

Student InterCouncil

Thursday, October 19, 2017

University Center Tower (Rm 1726), 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

I. Call to Order & Approval of 9/25/17 Minutes..... Stephen Simington, SIC President

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. The September 16, 2017 Orientation minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the 9/16/2017 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Attendance: Emily L Barlow, Alem Belachew, Quinten T Bolden, Kimberly A D'Souza, Jingcheng Du, Pearl Eni, Palak R Jalan, Michael McGuire(replacement), Austin B Miller, Alec Santiago, Stephen W Simington, Tristen Tellman, Sayali S Tungare, Rachel Treistman, Jennifer M Velasquez, Brennan J Welch

Absent: Pritul V Patel, Shiping Jiao, Brittany E Jewell, Angie Nguyen, Jacquelyn Randle, Megan M Short, Brenda Saucedo

Advisors: Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic & Research Affairs, Corrin Ordner, Senior Program Manager

II. University Guest Speakers..... Stephen Simington, SIC President

a. UT Counseling Services.....Sudhakar Selvaraj, MBBS, PhD, MRCPsych

Dr. Selvaraj introduced UT Counseling Services to SIC members. UT Counseling Services is a part of the student health clinic (located at 6410 Fannin St, Suite 130) and aims to serve UTHHealth students and employees. Dr. Selvaraj provided updates for counseling services that included: 1) A new psychologist has joined their team with extensive experience surrounding psychological problems; 2) Counseling services will be planning a series of more out-reach around (wellness lunches, seminars, group therapy). 3) Counseling services will offer well-being workshops for self-care, stress management, and health benefits. In order to meet the high demand and growth for mental health treatment for our students institution wide, UT Counseling Services is in the planning phase of insurance processing for mental health services at the beginning of the Spring semester. The detailed information has not been finalized. Dr. Selvaraj discussed the plans with SIC members and answered questions from the group.

b. Stop the Bleed Campaign..... Ms. Jennifer Laine, Safety Manager, Health, Environment & Risk

Ms. Laine presented the Stop the Bleed Campaign to SIC members. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and a call to action. The UTHHealth Stop the Bleed event will be on November 2nd, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Cooley center. Faculty instructors at UTHHealth will train students from across the university's six schools on how to recognize life-threatening bleeding and stop it with "Stop the Bleed" kits, including hands-on training with manikins. The students will then assemble 150 kits, each containing a bright orange tourniquet, scissors, gauze and gloves, which will be installed alongside the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) located in each of UTHHealth's buildings. Ms. Laine discussed the details with SIC members and answered questions on the event registrations.

- c. Career Development..... Dr. Sina Safayi, Assistant Director of Career Development**
Dr. Safayi talked about the changes in the landscape of the job market for newly graduates and how competitive it's become. He highlighted the importance of career development and the four different stages of career planning for the students (self-assessment, career exploration, defining goals, crafting and implementing a plan). He also introduced some available resources for the UTHHealth students such as TMC LEAD Calendar (go.uth.edu/TMCLEADcalendar) where they can find the list of events and career development opportunities. Safayi also encouraged the SIC members to pursue collective initiatives to offer career development events benefiting all students of various majors at UTHHealth. These events could be from the self-assessment step such as "defining your strengths" or "building communication skills considering personality types"; or, could be from the final step of implementation (job hunting!) such as "resume/CV writing", "interviewing skills" or "negotiating skills" workshops. Safayi also talked about a potential Career Fair in partnership with *Springer Nature Inc* targeting grad students and postdoctoral scholars, to be held in Houston late 2018. He asked SIC members to [if desired!] come up with a proposal for career development theme to be offered simultaneously at this event.
- d. Student Service Fees UpdateEric Solberg, VP Academic & Research Affairs**
Mr. Solberg explained that the UT System Board of Regents has agreed to entertain proposals for increases in tuition and fees across all its campuses. UT System Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Dr. Raymond Greenberg provided guidelines for the health-related campuses to develop five-year plans for proposing any increases in tuition and fees. These proposals may include increases in student service fees. Mr. Solberg provided the definition of "student services fees" from the Texas Education Code: 'Student services means activities which are separate and apart from the regularly scheduled academic functions of the institution and directly involve or benefit students...these fees cannot be increased by more than 10 percent without a student election approving the increase...'
Mr. Solberg stated that at UTHHealth, student services fees include Student Health Services, Recreation Center, Shuttle, Student Counseling Services and Student Government. He explained that Mr. Charlie Figari and his staff at Auxiliary Enterprises oversees the student services fees, and that Mr. Figari and his team will be developing proposals around possible increases in any of these fees.
Mr. Solberg stated that student input and engagement in this process is critical, and asked for a subcommittee of the SIC to serve as the Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) for UTHHealth to review the proposals on student services fees and other central fees that impact students. Mr. Solberg asked SIC President Stephen Simington to appoint members to this SFAC to include one member from each school, plus one international student representative and one underrepresented representative (for a total of eight committee members making up the UTHHealth SFAC).
Mr. Solberg explained that proposals are being developed and that the SFAC members would only have to meet one time (likely in early to mid-November) to review the proposals and have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. The SFAC serves in an advisory capacity and will make their recommendations to the President, Dr. Colasurdo. While the recommendations made by the SFAC are an important part of this process, Dr. Colasurdo as President has the ability to move forward with proposals as he sees fit for the benefit of the university, but also including full disclosure of the student input and recommendations.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. Budget update..... Alem Belachew, SIC Treasurer

The SIC Treasurer reported the updates on the budget. No project funding application has been received this month. The money has been spent on the photography, SIC T shirts and the food for SIC meetings.

b. Student Activities Committee-SIC Sports Day.....Austin Miller and Emily Barlow, Co-Chairs

According to the poll, the SIC sports day will be on Saturday, November 11th, 2017. The optional rain date will be on Sunday, November 12th, 2017. The SAC co-chairs reported the updates for SIC Sports day. They had a meeting with 2016-2017 SAC co-chair Michael McGuire to discuss the details of the event. The proposed events include soccer, volleyball, ping pong, Yoga, Zumba, inflatable obstacle course and dodge ball. SIC members and SAC co-chairs discussed other items for SIC sports day, such as food options/tickets, insurance, registrations, trophies for the winner, etc. SIC president emphasized that SIC sports day is a mandatory event for all the SIC members. A duty roster will be send out to all the SIC members after this meeting.

c. Public Relations Committee.....Brittany Jewell, SIC Historian

SIC Historian reported the updates of PR committee to the SIC members. PR Committee re-started Instagram and Twitter SIC accounts recently. PR committee continues working on SIC Facebook page, and provided the following updates: 1) five posts were added related to student mental health, and an interview with Dr. Selveraj was done and posted; 2) eight posts were created and shared introducing all the SIC representatives; 3) used Facebook to advertise SIC events or SIC sponsored events including salutation, stop the bleed and SPH diversity fair. PR committee is also finalizing articles for student central and awaiting approval from EVP's office on their brochure draft. The tri-fold board was also updated and is now in Ms. Corrin Ordner's office.

IV. Ad Hoc/External Committee Reports

a. Community Outreach Committee.....Quinten Bolden and Prithvi Patil, Co-Chairs

The co-chairs reported the updates of community outreach committee to the SIC members. The community outreach committee came out with a tentative list of organizations to be suggested contacted, including Montrose Center, Houston Habitat for Humanity, Coastal Bend Disaster Recovery group and Remote Area Medial. The committee proposed to create one day event in next Spring. The committee was then suggested to send the events information to PR committee for publicizing. Community outreach committee also provided the updates for UTHhealthcares. The co-chairs emphasized that it should be considered as major event because it will unify all the schools and people together bringing us more closer towerng the ability to support each other in difficult times. The co-chairs encourage SIC members to attend UTHelathcares events. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct 24th at 5:30 pm.

Turkey drive needs more discussion. Create one day event in spring. UTHhealthcares updates. Encourage SIC members to attend.

b. Interfaculty Council Update..... Brittany Jewell, SIC Historian
No updates.

c. HOOP Committee..... Megan Short, SIC Representative
No updates.

d. Career Development Committee.....Alec Santiago and Kimberly D’Souza, Co-Chairs

The co-chairs reported the updates of career development committee to SIC members. The committee has assigned a member to set up a meeting with the proper administrative person of each school to primarily establish a date for the March career day event. The committee planned to established the date by October 31st. After that, the committee will draft a general invitation email that can be sent to prospective panelists and lecturers. The committee also discussed the future directions and work plan with SIC members.

V. Old Business

a. Student Service..... Stephen Simington, SIC President

SIC President presented his vision to create a student service committee. SIC President pointed out that few improvements have been made so far, through SIC provided recommendations to the university. The committee will focus on issues such as Housing complaints, evaluation of the teachers, etc. More details will be presented and discussed on next SIC meeting.

VI. Announcements

Ms. Corrin Ordner provided an update for salutation. The feedback in general was really good. Corrin mentioned that few people turned in the survey, and shared some suggestions from students to the SIC members.

SIC President emphasized the importance of SIC Bylaw and encouraged the SIC members to read and get familiar with bylaw that is posted on SIC website. Question on bylaw can go to Ms. Ordner. In addition, SIC President reminded each committee to keep notes for activities, as it can save hours for annual reports in next Spring.

For the SIC shared folder, SIC members should contact Ms. Ordner for the access.

VII. Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm.

