

**Student InterCouncil**  
**Monday, January 25th, 2021**  
**WebEx Meeting**  
**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

---

---

- I. Call to Order ..... Rachel Pham, SIC President**
- Call to order at 6:01 pm
- II. UTHHealth IT..... Ms. Connie Woolridge, Associate Vice President, Administrative and Academic Technologies and Amy Lanier**
- A year ago, the CIO, Mr. Amar Yousif, attended the SIC meetings and gathered good information on how students are interacting with technology. Came up with a top 6 list to address based on feedback from SIC.
  - The only outstanding item from the top 6 was mailbox limits. This is now resolved with the migration of the mailboxes to Exchange Online.
    - Exchange online migration also comes with portal.office.com access (does not require VPN connection).
  - We are looking at Box drive but stopped due to budget constraints, so continue using OneDrive
  - People are unaware of their full WebEx capabilities (people don't know that they can create their own meetings or find reports, log in from other websites) - IT can create documentation
  - Do students of MDA, have limitations on WebEx meetings?
    - Due to UTH contracts with WebEx, we do not have limitations on WebEx meeting durations, however documentation sent out could have been misleading.
    - IT does not think there are limitations with WebEx.
    - UTH has not initiated a contract with Zoom.
  - **IT information received in this meeting is all from UTH and UTH only. UTH IT does not speak for MDA IT.**
    - Many of our students at GSBS and SPH have access to everything that MDA has access to.
  - VPN access outside the US: Has UTH received feedback from international students about VPN access?
    - There is no limitation on VPN access for international students.
    - There is a website with more information:  
<https://inside.uth.edu/itsecurity/secops/vpn/index.htm> (Links to an external site.)
  - Hospital computers unable to log into email on Hospital computers (at LBJ at least) after mailbox migration - IT will look into the matter.
  - If any IT issues come up, please contact UTH IT or Rachel, Yuliana or Nedra and they will pass it on to IT
- III. COVID-19 Vaccine Updates..... Eric Solberg, VP of Academic & Research Affairs**
- Mr. Solberg provided an update and advised that this information is coming from Dr. Andrew Casas. He also advised if the SIC wanted he could send out an email with this information.
  - Administering the vaccine out of the Med School for the first 4 weeks, doses will now be administered at Cooley Center

- UTHealth so far received 14,000 vaccines
  - Week 1: 0
  - Week 2: 7k
  - Week 3: 3k
  - Week 4: 1k
  - Week 5: 0
  - Week 6: 3k
- We are fine for our own UTHealth student, staff and faculty population, but don't know for sure about all UT Physicians' patients (elderly patients are being vaccinated first)
- As of today, we have administered over 10,000 vaccines at UTHealth alone (received 14k)
- SIC should promote the **need for more volunteers to help people with directions or administer shots, etc.**
  - SIC has the opportunity to promote the idea for students to volunteer for even a few hours on a weekend
  - There has been a lot of foot traffic of people walking to get the vaccine.
  - If SIC can come up with ideas to promote volunteering, it would be appreciated.
  - We have a direct shuttle from Med School to Cooley Center to get people from MMS to Cooley Center easier.
    - Emails/ communication regarding availability of this shuttle?
      - Sent out in multiple emails + information included in appointment information for vaccination appointments.
  - Outreach Committee update: Sonia reached out to check for volunteering needs, so we should receive an update soon.
  - What does it mean to be trained to give the COVID vaccine?
    - Need to be an MA or above or certified in some way to give vaccines.
  - Is there a way to make the volunteering shifts shorter?
    - No, it would be difficult, a 4-hour slots required otherwise scheduling is a nightmare.
  - Can we try to get local college students to volunteer for COVID vaccines?
  - Can family members of frontline workers get vaccines?
    - Has come up multiple times.
    - Depends on the distribution of the vaccine and production/distribution of the vaccine (reported issues with Pfizer/Moderna vaccines), currently cannot answer this question.
    - Doses don't always come in the numbers that were given, and on the day that they were supposed to be shipped.
    - TX is at least doing well, it has been opened up to a greater public.
  - **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE VACCINE**
  - Do we have information campaigns/visualizations about the COVID vaccinations?
    - There have been many campaigns
    - UTP COVID info: <https://www.utphysicians.com/covid19vaccine/>
    - TMC COVID info: <https://www.tmc.edu/coronavirus-updates/>
    - COVID vaccine availability map: <https://tdem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3700a84845c5470cb0dc3ddace5c376b>

### III. Upcoming Semester

#### A. Sports Day.....Nour Alia and Omid Hadj

- a. Been in touch with Sarah at the REC and want to discuss how to approach Sports Day?
- b. Sarah suggested more social activities than competitive events
  - i. Basketball, volleyball and ping pong are down
  - ii. We would be able to do kick ball, obstacle courses, instructor classes outside, ladder golf, etc.
    1. Can possibly do a tie-dye shirt situation
- c. For virtual, can do a game day perhaps?
- d. Don't know if it's the best time to have this event. What are our options - discussion
  - i. Track event around our field?
  - ii. Turnout is always a concern, especially this year - will people feel safe or motivated to come out
  - iii. A virtual event to promote exercise, more scholarships? Classes? What would our prices be?
    1. People are really hurting financially, so instead of giving out gift prizes we should try to offer financial assistance instead.
    2. Virtual instructor led classes
      - a. Can do a drawing from each instructor class and a drawing for scholarships from each class
    3. Another give away idea was \$15 UberEats cards for people that take IG photos of them doing the activity? There are enough funds in the budget for this. Last year \$1,093 was spent on food.
      - a. Can do an email-based gift card
    4. Small gift cards for everyone vs. big scholarships? Currently there is enough money to do both
    5. Cook at home classes?
      - a. Rachel B. is involved with ASDA, who we can reach out to, in addition to Nourish at SPH.
  - iv. An event could be spread over multiple days also.
  - v. Should reach out to IT to set up a similar situation to Salutation. Requires planning.
    1. Zoom breakout rooms are easier to use than WebEx, so maybe we should use that?
  - vi. Coordinate with Sarah at the Rec center.
  - vii. Action items:
    1. Plan what we want Sports Day to look like (activities)
    2. Budget is \$4,000, decide how that is going to be used - smaller prizes or bigger scholarships
      - a. Try to choose prizes that will benefit Auxiliary
  - viii. **Motion was made and approved to make Sports Day virtual this year.**

#### B. Crawfish Boil..... Nour Alia and Omid Hadj

- a. Can we package this individually and have a grab and go situation with picnic tables?
  - i. Can make this happen.
- b. The event is usually large, but with COVID, we may not be able to do it even during April.
  - i. The Cooley Center is also being used for Vaccinations, so event may need to be canceled

- c. Can REC center parking lot be used for Crawfish boil?
  - i. Charlie advised that it was a possibility, but Dental School parking lot however cannot be used.
- d. All funds that are not being used to set up for a live crawfish boil can be used for Scholarships.
  - i. Smaller scholarships.
- e. Can do a social media activity with people posting about the Crawfish.
- f. Can we try a Bookstore Kiosk to increase visibility? Yes, that would be fine.
  - i. Promote prizes that will benefit Auxiliary.

**C. Volunteering events..... Sonia Patel and Brittany Trinh**

- a. COVID vaccination
  - i. Given vaccination eligibility guidelines not sure
- b. Valentine's day Toy Drive
  - i. For a children's hospital in the area
  - ii. Would it be allowed?
  - iii. What are the parameters?
  - iv. MDA, MH-TMC, TCH have wish lists for toys children want
    - 1. Can make Valentine's Day cards too?
    - 2. Would recommend Children's MH or MDA as we are not affiliated with TCH.
  - v. Rules for donating to affiliated hospitals:
    - 1. If students participate in the event and students benefit somehow, we can donate.
  - vi. Also want to promote events at other schools
    - 1. GSBS Science Night: <https://gsbs.uth.edu/current-students/community-outreach/science-night>

**D. Graduation 2021.....Eric Solberg**

- a. Deans of the schools are making plans for a joint commencement address
- b. Possibility of having it at NRG, but since Rodeo has been moved to May, Minute Maid Park is being considered
- c. There will be 2 graduation events. Three schools on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the other three schools on May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- d. Eric and Tracy Bowers are working on this currently and have been discussing this with schools.
- e. Eric advised that they are having planning meetings this week with individuals at each school who are planning the events at each school.
- f. Are looking into the numbers of how many people can be present safely, will have an update by next meeting.
- g. Planning an amazing, extra special, memorable graduation event.
- h. Have the dates been finalized for specific schools?
  - i. GSBS, SBMI and MMS: May 2<sup>nd</sup>?
  - ii. SOD, SON and SPH: May 23<sup>rd</sup>

**E. Budget .....Niharika Neela, SIC Treasurer**

- a. \$ 67,081 for the remaining year.
- b. Crawfish boil: \$10,000
- c. Sports Day: \$4,000

- d. Please promote project funding as a great source to promote wellness and education
- e. Can we move all of our remaining funds to a scholarship?

#### IV. Committee Updates

- A. HOOP updates.....Maria Elena Boyle**
  - a. Military policy update and gifts policy update
- B. IFC updates.....Ankita Podichetty**
  - a. Burks scholarships have been awarded
  - b. Academic Ombunds: Employee incidents will be subjected to mandatory reporting.
- C. Classified Staff Council have offered to help out**
- D. Meeting with Chancellor**
  - a. Still have a long way to go in terms of Diversity
- E. The Diversity Taskforce has become a standing committee.**

#### V. Advisor Announcements

- A. SIC Scholarships**
  - a. Move all SIC scholarships to the Fall instead of Spring to allow for students to use them towards their Spring tuition needs
    - i. Discussions would need to be done by the October meeting to have announcements to students by November to allow time to review and select winners before winner break.
    - ii. Will be especially helpful for students graduating that year.
    - iii. Motion was made and approved to move SIC scholarships to earlier in the Fall and releasing the applications in the latter half of Fall.**
    - iv. SIC Scholarship announcement will be going out at the end of the week with a deadline for March 12th
      - 1. Tanedra will be sending an email to Scholarship Committee with more information.
    - v. Charlie advised that the Matthew Mireles \$750 scholarship, current market value of the is \$210k
      - 1. The market value for other scholarships are approximately \$109k
      - 2. Interest rates on the scholarships have dropped.
      - 3. Can award only 6 of these scholarships right now
      - 4. Can increase scholarship numbers with increased revenue on Bookstore, food vendors, parking, Rec Center etc.
        - a. Therefore, cannot give parking for free as it is revenue for everybody.
      - 5. Auxiliary believes the SIC and students are the number one customers, they have struggled to meet revenue, and do not see improvements in the next few months.
        - a. Parking revenue has decreased by 42%.
- B. SIC T-Shirts**
  - a. Yuliana and Tanedra will be in office tomorrow or Thursday for SIC t-shirt pick up.
    - i. Tanedra: Wednesday 1/25, 8am - 5pm, 15th Floor of UCT
    - ii. Yuliana: Thursday 1/26, 7am - 4pm, 15th Floor of UCT

#### IV. Adjournment

- Motion was made and approved to adjourn at 8:03pm

**V. Additional Links:**

- 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 (UTHealth is a hub provider):  
<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx>

Respectfully submitted by Ankita Podichetty, on 01/25/2021  
Approved by Student InterCouncil on 02/22/2021.