

**Student InterCouncil**  
**Monday, November 15, 2021**  
**Zoom meeting**  
**6:00 pm- 8:00 pm**  
**Meeting minutes**

**Attendance:** Niharika Neela, Kate Wall, Jayanta Mondal, Nour Alia, Sonia Patel, Lia Olim, Logan Bliss, Mabel Giselle, Mary Fuentes, Meghan Orsak, Melissa Liu, Ruchika Mahala, Ruchira Gundlapally, Sharmeen Hamid, Zaid Soomro, Swati Mohapatra, Amber Chen, Angie Hayes, Cem Dede, Clayton Culp, Elia Macha, Angie Hayes, Jordan Swan, Yuliana Nunez, Eric Solberg

**1. Call to order, Quorum and Approval of Minutes.....Niharika Neela,  
SIC President**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Niharika established the quorum and the SIC members approved the minutes of the previous SIC meeting. Niharika also mentioned that the Sports and Wellness week was a great success and was conducted smoothly.

**2. SIC events**

**A. Sports and Wellness week Recap ..... Ruchira Gundlapally and  
Melissa Liu**

Melissa mentioned that the Sports and Wellness week was a successful event with almost 350 students registering for the event. There was also great participation and the event was organized and conducted pretty smoothly. Ruchira had received great feedback about the event and everyone enjoyed the event. Nour also mentioned that there was a spike of 35% in followers on the Instagram page of SIC. Also, Niharika mentioned that we should keep the statistics in order to display them during Deans' dinner. Niharika mentioned that SIC should make more effort in reaching out to the School of Public Health and School of Nursing so that there is increased participation from those two schools as they have the highest student enrollment. Eric mentioned that the participation would increase if we gave a prize to the school which had the largest number and percentage of students who participated in the Sports and Wellness week.

**B. Crawfish Boil**

The SIC members were asked to vote for the date that the SIC would like to organize the Crawfish boil. A motion to vote was made, and it was voted on and approved that Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 is the date that worked best.

### **C. Deans' Dinner**

The SIC members were asked to vote for the date and location that the SIC would like to organize the Deans' dinner. A motion to vote was made, and it was voted on and approved that Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the IMM is the date and location that worked best.

### **3. Spring Meeting dates**

Niharika asked the SIC if they approved the Spring meeting dates Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> of 2022. A motion to vote was made to approve the proposed SIC Spring meeting dates, a vote was done and the dates were approved.

### **4. Budget/Project Funding updates.....Kate Wall, Treasurer**

Kate mentioned no updates to the budget or project funding currently.

### **5. Committee Updates**

#### **A. Speaker Series:**

Jayanta mentioned that the Speaker Series would be open for all the UTHealth students and faculty. Jayanta also mentioned that the broad topics for the Speaker Series that the SIC members had suggested in the brainstorming documents were:

- Academic guidance with regards to applying for fellowship and grant applications and/or jobs
- Talks focusing on developing leadership qualities for assuming leadership roles in academic/industry/government orgs.
- Career development talks by industry leaders and profs focusing on tips and tricks of getting recruited.
- Talks focusing on promoting diversity and equity in the STEM field.
- Talks about research ethics, humanities and appropriate scientific and research conduct.

#### **1. Mental Wellness.**

Jayanta mentioned that the ad-hoc committee had met and had decided that the topic for the first Speaker Series talk would be on mental wellness. The entire SIC agreed that the topic of mental wellness was extremely pertinent, especially given how COVID has taken a toll on students' mental wellness. Mary Fuentes also mentioned that the Diversity and Inclusion Committee would definitely provide support, whenever the SIC Speaker Series organizes a talk about promoting diversity and equity. Also, the PR team and the UTHealth Public Affairs Office would aid in promoting the event.

## **B. Standing Committees**

The **Operations Committee** mentioned that there was an ongoing effort to build a database of UTHealth alumni and build a solid inter-connected alumni network.

**The Public Relations Committee** shall work on advertising the SIC Speaker Series.

**The Diversity Committee** stated that a SPH diversity fair would be organized in Spring 2022 and it would be open to all UTHealth students and the SIC Diversity Committee would help SPH in planning and organizing the same.

## **C. Ad Hoc Committees:**

**The Community Outreach Committee** has decided to organize a foodbank drive. Eric also mentioned that MD Anderson is running out of blood and has reached out to UTHealth for help with regards to it and Eric suggested that Community Outreach could look into organizing a blood donation camp.

**The Safety Committee** mentioned that their first meeting would be the coming Thursday.

**The Mental Wellness Committee** would aid the organization of the SIC Speaker Series.

## **6. SIC Alumni Association Discussion**

Sonia mentioned that an alumni database would allow the efficient collaboration and networking among current UTHealth SIC students and alumni. Also, a SIC alumni internal database would allow us to understand how to utilize our leadership experience towards going up the ladder of the career we choose and connect via LinkedIn.

## **7. SIC Business**

Eric mentioned the activation journey for the app for all the UTHealth students would begin in Spring 2022. The app will focus on central student services, but can also act as a broadcasting platform for promoting events and enabling communication and collaboration among the entire student community.

Yuliana mentioned that SIC received two applications for the Student Regent for The University of Texas and also all Salutation winners have been contacted. The SIC scholarship applications shall be sent out and broadcasted over email which shall be sent out soon and the Public Relations Committee shall help in promoting and communicating the application.

## **8. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the SIC meeting was proposed, seconded and approved at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jayanta Mondal.