

Student InterCouncil
Monday, February 21st ,2022
Zoom meeting
6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Meeting minutes

Attendance: Kate Wall, Jayanta Mondal, Nour Alia, Sonia Patel, Alexis Conley, Logan Bliss, Mabel Oquendo, Meghan Orsak, Melissa Liu, Ruchira Gundlapally, Sharmeen Hamid, Sharmily Roy, Zaid Soomro, Xiao (Lilac) Li, Amber Chen, Angie Hayes, Cem Dede, Clayton Culp, Elia Macha, Jordan Swan, Mary Fuentes, Ruchika Mahala, Charlie Figari, Yuliana Nunez, Eric Solberg, Tanedra (Nedra) Booker, Connie Wooldridge

**1.Call to order, Quorum and Approval of MinutesSonia Patel,
SIC Vice President**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Sonia established quorum and made a motion to approve the minutes of from the previous SIC meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

**2. Academic Information Technology.....Connie Wooldridge,
Associate Vice President of Administrative and Academic Technologies**

Ms. Wooldridge advised that she is eager to hear the students and the SIC leadership group’s opinions, views and concerns with regards to IT services, VPN connectivity, mailbox size, effective software pricing amongst other potential issues. Kate asked Ms. Wooldridge if EndNote could be made available to the students at UTHealth at a cheaper cost and Ms. Wooldridge advised that potentially we could download the software from the UT Austin website and would be happy to share the links with us and she would update us after she collects further information regarding the issue. Cem asked if it was possible to combine all six of UTHealth schools’ Canvas under one umbrella. Ms. Wooldridge mentioned that she would look into the possibility and get back to us with regards to the feasibility of it. Mr. Eric Solberg mentioned that facilitating the communication between the six UTHealth through Canvas would be a great improvement. He also mentioned that CourseLeaf would help better organize the course catalogues and help us navigate our coursework and filter and sort course requirements to graduate.

3. SIC events

A. Deans’ Dinner- Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

Ms. Booker mentioned that the Deans' Dinner would be held as scheduled at the IMM and would be held at a considerable outdoor and indoor space. She also advised that the attendee list includes the Deans, SIC advisors, and SIC members; but it has not been decided if the SIC Scholarship winners will be invited to attend. Charlie mentioned that there are not any specific guidelines with regards to the maximum number of people who could attend meetings and that each individual school is in charge of deciding the maximum number of attendees.

4. Budget/Project Funding updates.....Kate Wall, SIC Treasurer

Kate mentioned that the project funding committee received a request from the Texas Medical Association for the UTCares fair and they have asked \$500 dollars for purchasing teddy bears for children. Kate mentioned that if SIC members would be involved in volunteering for the event we could potentially ensure that the event caters to the six UTHealth schools. Eric mentioned that the SIC members had previously funded the event and had representation from all six UTHealth schools. Mary Fuentes and Sonia further briefed the entire SIC and answered the SIC's questions with regards to the UTCares fair. A motion was proposed and established to vote on the project funding proposal and the SIC members voted to approve the motion.

5. Committee Updates

A. SIC International Student Committee Proposal:

Sharmeen put forward the proposal for a formal vote of the SIC for approving the International Student Committee as a formal standing committee of the SIC and the revised SIC Bylaws were shared with the SIC. Sharmeen, Jayanta and Cem further briefed the SIC as to how the International Student Committee could assist the international students with onboarding, including but not limited to guiding the international students with regards to housing, hosting an orientation for international students, transportation from the airport, help with regards to scheduling classes and help the individual schools' SGOs. Eric mentioned that the proposed standing committee would help the international students immensely. A motion was proposed, seconded and established to vote on the establishment of the International student committee as a standing committee and the SIC members voted to approve the motion.

B. Standing committees

Sonia sought the advisors' guidance with regards to the name, logo and any privacy requirements with the LinkedIn group for SIC. Nedra mentioned that she could help Sonia with regards to it and Charlie mentioned that the Public Affairs department could also look into it. Eric asked if the advisors could join the LinkedIn network too and Sonia mentioned that would be absolutely possible. Nour mentioned she is working on getting the Spring edition of the Student Pulse out soon. Jayanta mentioned that the Scholarship Committee had completed reviewing and awarding the scholarship applicants for this year.

C. Ad Hoc committees:

The Community Outreach Committee advised about the annual Science Fair and volunteering for the Houston Food Bank sometime during the month of March. Sharmily also spoke about the book-drive and requested for recommendations from the SIC with regards to the books that could potentially be bought. Sharmily advised about an electronic recycling drive that could be held during the month of April. A motion was proposed, seconded and the SIC members voted and approved contributing 500 dollars for the book-drive

The Speaker Series Committee mentioned that they had decided that the next speaker series event would be conducted during the last week of March as it would give the committee ample time to promote and publicize the event and that the topic would be about promoting and cultivating leadership traits amongst the UTHHealth student community. The topic for the speaker series was also formally voted upon and approved by the SIC. Eric mentioned that the cost of inviting the speaker would be covered by the Academic and Research Affairs Office and also mentioned about incentivizing the attendance from the individual UTHHealth schools by awarding prizes for the highest number and highest percentage of student populations which would also be provided by the Academic and Research Affairs Office. The SIC brainstormed about additional potential Speaker Series prizes. Once the prizes have been selected an email would be sent to the SIC members to vote and approve the prizes selected.

Mary mentioned that the Diversity Fair would be held from the 21st of March 2022 and would culminate a large event which would be organized on the 25th of March 2022. The SIC proposed and approved a motion for contributing 500 dollars to the Diversity Fair and the motion was passed by the SIC.

**6. Advisor announcements.....Eric Solberg,
Vice President of Academic and Research Affairs,
Charlie Figari,
Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer**

Charlie mentioned that he was working on the UTHealth housing and Eric mentioned that he didn't have any particular announcements.

7. SIC Business..... Nedra Booker, SIC Advisor

Nedra advised that SIC Officer elections are coming up and members are welcomed to nominate themselves or other SIC members that they think would make great SIC Officers.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the SIC meeting was proposed, seconded and approved at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jayanta Mondal
on March 28, 2022