

## Student InterCouncil Orientation Meeting

December 8, 2005

UCT 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Vision Room

**Present:** Ms. Heather Anderson, Mr. Sam Annor, Mr. Ryan Barrientos, Mr. Adol Esquivel, Mr. John Garcia, Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi, Ms. Aisha Husain, Ms. Shannan Kilpatrick, Mr. Stephen Kry, Ms. Magalie Leduc, Ms. Angelica Lozano, Mr. John McAuliffe, Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou, Ms. Julia Shields, Ms. Nancy Tran,

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

**Staff Support:** Ms. Betty Vaughan

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Mr. Stephen Kry, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Michael Tramonte, Assistant Vice President for Accounting, and Ms. Maria Hillman, Financial Administrative Manager, who spoke to the membership about a change in the process for collecting tuition payments in the Bursar's Office. They noted that because of staff meetings, individuals in charge of the Bursar's windows must be called away for approximately one-half to one hour twice a month. During that time they are proposing the use of a drop box. They said that they realize there are issues of security and a receipt not being provided. After some discussion, the students agreed that if students are notified well in advance with the scheduled times, payments are posted promptly, and parking stickers were sent with receipts, there did not seem to be a problem. Ms. Hillman asked that any further comments or recommendations for that area be directed to her at [Maria.E.Hillman@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Maria.E.Hillman@uth.tmc.edu) or extension 4975. It was suggested that students should be notified about where they go to check their statements.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with minor edits. The motion carried.** It was suggested that minutes of the meetings be posted on the website.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Operations: Ms. Christy Marshall

There was no report. Mr. Kry noted that the committee will be reviewing the by-laws for possible revision. Suggested revisions will be presented at the January meeting.

#### Scholarships: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos discussed changes to the Toshi Nikaidoh Service and Leadership Award letter, noting . He passed around a draft for review. The committee decided to include a nomination clause to allow another party nominate a possible candidate, after which an application form will be sent the nominated person. The award has been in the amount of \$500 in the past. He suggested that the amount be raised to \$1,000. The committee suggested that it send the request for nominations/applications to all students after the first of January for vote at the February meeting. The award would be given at the Deans' Reception in April. He also suggested that the recipient's attendance at the Reception should be mandatory. He will send the suggested changes to the members by email to be ready for a vote at the January meeting. Mr. Barrientos noted that he has set up a discussion group on BlackBoard.

During discussion, Mr. Figari noted that increase the award will quickly deplete money set aside for the award. It was also noted that the award is funded by money raised each year by the silent auction at the Spring Mixer. The topic of the amount will be raised again at the next meeting.

Mr. Kry reminded the members that everyone is free to solicit donations for the silent auction, which takes place in April. Mr. Barrientos spoke briefly about the kinds of items that have been donated.

Project Funding: Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi

Ms. Hajibashi reported that revised guidelines were presented earlier in the fall and that they will be sent out again for comments so that the members can vote on them at the January meeting. Ms. Vaughan will also send out Project Funding applications that must be voted on at the January meeting. She is trying to contact the originator of one of the funding applications to ask some questions about the use of the money.

Public Relations: Mr. John McAuliffe

Mr. McAuliffe reported that he would like to have students on campus complete a survey about whether or not they want a student newsletter and what they would like to see in it. Ms. Vaughan suggested that they use previous templates or prepare a Word document and post it to the website. Ms. Bhagat said that she would be happy to help with the News & Views. He asked about students having a specific page in The Leader for student news. There is an issue of cost related to that and Ms. Brannon said that past conversation indicated a cost of about \$300 per page. Mr. Figari suggested that *News On The Go* could have a link to the *News & Views*.

Mr. McAuliffe also said that the committee would like to get the SGO's together to discuss an open house for the new SIC/SGO office with the school organizations helping pay for the event. Ms. Brannon suggested that the SIC meet to educate them about the purpose of the office and how they might use it. It was suggested that the SIC logo and the school SGO logos be hung in the outer office, as well as a sign for the front window identifying the office. It was commented that the SPH SGO has a place for its files at the school.

SAC: Ms. John McAuliffe

Mr. McAuliffe reported that the turn out for the Fall Bash was not as good as desired. The cost for the event was about \$700. It was noted that notice for the event went out a little late. The committee is beginning to work on a bowling night activity.

MediSend: Ms. Rose Thelus

There was no report.

CHASE: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported they are still working on plans for an event and gave a short overview of the activities involved. He anticipated that a date would set some time in January.

**EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

UTSAC: Ms. Shohrae Hajibashi

Ms. Hajibashi reported at the last meeting in November, the committees on which she serves held discussions on the following topics:

1. Student Involvement and Campus Life Committee
  - A connection among UT campuses via web sites for students to access calendars, etc

2. Health and Graduate Affairs Committee

- Implementation of drug testing for students who are involved in patient care
- Need for ethics courses

She asked for any comments to be sent to her by email. The UTSAC decided to continue with the United To Serve volunteer activity, which would be held in late April during Volunteer Week.

The next UTSAC meeting will be held in February 2006.

TMCSAAC: Ms. Rose Thelus

There was no report.

IFC: Ms. Dorina Papageorgiou

Ms. Papageorgiou reported that the Interfaculty Council discussed the following topics:

- Faculty evaluations to include a section common to all schools
- Promotion and tenure and the different tracks available to faculty
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ICAC: Mr. John McAuliffe

Mr. McAuliffe reported that the Council met and identified five publications: *Distinction*, *The Leader*, *The Health Leader*, *News On The Go*, and *The Leader Update*. He also reported that he spoke to the group about more student input into these publications. He will provide more information at the January meeting.

Student Fees Advisory Committee

Ms. Vaughan reported that all tuition and fee proposals were approved by President Willerson and that new fees and tuition increases had been sent to UT System for submission to the Board of Regents for consideration at their February meeting.

Director of Financial Services Search Committee: Mr. Ryan Barrientos

Mr. Barrientos reported that the committee had made its recommendations to Ms. Brannon and that the interview process would begin soon. He noted that the top candidate seemed to be student oriented and that he was from Texas.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Thanksgiving Dinners

Mr. Kry reported that Ms. Marshall, Ms. Kilpatrick and Mr. Barrientos purchased three turkeys with all the trimmings and dropped them off at Loaves and Fishes. They also included food that was collected at the Fall Bash.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

Ms. Kilpatrick reported that the Book Fair made less money this year – only \$1700 to be divided among the six schools. She also said that Public Affairs asked if the SIC would like to take this as one of their projects for next year. The topic will be added to a future agenda for discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Student Services Fee Increase

Mr. Kry reported a Student Services Fee was proposed and that a part of that fee is for student governance. He noted that the Student Fees Advisory Committee recommended approval, but felt that the SIC should give its endorsement.

**A motion was made and seconded to endorse the 10% increase in the Student Services Fee. The motion carried.**

### Toy Drive

Mr. Kry reported that each year the SIC purchases toys to donate to the UTPD Toy Drive and assists with the delivery of the toys. December 16<sup>th</sup> was noted as the date for delivery to UTPD. Ms. Bhagat stated that she had a list of the types of toys needed most.

**A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$200 for the purchase of toys for the UT Police Department Toy Drive. The motion carried.**

### SPH Orientation

It was noted that the SPH Orientation for its spring class is scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. for about 100 students. Mr. Annor will talk about the SIC at the Orientation. Ms. Leduc volunteered to assist.

### Meeting Dates for Spring 2006

Mr. Kry commented that the SIC has its new office in the Nursing building, which also has available a multi-purpose room in which the SIC could meet. It was noted that there is no free parking at that building and that would be an issue. Mr. Figari said that he would investigate the parking issue, but M.D. Anderson may still want to charge for parking. Meanwhile, the SIC will continue to meet in the UCT Vision Room.

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

### **Announcements**

Mr. Kry announced the Dean Schultz of the Medical School has undergone triple by-pass surgery and was doing well so far.

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

**The next meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2006, 5:30 p.m. in the UCT Vision Room.**

Approved at the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.