

Student InterCouncil Orientation Meeting

February 9, 2006

UCT 15th Floor Vision Room

Present: Ms. Heather Anderson, Mr. Sam Annor, Mr. Siraj Anwar, Mr. Ryan Barrientos, Mr. Adol Esquivel, Mr. John Garcia, Ms. Kyler Godwin, Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi, Ms. Shannan Kilpatrick, Mr. Stephen Kry, Ms. Christy Marshall, Mr. John McAuliffe, Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou, Ms. Julia Shields, Ms. Rose Thelus, Ms. Nancy Tran

Also Present: Ms. Linda Brannon, Mr. Charlie Figari

Guests: Dr. Robert Emery, AVP for SHERM; Ms. Kristen Stubbs, Exec. Dir. of Project C.U.R.E.

Staff Support: Ms. Betty Vaughan

Mr. Stephen Kry, president, called the meeting to order and reminded the members that there are only two more meetings of the SIC – March and April. He introduced Dr. Robert Emery, AVP for SHERM, who spoke about his job to protect students and staff as director of health and safety at the university. He spoke about emergency preparedness and safety plans for the institution, especially in regard to the avian flu publicity of late. He pointed out that the flu epidemic of the early 1900s affected even the strong and healthy, and there is a concern that the avian flu could be as severe. His office is participating in TMC and City of Houston communication and education projects. He commented that a plan is in place to communicate procedures and closings with the UTHSC-H community in case of any catastrophic outbreaks or events. He noted that he can be contacted at 713-500-8100 if anyone had questions or issues. His office is OCB 1.330.

Mr. Kry then introduced Ms. Kristen Stubbs, Exec. Dir. of Project C.U.R.E., who spoke about that organization. She provided handouts that included information Project C.U.R.E. She reported that her organization delivers medical surplus supplies, such those that have been opened but not used, and educational materials to 104 developing countries. She noted that their goal is to change health care delivery around the world. She commented that \$6.5 billion worth of supplies are discarded each year. In response to one question, she noted that the organization has a person responsible for trucking who knows how to cut red tape and saves on shipping charges. She said that they have the ability to pick up and ship the supplies and will provide containers for collection locations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations: Ms. Christy Marshall

Ms. Marshall reported that there are no revisions to the by-laws being planned at this time. The committee discussed the process for selecting minority representatives and suggested that Ms. Brannon and Ms. Vaughan could be asked to review the applications, if they were willing. They both said they would be happy to assist.

Scholarships: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported on the Toshi Nikaidoh Leadership and Service Award Scholarship and provided a copy of the announcement, application, and a flyer. Ms. Vaughan reported that all have been posted on the SIC website and sent to the students via email. He asked the SIC representatives to push this in their classes. The deadline for nominations is February 24th, with the deadline for all applications on March 7th. Applications can be sent to either Mr. Barrientos or Ms. Vaughan.

There was discussion about the money available in the SIC accounts for scholarships. It was noted that money for the Toshi Nikaidoh scholarship comes from the Silent Auction. It was also noted that the SIC would have approximately \$1800 available from its endowment, which funds a scholarship to one student from each UTHSC-H school. Mr. Figari reported that the SIC has approximately \$5,000 earmarked for scholarships, which came from the Silent Auction and from a bike raffle conducted by Mr. Figari several years ago. There was additional discussion about getting letters out to business soliciting donations for the Spring Mixer and Silent Auction. Mr. Barrientos asked that the members let him know who they have contacted so there will not be duplicate requests made to the businesses.

Public Relations: Mr. John McAuliffe

Mr. McAuliffe reported that he had attempted to schedule a meeting of the SGO officers in the new office to discuss the vision for the office and their interest in getting it set up. He expressed his disappointment that only one person attended. He said that the nursing students and public health students were interested, but the public health students need ITV to interact with students at their regional campuses. Mr. McAuliffe noted that there is no A/V equipment in the student government office suite and commented that would have to be purchased if the students were in need of projecting a PowerPoint presentation, for instance. It was commented that any equipment purchased by the SIC could be stored in the locked SIC office. He commented that the SIC should probably make its own decisions about the office setup. There was discussion about the TMC's policy of not allowing signs to be placed in windows facing the streets. Mr. McAuliffe said that he would try to schedule a meeting of the SIC officers to meet at the office for discussion of how to use that space.

Mr. McAuliffe provided some preliminary results of the survey related to a student newsletter and noted that he received 840 responses from approximately 3400 students (approx. 25%). The report showed that there is a big interest in having a newsletter; that students feel they are not represented adequately in current publications; and that they would like to read a periodical weekly or monthly. He commented that a newsletter would be a huge undertaking and questioned whether or no the SIC could get something up and going in the two months remaining this year. There was discussion about past methods of distributing the News & Views, including printed copies that cost quit a bit and were wasted. He said that he would share the results of his survey with the ICAC at a future meeting.

He suggested that the SIC consider project funding to provide a stipend for an editor of the News & Views. The topic was tabled for later discussion.

Project Funding: Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi

Ms. Hajibashi reported that the committee has received one application for funding in the amount of \$500 from the School of Public Health Student Association to conduct Rape and Aggression Defense Classes during Spring 2006. A copy of the application was attached to the agenda and minutes. She said that the committee had a couple of questions to ask the organization about the students who could attend the classes. Once they have answers to their questions, she will email the committee's recommendation for vote. Email Ms. Hajibashi with any questions or comments.

She also reported that the committee was never able to find out the required information for the Psychiatry Student Organization application and, therefore, did not recommend funding.

A motion was made and seconded to deny the application of the Psychiatry Student Organization for funding a Blue Book Lecture Series.

A motion and seconded was made to table the above motion until the March meeting to give Ms. Shields an opportunity to again try to contact the president, Huy Phan. The motion carried.

SAC: Ms. John McAuliffe

Mr. McAuliffe reminded everyone of the Bowling Night event on February 11th and it was noted that pizza has been ordered. He also noted that there were no plans to report for the St. Patty's day event.

Mr. Figari asked that a date for the Spring Mixer be selected soon. Mr. Figari asked him to call Ms. Gillie with that information.

MediSend: Ms. Rose Thelus

Ms. Thelus reported that she had invited Ms. Stubbs to the meeting this evening and that Ms. Godwin and Mr. McAuliffe had cleared the room, putting any materials in a box. There currently is no inventory. She sent an email to the SIC reps asking for a representative from each of the schools to serve as the liaison to that school. She had not received any replies. There was discussion about how inquiries and notices can be communicated to faculty and staff about the project. There was also discussion about expanding to include the TMC. Ms. Thelus said that she posed the question to the TMCSAAC where there was no objection to her having Project C.U.R.E. send letters to the hospitals to see if they want to participate. Mr. Figari suggested that she contact Ms. Bonnie Geppert of Capital Assets for assistance.

Ms. Thelus said that the committee will be considering a new name for the committee since the SIC does not have a link to MediSend any longer and it would not be proper to continue to use that name.

CHASE: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported that there have been few responses to inquiries to high schools and that this project may have to wait until next year to get reorganized. There was discussion about participation in career days at various schools. Ms. Anderson stated that she had a list of career fairs. Ms. Vaughan suggested someone contact Dr. Jeremy Chance, an SIC alumnus, who is associated with an outreach program.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

UTSAC: Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi

Ms. Hajibashi reported at the next meeting will be February 10-11 and that she would report at the March meeting.

TMCSAAC: Ms. Rose Thelus

Mr. Esquivel reported that the TMCSAAC is planning a student social for April 11th at the McGovern Commons Building. The free lunch will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. outside if the weather permits. Students will be asked to bring their student ID.

IFC: Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou

Ms. Papageorgiou reported that she could not attend the last IFC meeting but had provided a written Report of SIC Activities to the IFC membership. She noted that the IFC would be meeting on February 15th and that she would provide an update of the previous report.

ICAC: Mr. John McAuliffe

There was no report.

Student Fees Advisory Committee

Mr. Kry reported that the Board of Regents will be meeting on March 28th to discuss proposed tuition increases and he has been asked to attend that meeting to represent UT students. He will report at the April meeting.

Director of Financial Services Search Committee: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported the committee has renewed its search and is working hard to fill the position. He will update at a future meeting. Ms. Brannon also reported on recruiting activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Student Regent

Mr. Kry reported that a press release has named the student regents appointed by the governor to the various school or system Board of Regents. He noted that, unfortunately, a UTHSC-H student was not appointed. Mr. Kry said that he would mail the list to the members for their information. The Student Regent for UT System is as follows:

***Brian Haley** of Corinth received a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas (UT) and is a first-year law student at the **University of Texas School of Law**. Haley served as student government president at the UT-Austin during 2003 and 2004. He is former vice chair of the UT Student Union board of directors and former member of the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee. He also serves on the UT System Student Advisory Committee. Haley has served as a volunteer coordinator for Missionaries of Charity to India, and as a Global Missions Fellow to Zambia, Russia and Brazil. He also serves as a community liaison for Eastside Community Connection and as an advisory member of Texas Exes Advocates for Higher Education.*

Adopt-A-Block Program

Mr. Kry presented suggestions for three locations to include on the application to the Adopt-A-Block Program. They were Pressler (between Fannin and Braeswood), Holcombe (between Fannin and MD Anderson), or Bertner (between Pressler and MD Anderson). After a vote, it was decided to select Pressler as the first choice and Bertner as the second choice. It was commented that SPH Recycles is interested in assisting.

United To Serve

Mr. Kry reported that United To Serve has been scheduled for Saturday morning, April 29th at the Dental Branch. Ms. Marshall asked for students to volunteer as team leaders and said that a team leader has contact with the volunteer site coordinator, sees that volunteers are signed up at the breakfast, and leads the group to the volunteer site. Volunteers are:

Ryan Barrientos
Nancy Tran
Rose Thelus
Dorina Papageorgiou
Christy Marshall

NEW BUSINESS

Calendars for Salutation

Mr. Kry reported that 500 calendars for Salutation 2006 were ordered and they have been received. They will be stored in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Ms. Vaughan asked that the SIC representatives who will be graduating should contact her by email so that she can prepare a list to assist with distribution of the graduation stoles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Figari announced that one of the shuttle busses was involved in an accident and anyone who might be riding that bus should find other means to get home.

He said that accounting is again changing the way funds are being deposited to accounts and are now adding the full amount of the budget at one time.

It was suggested to Mr. Figari that for safety reasons, mirrors be installed at blind corners in the UT housing parking garage.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 2, 2006, 5:30 p.m. in the UCT Vision Room.

NOTE: Meeting Dates for Spring 2006

It was decided that meetings would continue on the second Thursday of each month. The spring meeting dates are as follows:

January 12, 2006

February 9, 2006

March 2, 2006

April 13, 2006

Approved at the _____ meeting.