

Student InterCouncil Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

UCT 1726, 5:00pm – 7:30pm

Agenda

- I. **Individual Photos/Group Photo (5pm-5:30pm)**
- II. **Call to Order, Quorum** **Chijindu Diokpa, President**
- III. **IT Security: Introduction of new CISO and NCAM** **Mary Dickerson**
Associate Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer
Ryan Anwar
Manager IT Security
 1. IT Security initiatives around campus: articles, communication, digital signage, attendance at Salutation.
 2. They are open to suggestions and feedback about what students are looking for to spread IT security awareness, password management, securing home wi-fi, ransomware attacks, phishing emails, etc.
 3. One major student concern is regarding VPN. How to use VPN smoothly, why the use of VPN takes place
 4. Contact information and other information will be provided at the Salutation table.
- IV. **Officers' Reports**
 - A. First meeting, no officer reports at this time.
 - B. Officers Chijindu Diokpa, President; Jordan Swan, Vice President; Ruchika Mahala, Secretary; Akhila Parthasarathy, Historian; and Lilac Xiao, Treasurer; introduced themselves to the group. They also gave descriptions of each of the standing committees that they oversee: Selection, Operations, Scholarship, Public Relations, and Project Funding Committees.
- V. **Committee Reports/Business**
 - A. **Committee Assignments and Charges** **Chijindu Diokpa, President**
 1. Results of Committee Selections
 2. Review of Committee Descriptions/Duties
 3. Introduction of Committee Chairs
Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs gave and/or were given a brief description of each of their committees
 - Student Activities Council (SAC) Committee
 - a. Paula Bender – Co-Chair
 - b. Priscilla (Polly) Haff – Co-Chair
 - Former Committee
 - a. Viana Phan – Chair
 - International Student Committee
 - a. Devesh Malgave – Chair
 4. Committee Breakouts *(following advisor announcements)*
 - B. **UTSSAC Report**
 1. Jabria Pittman and Ruchika Mahala attended the UTSSAC meeting in Austin on September 8-9
 2. They are a part of the graduate and health committee for UT

3. Pittman: Discussions included economic transparency and career transparency; what can you do outside of your major focus. For example, if you're biomedical informatics major outside of information, what can you do? There was also a cross talk between the many campuses that UT systems have and cultural composite competency and as well as some of the policies such as the SB-17 regarding the elimination of DEI at state institutions, and SB-12, regarding student parents and pregnant students now being allowed LOA
4. Mahala: The meeting continued discussion around stipends not keeping up with the cost of living of the particular campus students are on. Only one campus was content with the amount of stipend they were receiving, while all others were not content. Students discussed whether a survey could be done where students can be fill out how much stipend they're getting, how much they're working, and what the cost of living is in their respective area. They are hoping to be able to bring the results of that information to the next meeting. Houston average may be publicly available online. There will be follow up to see if that information can be located.
5. If data cannot be located we can formulate a strategy to incorporate all the associated schools that are necessary to conduct a feasible way to conduct a survey.

VI. Important Business

A. Fall Events and Dates

Chijindu Diokpa, President

1. Salutation
2. A description of what Salutation is was given. It is an all student event to welcome everyone back to campus. University leaders and student service members attend to meet with students, provide information, and answer questions. Food, beverages, and prizes are also provided.
 - Wednesday, October 11th 5:30pm-8:30pm, Cooley Center
 - Prize Options were provided
 - a. Echo dot (\$40)
 - b. Air Fryer (\$40)
 - c. Gift Card (\$50)
 - d. **A motion was made to approve the prize options, I was seconded, and the members voted Unanimously to approve the purchase of the three prize options.** Auxiliary Enterprises also will provide 5 UTHealth parking passes at no cost to the SIC to be given as prizes.
 - Promotion Needed
 - a. Public Affairs will send an email on behalf of Chijindu to all students at UTHealth to promote the event
 - b. Cindy Collier will post flyers at the Rec Center and on the Shuttles
 - c. The PR Committee will create social media posts and encourage other student organizations to promote the event
 - d. Nedra Booker will have TV slides present at all schools, and ask schools newsletters to promote the event.
 - e. All SIC members will let the classmates and schools know about the event
 - Salutation Duty Review and Sign-Up*
3. Field Day/Wellness Week/Sports Day
 - Date(s) Needed

- There was a discussion to go back to having Sports/Field day be a one-day event, and no longer a week long event that was done during the peak of COVID-19. The week long event costs more than it has been worth in recent years. During COVID's peak, many people participated in the virtual events. However, last year there was a significant drop in participation. More attendees came to the in-person event, but it was limited in funding.
- The event will go on rain or shine, and will be held in the recreation center, if it rains.
- **A motion was made to vote on Sports/Field Day being a standalone event, without the virtual events. The motion was seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of Sports/Field Day being a standalone event.**
- A discussion was had to decide what day to have Sports/Field day. There will be no more events in October, due to Salutation. The first weekend of November did not work for GSBS students due to programs in GSBS. The latter half of November would coincide with the holiday break/time. November 11th was discussed, and that day was stated by Devesh to also be Veteran's Day.
- **A motion was made to vote on having Sports/Field Day on November 11th. The motion was seconded. Majority vote in favor of Sports/Field Day taking place on November 11th.**

B. Renaming of Diversity Committee

Chijindu Diokpa, President

1. The SB-17 guidelines were emailed to Chijindu yesterday by Dr. Love, and will be added to the general channel. We are still working on how this will affect the SIC and this committee. At this time, the committee has been renamed to the Equal Opportunity Committee. Nedra and Yuliana are meeting with the Legal Office later this month to get more clarity for SB-17 and student government and student organizations. An update will be given at the next meeting. For now, student organization that do not receive state funding, SB-17 will not apply for those student organizations.

C.

VII. New Business

VIII. Advisor Announcements and SIC Business

**Dr. LaTanya Love,
Nedra Booker, Yuliana Nunez, SIC Advisors**

- Reminder on attendance: if for any reason you cannot attend a meeting, please make sure you email your president, copy Nedra and Yuliana so we are aware in plenty of time.
- The call for applications for UT System Regent and The Texas Education Coordinating Board student representative have come in. The SIC will have to review those applications in November, and give recommendations to the President by the end of that month.

IX. Adjournment

- A. **A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. Everyone voted Unanimously to adjourn the meeting.**

B.