

Student InterCouncil
Monday, February 22nd, 2021
WebEx Meeting
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Ankita Podichetty, Alison Kiley, Angela Hayes, Ana Robb, Brittany Trinh, Cem Dede, Cynthia Collier, Jayanta Mondal, Mariaelena Boyle, Medina Colic, Melissa Yang, Niharika Neela, Omid Hadj, Rachel Buckley, Rachel Pham, Rohail Momin, Zaid Soomro

I. Call to Order Rachel Pham, SIC President

- Call to order at 6:04 pm
- November minutes: Change parking revenue in part 5 from “increased” to “decreased”
 1. Approved with changes
- January minutes: Approved

II. UT Police Department.....Captain Preacher, Captain Redmond and Assistant Chief Cross

- UT Police does security, investigative services, wellness checks, connecting students to other services, risk management and threat management.
- Difference between Police Officers (PO) and Public Safety officers (PSO):
 - PO dress in blue, PSO in white
 - UTP PO go through the same training as the Houston Police Department and have the same powers
- UT Police also involved in:
 - Maintenance of surveillance cameras
 - Special events
 - Medical services: UTP, MDA and UT Psychiatric Center
- Value-based police initiatives:

Following George Floyd, Police Dept

 - Have done best practices for police officers to be mental health officers (currently at 94%).
 - Do not take use of force lightly; have thorough de-briefing of events
 - Have done a complete review of department to ensure that officers are trained correctly to de-escalate situations, to understand that officers are here to help people.
 - Built a huge partnership with HR to bring in diverse candidates that represent the community well.
 - Need officers with skillsets to understand the population and understand the values of UTHealth.
 - Started a community partnership council.
 - 30 by 30 Initiative: increasing percentage of female officers in the department as they are better at de-escalating situations.
 - Review body-cam footage and discuss why something should not have occurred, and discuss the training that could have helped prevent that situation.
 - 2 overarching objectives:
 - Ensuring we have a diverse organization with personnel fully committed to the core values of UT, the organizations, and the community.

- building trust and partnerships with the institutions and community served through increased community engagements, communication, and collaborative efforts.
 - Discussion:
 - Police work with Auxiliary Enterprises to quickly respond to cases of theft and burst pipes in UTHHealth housing.
 - Increased incidents in parking lots/garages recently.
 - Police have been working heavily to improve security in garages, especially 10C garages.
 - Were able to even arrest a theft ring/group.
 - Auto-theft is a major issue in Houston, and officers are currently working undercover operations to catch car thieves.
 - UT Police are working with Houston Police to catch auto-theft rings.
 - The ring has a circuit ring board that can override car security within 20 seconds. As students, we need to take extra precautions to not leave any valuables in cars.
 - Theft of catalytic converters is also an issue, but a smaller issue compared to auto theft.
 - Auto-theft in garages have gotten worse since COVID started.
 - Intense review of department after George Floyd:
 - Ongoing, continuously reviewed process
 - Working with HR to recognize individuals displaying certain behaviors.
 - Regular review of national incidents and discussions
 - Legislature coming in to ensure that officers have a duty to review other officers, i.e. making it a crime for officers to not report illegal activity done by other officers.
 - Invited 3 different accreditation bodies to review this department, so reviews are not just internally but also externally.
 - The highest accredited department, therefore, need to make sure best practices are always followed.
 - Eric Solberg: suggestion for UT Police to present their work at the Student Services Council
 - Due to remote learning, fewer opportunities to connect with students personally, so the Police Department would appreciate any feedback.

III. Committee Updates

A. Final Report

- a. All committee chairs, please write up all the work your committee has done this year and send to Rachel Pham ASAP.
- b. Rachel Pham asked if someone could attend the University Leadership Council meeting in her place on March 3rd at 8am.
- c. Outreach committee: Brittany Trinh
 - i. Toy Drive last week got postponed to Thursday, February 25th at 5:30pm. Will be an in-person event.

- ii. COVID volunteering:
 - 1. Did not have dates large enough to fit our larger group. Individuals interested should definitely volunteer, group volunteering may not be possible.
- iii. \$500 from budget to fund SIC book donation to Books between Kids
- iv. Planning to volunteer with food donations.

IV. Upcoming Semester

A. Wellness week

- Started promoting this on social media today
 - Can contact SGOs at each school to promote on their social media
 - Nedra and Yuliana are in contact with Public Affairs to get the flyer out and promote the event.
 - Has the flyer been approved? - Not sure, have a more detailed flyer to approve.
 - If using the UTHealth logo, needs to be approved
 - Nour made hashtags that can be tracked for the prizes.
- Have 3 virtual classes on March 12, need members to hold and moderate these classes
- Prices: for the 1st 100 participants, \$15 gift cards for our bookstore
 - Have raffles for each of the classes: 3 from each class will win \$125 scholarships
 - Have 1 \$250 scholarship for fastest run
 - For people that post photos of our shirts win prizes.
 - \$2,325 dollars for the gift cards, so will be under-budget
 - For the cooking, we are going to post a general recipe that can be followed.
- Motion to approve 14 total scholarships and 100 gift cards:
- Are SIC reps allowed to win the raffles? Yes
- How are we participating for this?
 - Every member makes a post on social media with the hashtags and attend the Saturday classes.

B. Crawfish boil

- All university events have been cancelled.
- University leadership cannot approve Crawfish boil right now as they are concerned with COVID. Are not optimistic about having large scale events.
 - Graduation in May would be the 1st large scale in-person event.
 - If approved, it would have been difficult to coordinate.
 - Use this money to provide scholarships instead. The SIC should take some time to think about what we'd like to do.
 - This is definitely a pressing need at this time. Should decide sooner rather than later though as some of the people we could've helped graduated with many challenges and missed out on this opportunity.
 - Charlie will match \$30k if we award scholarships to individuals enrolled in Spring 2021.
 - Would it be possible to make community involvement as a context for this scholarship?

- Can have multiple categories of scholarships, including community involvement, merit-based and need-based scholarships (\$20k budget for crawfish boil).

C. Dean's Dinner

- In-person event seems unlikely right now. Don't think University leadership will be okay with this.
- We need to come up with a proposal for how to do this in a safe manner
- Dr. Love and Dr. Colasurdo suggesting something very socially distant such as walk with the dean or so
 - Very cautious about meals and picnic tables
- We need to be EXTREMELY cautious as we are a health center, and if anything happens, we risk our reputation very publicly.
- For graduation, planning a joint massive commencement ceremony in-person that is socially distanced, but also a plan B in place for a virtual ceremony.
- Dr. Colasurdo does not want to have an in-person dinner event whatsoever. Would it be possible to set up a meeting with him to get his perspective?
 - Anyone available can join
- Best to move towards having an in-person meeting.

D. Budget: Niharika Neela

- Remaining this year is \$48.5k, which is through funding from SIC, Student Union and Auxiliary.
- Once we decide what to do with Crawfish Boil and other events, will present a new budget.
- Want to give as much as possible back to students since the budget normally does not roll over.
 - 40% of what we have left will roll over.
- Will use up remaining budget through scholarships and other methods.

V. Advisor Announcements

- Suspended vaccinations last week but resumed today. Already started contacting individuals for vaccinations.
 - Slower this week, but will get back on track to normal vaccination rates by Wednesday.
- Encourage everyone to get vaccinated.
- Yuliana will be in the office on Friday from 7am - 4pm to pick up shirts. If there is a better time that works for you, Nedra can meet up there.
- Almost towards the end of the year, consider if you are interested in becoming a SIC officer next year.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn approved at 7:33pm

Additional Links:

- SBMI COVID Dashboard (will eventually include vaccine data or have a link for it posted): <https://sbmi.uth.edu/covid-19/data-dashboard>
- SPH's COVID 19 Dashboard: <https://sph.uth.edu/dept/bads/covid19-dashboard>
- DSHS TX COVID info:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

- DSHS TX Hub Providers page:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx>

- Enrolling to become a Vaccine Provider:

<https://enrolltexasiz.dshs.texas.gov/emrlogin.asp>

Respectfully submitted by Ankita Podichetty, on 3/24/2021

Approved by Student InterCouncil on 3/29/2021.