

# Student InterCouncil

Monday, October 19, 2020

WebEx Meeting

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## Meeting Minutes

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### I. Call to Order .....Rachel Buckley, SIC Vice President

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM. Rachel polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes from the September 28, 2020. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

### II. Diversity and COVID-19.....Dr. Latanya Love, Executive Vice President for Student Affairs and Diversity

### III. Updates:

- Diversity Inclusion Taskforce that started as a result of George Floyd murder
  1. Recommended by Dr. Colasurdo: representatives from every school, SIC and IFC Group has been working since June and made recommendations to the Leadership Executive Council.
- **Starting a formal (standing) Diversity Inclusion Committee**
  1. **Will require an annual representative from the SIC (working with Rachel Pham) to make sure communications are solid**
- COVID Response update:
  1. Tried absolute best to stress safety as priority.
  2. We have a very low COVID+ rate in the student population.
  3. Want to hear concerns from students if our respective schools choose to increase in-person classes.
    - a) Leadership is very interested in this
  4. Surveys were successful, but not everyone responded.
- SIC COVID discussion
  1. What can SIC do to help leadership response to COVID?
    - a) It's up to SIC! More surveys on perception on safety, success of social distancing, mask adherence. Diversity Task Force is open to suggestions
    - b) Starting to see "COVID fatigue", so want SIC to keep up the momentum to keep following COVID guidelines and not get relaxed with this.
    - c) Want to promote flu vaccination, especially this year!
  2. Do students need to inform if they are traveling, especially during holidays? What are repercussions to traveling?
    - a) Fill out travel forms prior to leaving the state.
    - b) Texas does not have quarantine restrictions at the moment, but this could easily change.
    - c) Will try to send out communications to all of UTH about best practices for traveling during COVID.
    - d) Call Student Health Services for clarity.
    - e) Important to keep limiting large social gatherings and adhering to good hand hygiene (people seem to be forgetting about this!).
    - f) Charlie Figari: UT System is working on guidelines regarding travel.
  3. MMS has a 10 day leave policy, but COVID recovery time can be 10+ days.

- a) Priority is for students to take care of themselves, so stay home and recover.
  - b) For students on medical leave, there is some asynchronous learning so that they are not getting behind on the curriculum.
  - c) Do not want students to have repercussions for feeling sick and not wanting to come in.
4. As holiday time is coming around, will Student Health Services have the capacity to increase testing?
- a) So far, UTH has been able to accommodate any students that need testing.
    - (1) Skeleton crew in the clinic can still test, triage, and take care of students, even during holidays.
    - (2) There is always somebody on call.
5. What's your perspective on in-person education at this time? Could this happen for the spring semester?
- a) Every school may look a little different, every school is a little different.
    - (1) SBMI already used to distance learning, MMS, SOD, SON have a lot of clinicals so learning could look different.
    - (2) For now, looking at a hybrid model with a possible increase in in-person learning.
    - (3) Have been able to see what works well and what does not, so can apply lessons for future.
    - (4) Schools have been asked to look at their programs, what they'd like to do in person, and how that can be done safely.
    - (5) SIC can help with reminding students that their patience and flexibility is appreciated.
6. Are there any updates to disperse to students?
- a) Now have a standing diversity council. The Diversity Task Force will try to spread the word about this and would like us to do the same.
    - (1) They have a lot of great recommendations about curriculum enhancement to include more social justice topics.
      - (a) Have Mikaela do a presentation at some point about this.
7. Discussion for out-of-pocket costs of medications for students that test positive?
- a) Eric Solberg's office has been working with Finance to disperse funds through the CARES Act, there could be more assistance based on federal policies.
  - b) SIC's COVID scholarships have been helpful.
  - c) Each school has an emergency loan that is interest free and for COVID, have extended the repay time and provided a 3-month grace period.
  - d) Everyone should have medical insurance (requirement for all students!).
8. There has been a case of COVID at their school and there wasn't an official announcement about it. What is the protocol for when a student has a case and the student body is not aware?
- a) All protocols have been developed keeping CDC and local health department guidelines in mind.
  - b) Only high risk exposure individuals (interacted with a positive individual for at least 15 minutes with at least 1 person not wearing a mask and not social distancing) would be contacted.

- c) For majority of the cases, everybody was masked.
- d) If someone was unmasked (eating or socializing situations?) and/or not social distancing, that person would be contacted.
- e) Not a one-size fits all approach.
- f) Mass emails aren't sent out to avoid pandemonium, want to contact people privately and also protect the safety and privacy of COVID+ individuals.
- g) Want to inform our community but also don't want them to unnecessarily worry.
- h) UTH COVID numbers are reviewed every week (including students that work with COVID+ individuals) and numbers have been consistently low so far.
  - (1) Beginning of May-June, there was a cluster of students that tested positive, but were able to trace it back to a single off-campus event.
  - (2) Scared students into COVID best practices.
- i) Have seen situations where students stopped best practices the minute they left UTH buildings, so want to promote the importance of COVID best practices to students that always need to be practiced.

**IV. Salutations Recap.....Rachel Buckley, SIC Vice President**

- Event went really well!
- Survey results:
  - 1. About 50% rated the event a 5 and 36% rated the event a 4.
  - 2. 81% said the event was easy to navigate.
  - 3. There was some technical difficulties with breakout rooms.
  - 4. 71% said they would recommend the event.
  - 5. Suggestions:
    - a) Better instructions for breakout rooms.
    - b) Making it easier for students to ask questions, possibly opening up a forum for this?
  - 6. Positive comments included "Well organized" and "Great presentation".

**V. Advisor announcements..... Eric Solberg, VP of Academic & Research Affairs,  
Charlie Figari, VP and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer,  
Nedra Booker, Senior Program Manager**

- Eric: SIC COVID scholarships had over 400 scholarships, all the scholarships have now been processed.
  - 1. Huge thank you to Charlie and Nedra!
- Charlie: With interests the way they are and going south, would suggest issuing the SIC scholarships this Fall instead of Spring.
- Charlie: SON bookstore closing starting around Thanksgiving. Will open it back up if sales pick up after the pandemic.
  - 1. Online is still available and there are 2 other bookstores still available.
  - 2. Currently there is no plan to use the space of the bookstore.
  - 3. The SON SGO would like to use that space for a meditation space, send an email to Charlie to confirm.

- Eric: If SIC needs to do another massive live event, the central IT technology office got a license from Zoom, which has a much easier breakout room to navigate. This can be used for future events.
- Nedra: Students are required to submit and complete a travel registration form prior to traveling domestic or international to assess risk and make plans. Link to form: <https://inside.uth.edu/inside/forms/travel-registration-form>
- Brittany Trinh and Sonia Patel: Ronald McDonald volunteering: want to have a volunteer opportunity to package food and give to families. Will require \$500 per service event.
  1. Ronald McDonald is a safe home for families trying to get medical care for children. Providing lunches and any additional activities would be an easy way to be involved. Poll: [https://doodle.com/poll/fqsxiurvysv437fe?utm\\_campaign=poll\\_created&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=poll\\_transactional&utm\\_content=inviteparticipants-cta#email](https://doodle.com/poll/fqsxiurvysv437fe?utm_campaign=poll_created&utm_medium=email&utm_source=poll_transactional&utm_content=inviteparticipants-cta#email)
  2. Ronald McDonald is right down the street from MMS and SOD, would package lunches in a different location on the day of volunteering and then take it down to Ronald McDonald.
  3. **Motion to approve volunteering opportunity and funding? Motion approved.**

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**VI. SIC Business.....Niharika Leela, SIC Treasurer**

- Important dates/ Events:
  1. Next meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Sports day is being pushed to next semester.
    - a) Going to send out 2 dates for next week to approve.
    - b) Will most likely be in February.
  3. Crawfish boil 2021 is uncertain.
  4. Dean’s Dinner: April 7<sup>th</sup> is the date selected by the majority, leaning towards April 27<sup>th</sup> because Crawfish boil could clash with April 7<sup>th</sup>.
  5. Don’t have a monthly meeting in December.
- Yuliana is going to send out a poll to approve the SIC budget.
- Rachel Pham: possibility of putting a question/ input box on the SIC website to improve communications with student.
  1. Please send recommendations!
- **Motion to approve dispersing official \$750 SIC scholarships this Fall instead of this Spring? : Approved**

**VII. Committees breakouts**

**VIII. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn approved at 7:07pm

Respectfully submitted by Ankita Podichetty, on 10/19/2020  
 Approved by Student InterCouncil on November 16, 2020.