

University Center Policy Board Minutes
Friday, March 6, 2009
University Center – Bayou City Room

Members Present: Mary Elhardt, Micah Kenfield, Andrew Michael, Sean Tarver and Christopher Zimmerly

Members Absent: Diane Bruxvoort, Zenaida Chairez, Kevin Covington, Marilyn Golub, Sara Haynes, Ashton Herring, Judah Johns, Vanessa Nwazo and Dr. Richard Olenchak

Support Staff Present: Keith T. Kowalka, Cheryl Grew-Gillen, Lawrence Daniel and Linda G. Jauregui

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Kenfield at 1:00PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

- No quorum present, agenda could not be approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes from October 31, November 21, 2008 and January 23, 2009

- No quorum present, previous meeting minutes could not be approved.

IV. Special Report – Two Guests

Vietnamese Student Association

- The members of the Vietnamese Student Association and supporters present numbered seventeen (17). There were three speakers, the first speaker, (a UH alumnus), thanked the Board for allowing them to come and state their request to have the former Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) flag hung in the World Affairs Lounge alongside all of the other flags including the present Vietnam flag. He stated that the Vietnam flag presently on display represents the Vietnamese international students but does not represent Vietnamese-American students whose families left South Vietnam as a result of the change of government in 1975.
- The other two speakers explained the background of the South Vietnam (Yellow) flag and what it means to Vietnamese-Americans. They presented a copy of the City of Houston resolution which states the City of Houston formally recognized the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam as the official symbol of the Vietnamese-American community. The VSA feels that the Vietnamese-American student body at UH is not being acknowledged and represented since the South Vietnam flag is not on display. They asked that the Board take this into consideration and permit the South Vietnam (Yellow) flag to be displayed.
- After a few questions from Board members Chair Kenfield thanked the group for coming to the meeting and providing information.

Jim Bradley – Information Technology

- The UCPB had a discussion related to computer and technology offerings in the University Center, and what changes may be made to expand services moving forward.

- Chair Kenfield and Mr. Kowalka thanked Mr. Bradley for his input on this subject and let him know that the Board would take his suggestions into consideration, as well as schedule a meeting to discuss the suggestions more fully.

V. Chairperson's Report (Micah Kenfield)

UC 2010 Initiative

- Chair Kenfield stated that there was no update at this time. Hopefully the Board will be able to have a UC 2010 Initiative representative as a member, There is a person identified, but she was not able to attend today's meeting. He hopes this position can be approved before the end of the year.

Constitutional Proposal – linkage between UCPB and UC 2010

- Chair Kenfield is still working on the governing documents to this proposal. He would like to keep the linkage between returning board members and UC 2010.
- It was agreed that since the need for a representative would expire once the transformation project is completed, instead of drawing up documents for a constitutional proposal, the proposed document will be an addendum to the current UCPB governing documents.

VI. Committee Reports

Facilities Use and Policy Committee (Andrew Michael)

- Chair Michael informed the Board that before the beginning of this UCPB meeting, the FU&PC met and discussed the request from Channel 6 (Student Video Network) to use the new plasma televisions the UC is going to purchase to broadcast from 11:00AM to 1:00PM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Without knowing where the current mtvU contract currently stands the committee feels that at this time it cannot make a definitive decision since they do not know how many TV's the UC will be providing and the idea was that some of those TV's were to be set on informative channels like CNN, etc.
- Once the Board has the definitive number of TV's that mtvU is going to provide and a decision has been made on how many TV's the UC is purchasing, the Board will review their request again and make a decision at that time.
- It should be noted that the Board members present all agreed that students would benefit from having Channel 6 available to them so it is the official recommendation of the Board that Channel 6 be broadcasted every Tuesday and Wednesday from 11:00AM until 1:00PM on the Commuter Services TV. Mr. Kowalka and Mr. Daniel will follow up on this possibility with Ms. Jackson (UC Commuter Services Coordinator).

Lease Operations Committee (Ashton Herring)

- Chair Herring was not present, no report at this time.

Long Term/Current Projects Committee (Christopher Zimmerly)

- Chair Zimmerly stated that there was no report at this time.

VII. UC Staff Reports

Report from Executive Director Kowalka

Organizational Changes/Personnel

- The only new update from the last meeting is that Le Nguyen, who is the UC's Computer Support Analyst, has taken a new job and will be moving to the Dean of Students Office.

Food Services Cost Recovery

- Mr. Kowalka was verbally told by Ms. Esmeralda Valdez that her office has put through a voucher to handle this but it has yet to hit our office's records.

Commuter Services Update

- Nothing to report at this time.

2010 Initiative – UC Fee Increase

- Dr. Lee was able to identify two sponsors, Garnet Coleman and Rodney Ellis. They will be carrying forward the UC proposed ceiling fee increase to the State Legislature before the end of this Legislative Session (June, 2009). It is not yet known when the hearing will be scheduled, but when the date is announced we need to have some students go to Austin to be present and to provide testimony on this requested ceiling increase. Ms. Elhardt asked to be added to the list.

SFAC Update

- From the initial set of recommendations, it looks as though UCAF (UC/UC Satellite, Child Care Center, Student Program Board and Commuter Services) received funding, either (base and/or one-time) for all requests. All of the presentations are online either on the UC webpage, Commuter Services webpage, Child Care Center webpage or SPB webpage.

Report from Associate Director Grew-Gillen

Personal Development Forms Update

- Ms. Grew-Gillen said Mr. Zimmerly was the only person present she had not received a form from yet. She gave him a form and stated that she would notify the members that were not present and had not turned in their forms that they needed to do so. She thanked the members present who had turned the form in for being so prompt.

March for Babies Participation

- Ms. Grew-Gillen wanted to remind everyone that this year the March for Babies will be held on Sunday, April 26th and the UC again has a team that will be participating. She also wanted to invite all those present to join the team or participate by giving a donation.

Report from Associate Director Daniel

Spring Semester Marketing Plans

- The Off Campus Living Fair was this past Wednesday, March 4th, the attendance was good. Vendors and students alike appeared to be happy with the results of the fair.
- There is a plan to put together a focus group for the UC Games Room. We are looking for suggestions on ways services could be improved, make it more attractive and to possibly get more people involved in the UC Games Room.
- Mr. Daniel asked the student members of the Board to think about joining this group. He is going to get information together as to dates, times of meetings and forward to the student members.
- Cougar Casino is coming up at the end of the month, don't forget to attend.
- Also Mr. Daniel stated he is working with Mr. Cole Calza from SVN (Channel 6) to get a UC commercial made to be shown on Channel 6. It should focus on "This Week at the UC" and show a schedule of events. As soon as a copy is available he will share it with the group.
- ScholarChip Challenge is on April 17th & 18th. We have a goal of 1,500 students as participants, it's free entrance and they will be playing Texas Hold'Em for scholarship money.

VIII. Old Business

WAL Flag Policy

- After the special report today Chair Kenfield feels comfortable with the Board moving forward with a recommendation that a South Vietnamese flag is posted in the World Affairs Lounge aside the others as long as it can be worked out with the UH General Counsel and the Vice President's office.

Food Services Cost Recovery

- Chair Kenfield stated that this will be discussed at the next meeting. It does not appear that the Board will have to follow up on the payment of the invoice sent but it would be nice to send some type of thank you for this being promptly resolved.

UCPB Constitution Amendment – UC 2010 Initiative Representative (Tanea Tahir)

- This could not be pursued at this time since there was not a quorum present nor was Ms. Tahir present.

UC Policy Board Member At-Large Process

- A copy of the application was provided by Mr. Kowalka. Chair Kenfield would like to have the application for this position available to students before the next meeting. As soon as applications are received he hopes that applicants can be identified for interviews.

IX. New Business

Facilities Use / Television Policy

- This was covered at the beginning of this meeting by Mr. Michael in his report of the FU&PC meeting held earlier today.

X. Announcements

- Safe Spring Break Event – March 11
- Cougar Casino @ Frontier Fiesta – March 26-28
- ScholarChip Challenge – April 17-18
- March for Babies – April 26
- UCAF End of the Year Celebration – May 5

XI. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned by Chair Kenfield at 2:10PM
- Next Meeting Date(s)

Friday, March 27, 2009

Friday, April 17, 2009

Friday, May 8, 2009

UC Bayou City Room

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