

Student InterCouncil
Monday, February 24, 2020
University Center Tower (UCT) Room 1726 (17th Floor)
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Minutes

I. Call to Order & Approval of 01/27/2020 MinutesTristen Tellman, SIC President

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. Tristen polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes from January 27, 2020. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

In Attendance: Tristen Tellman, Sonia Patel, Niharika Neela, Rachel Pham, Melissa Yang, Arlene Cortez, Evit John, Rachel Buckley, Rohail Momin, Brittany Trinh, Alexandria Zingg Guzman, Ankita Podichetty, Michelle Mun, Melissa Burgos, Paul Emeonyi, Sehej Kaur Hara, Liang Wu, Oluchi Nwaobia, Michaela Sandoval, Anik Banerjee, Eric Solberg and Yuliana Nunez

Guest: Ms. Jessica Symons

Absent: Jeffrey Ackroyd, Alexandra Alvarenga, Jayanta Mondal, Alexander Wheeler, Charlie Figari

II. Guest Speaker.....Jessica Symons (GSBS)

Ms. Jessica Symons presented about the Summer Biomedical Academy and outreach and engagement opportunity for young students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ms. Symons explained the need for more diverse career paths to be represented through tours, interactive modules and panels. She asked for SIC members to provide contacts and connections for outreach-minded professors or students.

III. Advisor Announcements.....Eric Solberg, Vice President for Academic & Research Affairs, Yuliana Nunez, SIC Advisor, Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer

Eric Solberg reinforced opportunities for providing recommendations to University leadership at upcoming Dean's Dinner

IV. Committee Updates

Student Activities..... Arlene Cortez and Alexandra Alvarenga

Alexandra informed the SIC that a quote has been submitted for gifts/giveaways for the Crawfish Boil and will include either sunglasses or a water bottle with the SIC logo. The committee is currently awaiting finalized flyers from Auxiliary Enterprises that will be distributed at a later date.

Project FundingSehej Kaur Hara

Ms. Hara provided an update on HIB and AMBR events. Both events have been completed and AMBR has provided their detailed write-up for the Student Pulse. Ms. Hara has reached out to the HIC contact and is currently awaiting a response.

Mental Health/Diversity Committees.....Tristen Tellman/Micaela Sandoval

Ms. Sandoval provided a summarized report on the results from a survey distributed at the SPHSA Diversity Fair event. The majority of survey respondents were from SPH with the same relative distribution of respondents from the remaining schools. For question 1, students cited

inclusions/implicit bias as the most important diversity, equity, and inclusion issue at UTHealth. Orientation/education and representation/visibility tied for a close second. For question 2, “How can SIC Diversity and Inclusion serve you better?” students listed publicity/awareness as their primary recommendation. In question 3, respondents were asked to provide a recommendation for events or activities they would like to see provided by the SIC Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Respondents were split between the following five answers: international student help, mentorship/faculty support, seminar/panel/workshop, town hall/discussion, and support for student groups. Moving forward, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will review these comments and make an effort to generate content/events based on this feedback and make recommendations to the University.

Outreach.....Sonia Patel & Brittany Trinh

Ms. Patel and Ms. Trinh informed the SIC of a committee-specific outreach event currently underway in which committee members are asked to volunteer time at Nourish events at the SPH community garden. One date has passed, but another is soon to come for volunteers. Additionally, other events currently proposed include Ronald McDonald House or Habitat for Humanity as a full SIC outreach event. Ms. Patel and Ms. Trinh will provide the SIC with a full proposal write-up for these two events and an online vote will be taken to determine the next SIC outreach event. Ms. Patel mentioned two additional proposals to be fully presented and discussed at the next meeting:

1. Donation of supplies to Nourish events at SPH community garden
2. Books between Kids Book Drive

Operations.....Jeff Ackroyd

Mr. Ackroyd not present. Will get an update at the next meeting regarding bylaws updates.

Scholarship Committee.....Micaela Sandoval

Ms. Sandoval discussed both her and Ms. Tellman’s involvement in a recent donor event for UTHealth under the new Founders Circle. Both Ms. Sandoval and Ms. Tellman were invited to this event because of their recent scholarship awards and were encouraged to interact with donors and let them know how much their support means to students.

Also, scholarship applications were recently opened for SIC and will be collecting through Friday, March 13th.

V. SIC Business and Important Dates.....Tristen Tellman, SIC President

1. SIC Product Generation

Ms. Tellman emphasized our role as a governance organization, to make recommendations to university leadership. She referenced UT-SAC’s product structure; i.e. each committee puts forth LOS, proposals, policy recommendations, etc., and suggested we consider a similar model.

2. Ad Hoc Parking Committee

Mr. Evit John and Ms. Tellman compiled documentation to supplement other university committee’s research. Other members voiced support for a parking committee.

- i. Rachel Pham made a motion to create an ad-hoc parking committee. The motion was seconded and motion passed. Mr. Paul Emeonyi will chair the committee.
- ii. Members brought up recycling as an issue and discussed possibilities for policy recommendations or opportunities to learn from schools that use recycling bins.
 - a. Rachel Buckley made a motion to create an ad-hoc environmental and sustainability committee. The motion was seconded and motion passed. Ms. Rachel Buckley will chair the committee.

3. Committees should have an idea for products and drafts ready for the March 23rd

meeting.

Spring Meeting Dates:

- a. March 23rd
- b. April 20th

Spring Events: REQUIRED ATTENDANCE

- a. Crawfish Boil – April 3, 2020
- b. Dean’s Dinner – April 22, 2020

VI. Other Business/Open Forum

Tristen Tellman- Ms. Tellman brought an informal proposal to the SIC regarding a potential outreach event with the Scouts of America at NRG. This event would serve to fulfil the SIC mission of outreach to the community as a whole; and would give SIC representatives an opportunity to engage and educate the public on the things we do as professionals at UTHealth. A full event proposal will be made available via email and a vote taken online.

Micaela Sandoval- opened the floor for diversity and inclusion products and received feedback on potential ideas for recommendations that will come forth from the Diversity and Inclusions committee

Sehej Kaur Hara- Ms. Hara and other international students will be compiling a list of unmet needs for international students for later assessment; and potential recommendation to future SIC or to the Office of International Affairs.

Paul Emeonyi - The School of Nursing representatives brought forth a concern regarding student and faculty training on mental health resources. The SIC will reach out to the individual schools and assess content made available to students and faculty during orientation/training sessions to provide a better informed review of the current practices and consider making recommendations.

V. Committee Time

Please generate a list of outstanding initiatives/goals for each committee and return them to Tristen and Yuliana.

IV. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm and time was provided for the committees to meet.

Respectfully submitted by Tristen Tellman, on 03/19/2020.
Approved by Student InterCouncil on 3/23/2020.