

Student InterCouncil
Monday, September 28, 2020
WebEx Meeting
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to OrderRachel Pham, SIC President

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM. Rachel polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes from the September 12, 2020. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**II. Advisor announcements.....Eric Solberg, SIC Advisor;
Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer**

- Mr. Eric Solberg advised that Salutation is quickly approaching and decisions needed to be made today as to how the SIC would like to proceed.
- Mr. Charlie Figari advised that the recreation center is open now with restrictions in place for the safety of everyone.
- Mr. Figari also advised that recently a student researched air quality of UT Shuttles and there were no issues detected.

**III. Student Counseling ServicesDrs. Marion Zahn, Jennifer Bahrman and Jason J. Yu,
Student Counseling Services**

- Located in the same building as Student Health Services
 - UT Professional Building 6410 Fannin St. Suite 130, Houston, TX 77030
- Provide comprehensive mental health services. Some of the services provided are: academic stress, anxiety, depression, mood changes, substance use concerns, eating concerns, motivation/procrastination, relationship issues to name a few.
- Services are available online and in-person, to schedule appointment, call 713-500-5171
- First session is used to determine best course of action for treatment.
- All sessions are confidential, except in a few cases
- Billing: 1st visit is a courtesy visit, the rest of the sessions will be billed according to insurance coverage.
- Billing for Academic Health Plan: No co-pay, therefore no cost.
- Counseling schedules can be changed based on the need for counseling.
- Thrive @ UT App: a self-help app
- TAO is another self-help app available to students
- UTHHealth Student Counseling Services Online Wellness Presentations:
<http://bit.ly/UTStudentCounselingWellness>
- Email Dr. Zahn for any suggestions: Marion.Zahn@uth.tmc.edu
- They will soon have a blog also
- They have some crisis resources also: IMUT, Crisis Hotline
- Psychological testing:
 - Accepting referrals from healthcare providers and Student Affairs
 - They have a waiting list for testing
 - Referral process required for testing only.
- Services are available for full-time and part-time students, for more information you can visit their webpage <https://www.uth.edu/studenthealth/index.htm>

- What SIC can do to help:
 - Post Student Counseling Services' flyers on our social media
- Counseling services providers' offices aren't in Student Counseling Services, they're in separate suites.

IV. Diversity and Inclusion TaskforceMicaela Sandoval

- Updates from the summer:
 - 2018 - 2019 Academic year, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at SIC created.
 - 2019: Created a Diversity and Inclusion report that asked questions about mentorship and shared reports of all the schools
 - July 2020: Tristen and Micaela requested a Town Hall after George Floyd's death. Requested the development of the Task Force during this town hall
 - Dr. Love asked Micaela to be the chair of the student committee of the taskforce. The student committee is made up with a student from every school and a resident from MMS.
 - a) Can ask the OAA or SGO of your school on how the representative was selected
 - Asked to do an analysis of diversity and present policy recommendations at an Executive Council Meeting
 - So far, they have had students, staff and faculty presentations
 - a) Micaela has provided the notes from the student meeting
 - Each representative reached out to their SGOs and asked them to do an analysis for each school
- What SIC can do to help:
 - The task force's last event is next week, to present recommendations to the Executive Council
 - One of the recommendations will be to continue the taskforce
 - Diversity Committee Chair should be aware that this conversation is happening and if this recommendation is not well-received, consider recommending this through the SIC
 - Recommendation to have a standing Diversity Council
 - If the task force continues, the chair of the Diversity Committee should be sent as a representative.
 - Currently there are 3 council's staff, students and faculty. Hoping to unify all 3 into one front.
 - Considering sending out a survey to assess the schools' response. Micaela can help with that. This is a decision for the SIC to make. This wouldn't be contingent on the task force continuing or not.
 - Micaela will represent SIC on the 14th October meeting, Diversity Chair will take over after that.
 - Also check the newsletter that came out today so you can see your school's representative.
 - If the UT-SAC meeting is after next Wednesday, Micaela will have materials/proposals to share.
 - a) Can share press release for the establishment of the taskforce
 - Make sure the Mentorship Report and other reports are available to all SIC members.

- UT System requires each campus to review its admission policy every 5 years.
 - a) This requires input from students
 - b) If that rolls out, may need to come back to SIC to send out a survey to gather responses from the students.
- It is very hard to write good diversity surveys. Micaela recommends seeking assistance from MMS and SPH faculty that focus on these types of surveys.
- Missing survey results from SBMI.

V. SIC Events

- Salutation
 - Salutation is an annual event we put on every year where vendors across campus come together to welcome students and provide information.
 - Rundown of Salutation
 - a) There is a Salutation tab on the SIC website under events
 - b) Website will have a drop down menu for each vendor/school/department. Each link will have 3 items posted:
 - (1) Pre-recorded video
 - (2) Live WebEx chat page with a representative to answer student questions.
 - (3) Any other information organization wants us to post will also be included.
 - c) Attendance will be taken during the live Welcome and each WebEx page, prize winners will be selected this way.
 - d) Salutation prizes will only be the bookstore gift cards and parking passes.
 - e) Possibility of staggering stages of Salutation on different dates?
 - (1) May have pre-recorded videos come after?
 - (2) How would we incentivize students to go to each vendor?
 - (a) Take attendance at the Welcome event and vendor WebEx events?
 - Continue to have Salutation on October 7th and have attendance, and then post the pre-recorded videos after?
 - Motions were made to:
 - a) Keep Salutation on the original date of October 7th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.
 - b) Do half of the prizes during the live event and the other half a week after the event (Welcome, WebEx, and/or Vendor WebEx)
 - (1) Live event to include the Deans and the President
 - c) Salutation will have a live WebEx Welcoming all students and then breakout sessions for students to visit the vendors' WebEx sessions followed by coming back to the welcome WebEx for closing and announcing prize winners.
 - d) Prizes will include six \$50 bookstore gift cards and seven parking passes.
 - e) In order for attendees to be eligible for the prizes during the live event, they must sign into to the WebEx with their name. Post-Salutation winners will be selected from those who completed the Salutation survey.
 - f) Motion approved with SIC majority (29 votes)

VI. SIC Business.....Tanedra Booker, SIC Advisor

- Over 400 applications were received for the COVID scholarship

- Most of the of the COVID scholarships have been processed, but there are a few that are still pending due to missing addresses.
- Sports Day is coming up soon due to the current pandemic, do we want to change that date or keep it the same?
 - A motion was made and approved to push Sports Day back to February to help increase the chances of having it in-person.
- Ms. Booker advised the Cooley Center is currently holding April 22nd and April 29th for Deans' Dinner.
 - Deans have a prior luncheon scheduled on April 29th. Also, finals for students in some schools.
 - Dental School students may be at Clinicals, push voting on a date to a different date?
 - a) The sooner the better because the Deans' calendars are getting full.
 - Will be contacting Cooley Center for additional dates and sending out a poll SIC members to vote on the date.
 - Deans' Dinner is an opportunity for the SIC to share their accomplishments for the year.
 - Please read SIC Bylaws included in today's meeting packets. It is important to be familiar with them. Also includes committee structure and roles.
- Ambassador Program at UTH:
 - At the university level
 - Goal: to promote UTH as a diverse and inclusive institution.
 - Would focus on identifying one ambassador at each school to work with Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce for events and highlight the student experience at UTH.
 - Unclear how ambassadors and task force representatives are different. Wanted to ensure the initiative continues even if the task force does not move forward.

VII. Committee Assignments and Charges.....Rachel Pham, SIC President

- Refer to committee assignments and meet through chat rooms.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ankita Podichetty, on 09/28/2020

Approved by Student InterCouncil on 10/19/2020

