counseling Services
Deanne Hernandez, Director, Institutional Research & Accreditation
Teresa Deis, Senior Manager, Information Technology
School Student Governance Representatives:
Meredith Williams (SOD), Digant Shah (SBMI), Kimiya Memarzadeh (GSBS), Eva Valilis (MMS), Prianka Legesse-Sinha (SPH), and Mark Jimenez (SON).

II. University Guest Speakers 5:35 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.-------------------------------Margaret Wang, SIC President

Ms. Wang introduced the guest speakers and thanked them for their time in attending the meeting.

A. Student Counseling Services--------------------------------------------Dr. Sudhaker Selvaraj, Director

Printed copies of the powerpoint presentation was provided in the meeting packets which gave a brief overview of what UTHHealth Student Counseling Services offers and how to contact the office. Dr. Selvaraj mentioned that UTH Heath Student Counseling Services are located in the UT Professional Building at 6410 Fannin, Suite 130. He reported that the full-time psychologist position is currently covered by two part-time psychologists. Student Counseling Services hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled at (713)500-5171 during regular office hours. After hours, call 713-500-5173. UTH Health students can call the 24 hour/7 Day a Week Crisis Hotline, I-M-U-T by dialing 713-500-IMUT(4688). Counseling services are provided for the following: stress management, relationship issues, grief and loss, crisis intervention, academic difficulties and psychiatric and psychological care (Mood, ADHD, anxiety, panic attacks, etc). Dr. Selvaraj noted that college surveys across the country reported that 25% of students have some sort of mental health issues. Approximately 8% of UTH Health students contacted counseling services over the past two years. Peer support is essential to facilitate the process of seeking professional help, so he mentioned the UTPD initiative of See Something Say Something. Currently, UTH Health student health insurance covers the cost of counseling services through Auxiliary Enterprises. All counseling services provided to students are confidential, except as authorized by the student in a signed release or as provided by
law. Exceptions by Law listed included: belief the student intends to seriously harm yourself; belief the student intends to seriously harm others; if student discusses a situation where a child; depending adult, or an elderly person appears to be at significant risk for abuse; and, if UTHealth receives a court-order by a judge to release records. It was also mentioned that a pilot Wellness program that includes mental health prevention was initiated with the medical school students by Student Health with the hope to open the program up to all UTHealth students in the near future.

B. Student Perception Survey (SFS)...Deanne Hernandez, Director, Institutional Research/Accreditation
The SFS is initiated every three years to survey the student services support at UTHealth. The survey also includes a few questions regarding student governance. To streamline the survey, individual school student support services will be taken out with just a concentration on the central student support areas such as Bursar, Registrar, International Affairs, Student Financial Services, Auxiliary Enterprises and student governance. These type of surveys are essential to gather data for the accreditation of the university. Ms. Hernandez is reviewing the current questions in the survey in order to assure that the data collected from the students can be used to better their experience with the student services provided by UTHealth. The plan is to role out the new survey in the month of February 2017. The previous survey was open to students for about a month (February to March) with a 46% response rate. She also mentioned that a monetary incentive to drive increased student participation was given to the school governance group with the highest percentage of respondents based on number of enrolled students and responsive students. The past surveys provided data to help with student services improvements such as, more shuttles and more routes for the shuttles. Qualtrics will be the survey engine used for the 2017 SFS. The Student InterCouncil noted that the SFS is important because it will be able to supply information to the SIC while they prepare annual recommendations to the executive leadership regarding improvements towards a better student life at UTHealth. The SIC asked for the results from the previous SFS in order to help them plan their FY2017 recommendations to President Colasurdo in May.

C. myUTH Upgrade to self-service pages-student feedback.....................Teresa Deis, Sr. Manager, I.T.
Ms. Deis is a member of the Campus Solutions Team at UTHealth. She noted that Campus Solutions is the application that holds myUTH which is preparing for 9.2 Upgrade. myUTH handles the administrative functions of the academic and financial student records at UTHealth. The Team is currently in an analysis and design phase to determine what changes need to be made in Campus Solutions. Ms. Deis noted that she asked to come to the SIC meeting to help get student feedback on what works and what doesn’t in myUTH during this analysis stage. The Team plans to distribute a survey to students and asked the SIC to endorse their constituents to complete the survey. The survey should take less than 10 minutes and should have about about 11 questions. She also noted that they hope to implement a new mobile device for cell phones where students can access myUTH and enroll in classes and other things straight from their phone. Once the configuration and set up of the new upgrade is complete the Campus Solutions Team will need students for testing. The testing phase will begin in late-May to June 2017. The SIC may be called on for this testing phase. New changes include: graduation tracking, enhancing the academic advising area, and dissertation/committee management. The SIC members reported that the current user interface of myUTH is the main complaint from students. Ms. Deis mentioned that right now the Go Live projected date is September 15, 2017.

D. Student Governance Representative-School Reports
- Meredith Williams, President, Student Council, School of Dentistry
  ♦ Student Council is comprised of the executive board with officer representatives from each dental school class and dental hygiene class. All student governance members and deans present at meetings once per month. Looking to implement a pass/fail clinic system, one day crowns with CAD/CAM, and hiring of schedulers. Dental “Sports Day” is scheduled for Houston in April.
- Digant Shah, President, Student Association, School of Biomedical Informatics
III. Standing Committee Reports 6:25 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.

A. SIC Sports Day Recap……………………………………Sunil Acharya and Michael McGuire, Co-Chairs

140 students attended. The co-chairs expressed that they think a good foundation has been established for the SIC to continue making this a better event in the future. It was reported that there were some issues with the soccer vendor and after negotiations with the vendor a 30% refund was issued by the Bubble Soccer provider. Suggestions/Advice: tents for shade, all vendors should be verified through our advisors prior to any students confirming orders, games were not planned for toddlers which were present, so games should be considered for certain age groups (face-painting, bubbles and other age-appropriate games), speakers/sound system for music, banners/balloons to attract students, whiteboard listing games and timeline, and no dates on the trophies so they can be used for other years.

B. Public Relations/Meets and Greets……………………………………Brittany Jewell, Historian & Katie Oetken, Co-Chair

Planning needs to begin early in the semester. Please send spring dates to Brittany and Katie as soon as possible. The dates will be spread out throughout the month between the schools in order that the banner and table cloth can be utilized at every meet and greet event. Suggested shorter surveys to improve participation, such as listing SIC duties and ask students to comment on anything from the list. Some of the feedback from students included, more networking opportunities, more opportunities to meet students from other schools, shuttle feedback, SIC Sports Day was successful, and more volunteer opportunities.

One issue that committees were noting in their reports to the group is that some SIC members were not responding in a timely manner to emails or at all. It was mentioned by the SIC Advisor that response to emails is an expectation of participation by members, so please be considerate of your fellow members.

C. SIC Project Funding & Guidelines……………………………………Smruthi Vijayaraghavan, SIC Treasurer

Women in Surgery and South Asian American Medical Student Association were the two project funding applications presented to the SIC. Both groups were requesting funding to offset the cost of food for their events. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve both funding applications in the amount of $250.00 to offset the cost of food. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously. It was mentioned that the Project Funding Committee should revisit the Project Funding Guidelines and application
for next year. The Treasurer also pressed the importance that all SIC members need to get with her prior to any SIC funds being spent on event projects to assure the proper expenditure guidelines are being followed.

D. **SIC Selection Committee**

Sunil Acharya, Chair  
Only one student applied to both the Student Regent and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board positions. It was noted by the SIC Advisor that the nomination process will be revised to include the Deans in the call for student nominations rather than sending an email out to students.

IV. **Ad Hoc/External Committee Reports 6:40 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.**  

A. **Community Outreach Committee**

Mason Borth and Angelina Williams  
Turkey pick-up will occur on Tuesday, November 22nd at 2:30 p.m. at the HEB on Buffalo Speedway and Bissonnet. Volunteers were needed from the group to meet Robert Williams at HEB. Kathy Rodgers, SIC Advisor and Brandon McCullough will assist in the pick up and delivery of turkeys to Star of Hope.

B. **Interfaculty Council (IFC)**

Brittany Jewell  
The IFC held their meeting on November 16th. It was discussed that faculty who are not on tenure track want stability and job security to keep a stable roster of faculty every year—limit teacher turnover. Dr. Kevin Morano, Assistant Vice President for Faculty Affairs and Development reported efforts to get care.com for faculty and staff to get care for days that your child is sick or off of school when you are at work. The annual Thomas F. Burks Academic Merit Scholarship call review will begin sometime in December.

C. **University Safety Council**

Pratikkumar Chaudhary  
As we approach the festive season the group was reminded to take precautionary measures as you begin to travel, shop and attend holiday events. If we find any questionable activity around, please report. The Council is also discussion the upcoming SuperBowl in February 2017 and how the TMC area will have limited access during Friday-Sunday game weekend.

D. **University HOOP Review Committee**

Robert Williams  
No Report was available.

V. **Old Business 6:55 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.**

Margaret Wang, SIC President

A. **Update on TMC studying options**

Margaret Wang, SIC President  
An email has been sent out to the McGovern Medical School students regarding extended library hours for “final season” in the Foyer at the TMC Library. These extended hours start next Monday, November 28.. It was emphasized that this extension is a trial run for possible future extension of hours to all students. Any student with an UTHealth ID badge will be allowed in the foyer. However, it is recommended to register with the TMC Library.

VI. **Announcements 7:20 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Open Session

- Please respond to emails promptly.
- There has been some feedback that SIC events and initiatives were not communicating to the SGO’s. The SIC president is going to contact all SGO presidents to easily facilitate information between the SIC and the schools. Margaret Wang is also learning how to best engage students for SIC events and will report back to the SIC.
- The SIC now has a Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Ms. Corrin Ordner, Senior Project Manager in the Office of Academic and Research Affairs will work with current SIC Advisor, Kathy Rodgers during FY2017 as a transition period to take over as SIC Advisor in FY2018. Ms. Rodgers duties will be directed to the accreditation process of the university.
Ms. Rodgers noted that until the full transition is announced to the SIC that all SIC questions or concerns still be directed to her.

VII. Adjournment 7:30 p.m.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.