

Student InterCouncil Orientation Meeting

November 10, 2005

UCT 15th Floor Vision Room

Present: Ms. Heather Anderson, Mr. Sam Annor, Mr. Siraj Anwar, Mr. Ryan Barrientos, Ms. Lauren Casile, Mr. Adol Esquivel, Mr. John Garcia, Ms. Kyler Godwin, Ms. Shannan Kilpatrick, Mr. Stephen Kry, Ms. Magalie Leduc, Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou, Ms. Rose Thelus, Ms. Nancy Tran,

Also Present: Ms. Linda Brannon, Mr. Charlie Figari, Mr. Christian Gutierrez, Ms. Rina Bhagat, Mr. Bryce Vincent

Staff Support: Ms. Betty Vaughan

Mr. Stephen Kry, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests. He introduced Dr. Ronald Johnson, Vice President for Strategic Affairs, who spoke briefly about a retention assistance program that he is developing and asked for feedback from those present. He reported that he had developed a questionnaire that would be completed by entering students. The purpose of the questionnaire is to improve the quality of education for students by determining risks and concerns that might interfere with their success. With the student's approval, the survey results would be shared with the student's advisor or mentor. In addition, he has written a Coordinating Board grant that would allow the offering of a study skills time management course. He asked the students to provide him with ideas for getting the word out to all students on campus. He noted that the questionnaire is available to any students interested in completing it, but initially was introduced to incoming year students. Anyone interested in completing the survey should contact him. There was discussion about faculty use of the information from the survey and noted that it may take up to three years for acceptance. He also noted that follow up will be an important step for student retention. Interested students should contact Dr. Ronald Johnson at Ronald.johnson@uth.tmc.edu or by phone at 713-500-3455.

Mr. Kry then introduced Ms. Aurora Seminara and Dr. Matthew Mireles, former SIC representatives and officers. Dr. Mireles and Ms. Seminara spoke briefly about a proposed SIC Alumni Association and provided a draft letter to be sent to past SIC representatives to determine their interest in an association. Dr. Mireles stated that many of the former representatives feel that it is important to stay in touch after leaving the SIC. He also said that an alumni association could provide important networking opportunities and could assist with financial support of scholarships. Ms. Seminara asked for volunteers on Saturday, November 12th to stuff envelopes. Those interested were instructed to contact Dr. Mireles or Ms. Seminara.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations: Ms. Christy Marshall

There was no report.

Scholarships: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported that the committee continues to work on revising the requirements for the Toshi Leadership scholarship. Ms. Papageorgiou and Ms. Anderson volunteered to work with the committee.

Project Funding: Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi

There was no report. Mr. Kry noted that there are several outstanding funding requests and that Ms. Hajibashi is trying to get additional information from the one group that would qualify group. They will be presented at the next meeting.

Public Relations: Mr. John McAuliffe

There was no report. Mr. Kry announced that the SIC office has been completed and the computer and phone have been installed. The office and workroom are in need of cleaning and rearranging. He encouraged the members to work with Mr. McAuliffe on making it look like a student governance office. Ms. Vaughan distributed keys to the officers that were present.

Mr. Kry and Mr. McAuliffe are working on a News & Views template and hope to get the first issue of News & Views out very soon. Members were encouraged to check the discussion topics related the Public Relations on BlackBoard.

SAC: Ms. Heather Anderson

Ms. Anderson reported that she and Mr. McAuliffe had met with the proprietor of Volcano about the Fall Bash, which is scheduled for Friday, November 18th, 6 – 10 p.m. with pizza from Mr. Gatti's. She said that 100 drinks are being provided only with food ticket, which will give the holder one to two slices of pizza. A cash bar will also be available. Copies of the flyer were available for posting. Mr. Figari reminded the committee that funds should be encumbered in advance for SAC activities.

A motion was made and seconded to allocate up to \$1,000 from the SAC account to fund the Fall Bash. The motion carried.

MediSend: Ms. Rose Thelus

There was no report. Ms. Thelus is continuing to work on an inventory and getting ideas for a new organization with to which donations of surplus supplies can be made.

CHASE: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported they are still working on a list of high schools to which information can be sent in December. There was some discussion about file locations from the Office of Community and Educational Outreach and the UTHSC-H schools that participated in last year's activities. He will contact the students who participated last spring to assist with planning an event this year.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

UTSAC: Mr. Sam Annor

Mr. Annor reported that the UT System Student Advisory Council met the previous week in Austin. The two committee on which he serves held discussions on the following topics:

1. Academic Affairs Committee

- Student Advisors who are do a poor job; would recommend mandated accountability and training
- A UT System code of conduct for faculty
- A Student Bill of Rights
- A degree plan checker

2. Financial and Legislative Committee

- Flat rate tuition or at least a four-period with no change in tuition to assist students with financial planning
- Guidelines on how tuition is set
- Accountability for tuition increases
- Clarification of financial aid communication. He will be collecting information about how financial aid is handled. Ms. Brannon offered to assist him if needed.

He reported that the next UTSAC meeting will be held in February 2006.

TMCSAAC: Ms. Rose Thelus

Ms. Thelus reported that the TMCSAAC met on Monday, November 7th. Topics of discussion were the motorcycle parking fee and suggestions for a career advising resource center with information from all TMC institutions. She also reported that the TMC is seeking suggestions for expanding the hours of the Commons Building to 7:00 p.m. and ideas for a fun night once or twice a week with entertainment. She reported that the Starbucks in the Commons Building is installing a WIFI system. It was suggested that healthier food at a cheaper price would be a good start. She will follow up and report at the next meeting.

IFC: Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou

Ms. Papageorgiou reported that the Interfaculty Council would be meeting the following week. She said that she had spoken with Dr. Linda Nieman, Chair of the IFC, who said the IFC is interested in student concerns and will be focusing on faculty evaluations. Dr. Nieman asked Ms. Papageorgiou about their process in the SPH for faculty evaluations for advisors and mentors.

ICAC: Mr. John McAuliffe

There was no report.

Student Fees Advisory Committee

Ms. Vaughan announced that the Student Fees Advisory Committee will be meeting later in November to discuss proposed tuition and fee changes and that UT System will begin requesting this information every other year beginning with this year. She noted that the SIC still needs a representative. Sam Annor volunteered to serve on the committee. Ms. Vaughan said that a public forum will be held to give students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and other interested parties a chance to discuss proposed tuition and fee changes. An email will be sent to announce the date and location of the event.

Director of Financial Services Search Committee: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported that the committee continues to look at applicants and will be meeting in December to rank the top three candidates. He noted that 24 applications have been received, but many have been determined to be unqualified for the position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Thanksgiving Dinners

Ms. Christy Marshall proposed that the SIC spend \$150, as it has done in the past, to purchase Thanksgiving dinners for Magnificat House and Loaves & Fishes. She asked those interested in helping her and Mr. Barrientos shop to email her.

A motion was made and seconded to allocation \$150 for the purchase of thanksgiving dinners for the homeless. The motion carried.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the Book Fair will provide 25% of proceeds from the sale of books on December 1-3, 2005 will be donated to the UTHSC-H toward scholarships. When a purchase is made a voucher is completed to indicate the school to which each donation will be made. She provided flyers and vouchers to the members. Vouchers will also be available at the store. She said that anyone interested in volunteering at the store (answering questions, providing vouchers, playing music, etc.) should contact her. Workers should wear UTHSC-H shirts. She said there will be no shuttle this year, but was told that Bus 68 from the Metro transit center stops near the shopping center. She asked the representatives to spread the word in their respective schools.

Student Regent

Mr. Kry reported that eight applications were received and five candidates were selected by the SIC officers and student governance officers from the schools. The five applications were sent to Chancellor Yudof who will select two candidates by December 1 to submit to Governor Perry, who will make the final appointment.

Career Counseling

There was no additional information or follow-up.

NEW BUSINESS

Motorcycle Parking

Mr. Kry reported that the Texas Medical Center will be assessing a parking fee for motorcycles that will cost \$50. Mr. Figari reported that a compromise has been reached and for any student who pays \$35/month for off-peak parking in the garages, may park a motorcycle free of charge. GSBS students who raised this issue had indicated MD Anderson had free parking on the first floor of their parking garages and that they were signing a petition to present to Drs. Stancel and Mendelsohn voicing their concerns.

Ms. Thelus reported that the TMC Student Affairs Advisory Council also discussed this issue and will be following up. The perception is that motorcycles are taking car spaces and that TMC needs more money to operate its parking garages. There is no way to determine if a motorcycle belongs to someone who pays for a car space. It was noted that this decision could affect 200-500 people, including students. There also was an issue with receiving only four days notice and the apparently excessive amount of \$50/month. Mr. Figari empathized, but noted that there is no free parking for anyone in the Medical Center. He also said that he would follow up and report to the SIC.

Email Addresses of MD Anderson students

Mr. Kry stated that GSBS students who are also MD Anderson students use their MDACC email address and had asked if there was a way that the MDACC email address could be their primary means of communication. It was noted that they should probably just forward their UTHSC-H email to their MDACC email address. He asked for suggestions from the representatives.

Shuttle Service

It was noted that SPH students have expressed dissatisfaction with the shuttle service. They said that the bus has not been making its stops on time. Mr. Figari asked that he be provided with the bus numbers and the times. He also stated that there is an updated schedule on the Auxiliary Enterprise web site (<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/parking/index.html>). He also said students could call extension 3405 and speak to Sheila.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Figari announced that he will pay for SIC representatives to attend the Committee on the Status of Women Awards Banquet on December 7th. Those interested were encouraged to contact Betty Vaughan by email.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October meeting. The motion carried.

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

The next meeting will be Monday, December 8, 2005, 5:30 p.m. in the UCT Vision Room.

Meeting dates will be re-evaluated in December.

Approved at the _____ December 2005 _____ meeting.