

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT CENTERS

Student Centers Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2025

Student Center North – Senate Chamber

Attendees: Keith Kowalka, Eve Esch, Bridget Portier, Luke Whitefield, Yhoalibeth Guerrero Becerril, Tulin Nanneh, Daniella, Diego Arriaga, Sairam Veeramsetty, Sung Yun Kim, Lucy Lerma, Sharia Turner

Voting Members: Kerry Creelman, Omar Castanon, Yhoalibeth Guerrero Becerril, Jordan Porter, Tulin Nanneh, Diego Arriaga, Sairam Veeramsetty, Sung Yun Kim, Lucy Lerma

Nonvoting Members: Keith Kowalka, Eve Esch, Katy Kaesebier, Deb Huebler, Sharia Turner, Bridget Portier

Call to Order & Introductions

I. Approval of Agenda –

- **Eve** – Displayed agenda for current meeting and minutes from prior meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (November 2024) -

- **Yhoali** - Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting.
 - i. All voted to approve – passed
- **Yhoali** – Please see her or Omar for any concerns
 - i. Expect all to be present either virtually or online – if need replacement either CCA or SGA representative (please advise).
 - ii. Please also attend SubCommittees
 - iii. Probably won't meet for February SubCOMittee – will meet again in March
 - iv. Like to plan ahead for food ordering
- **Eve** – Possibility of December 13th, 2024 meeting (did not occur).
 - i. Committee reports
 - ii. Staff reports – update expansion approved by Board of Regence
 - iii. Plant Swap was cool – Secret shopper program
 - iv. Upcoming events from CARS and Excited for Spring Cats Back
 - v. Cougar Red Friday Design
 - vi. Pie in the face updates
 - vii. Updates and adjournment

III. Chairperson's Report – Omar Castanon

- No updates

IV. Committee Updates

- Facilities Use & Policy Committee – Yhoali/Bridget update
 - i. Discussed future goals to further discuss Quiet Study and Pie in the face
 - 1. Opinions on more quiet space for students to study
 - 2.
- Lease Operations & Student Organization Space Committee – Katy Out (Yhoali to update)

- i. Lease updates – Chartwells and McDonalds
 - ii. Carrolls and Lockers full
 - iii. Monitors will be working soon
 - iv. Discussed creation of extra space while areas closed off
 - v. Work with architects to understand space that will be impacted
 - vi. Will share documents when available to update all
 - vii.
- Long Term & Current Projects Committee – Eve updates
 - i. Good progress – since last met we have sign on southwest corner now up
 - ii. Monitors on Circle drive to be removed next week (was going away as part of the Centennial project)
 - iii. Legacy Lounge – hoped to have in by beginning of year (March 14th, 2025 delivery) - reupholstering larger pieces.
 - iv. Celebrated 10 years – some pieces worn and torn
 - v. New LED wall above Starbucks (died thursday before classes started).
 - vi. Hoping to play mens and women's bball away games – will televise on the new screens
 - vii. Games Rooms – great work – table tennis area has cool mural – working to open up wall that hides billiards table – give better visuals
 - 1. Replaced two of the old TV screen/monitors
 - 2. New Nintendo Switch and PlayStations
 - 3. Surveys suggested we provide more space in CougarArcade area – move to lounge outside game room so available for all.
 - 4. Hopes to have ready this semester
 - viii. Identifying new space for E-Sports
 - ix. Get an updated quote for having digital signage outside meeting rooms instead of paper signs.
 - x. Sustainability Committee – Eve – First lunch and learn of the year – close to 40 attendees – Speaker from Buffalo Bayou walk groups – we learned alot.
 - 1. Sustainability is more than recycling and reusing
 - 2. Next meeting to be held on February 25, 2025
 - 3. Hopes more are able to attend
 - 4. Please RSVP so we can ensure we have enough food
 - 5. Blg plans for EarthWeeks – Sustainability COordinator planning earth month for April 2025
- Art Board – Eve
 - i. Will meet next week – student art show in Blackwood art gallery – in the 10 years we've been open we attend shows to purchase new art.
 - ii. Madison – a student in CreationStation worked hard to put together the ArtBook
- FSAC – Hasn't met since we met last time – asks Deb if any food service advisory updates
 - i. Next meeting next week on Friday (no December meeting)
 - ii. At CougarWoods – Graphics were put up (Astronaut and Cougar and LogoWall) Additional changes over summer
 - iii. Einsteins was closed all through the fall – will reopen
 - iv. Melt no longer open – New Subsandwich concept open – Houston Street Subs

- v. Thanks StudentCenters for quick approval process – to change from Melt to SubStreet Concept
- vi. Any questions regarding Committe updates (Yhoali)

V. Staff Reports (Informational Items)

- *Report from Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs – Student Life*
 - Expansion with Board in November
 - Busy working with Facilities – released RFP for Arch firms that will help design the additiona
 - 14 firms down to 3 happily all have SC experience
 - Presentation will be in February 2025 – working on questions to add
 - Hoping to break ground end of semester to have finished 2026
 - FOr new attendees – grassy area behind us in 2027 will be filled in with new construction 2 story
 - Also Center for Student Emporerment will be on 1st flooor
 - Veterans SErVICES will have more space
 - Meeting room and Carrolls
 - Univeristy Career Services will be on the west side of building
 - Employee Relations will be below us (Career fairs , etc)
 - Will be tight for events in 2026 yo 2027 will be helpful to plan early – some meetings will be offline -
 - CSM moving to SOuth Building to make more space
 - Weeks of Welcome – commitee debriefed in Nov – will be 3 weeks next year
 - Assessment was long – please take
 - COnsistent themes was so many great events- only attended a portion because so many overlapped
 - No more than 2 events at same time – inteadd of 3 or 4 at same time
 - Will be 3 weeks – more time for students and staff since they work so hard
 - Any questions.

- *Report from Executive Director, Student Centers*
 - Program Updates –
 - External Reviews -
 - Program review process – every 7 years – self assessment – bring in external folks to collect feedback and offer suggestions – will be 2nd one – last one in 2018 – want to meet with Policy Board
 - Will be here February Policy Board meeting to meet and give feedback
 - Will be food -
 - Will be focusing on chatting with External Review to give
 - Univ of Florida and Texas Tech
 - Will share feedback from them once they provide final report
 - Kerry asks should we do anything to prepare
 - Eve advises no prep work needed – typically looking for what are strengths and weaknesses, opportunities for growth, potential threats for possible issues, in the interim how are we managing losing meeting room space
 - Keith – advises Eve put together a plethora of information – Eve to share the report from last year to give them an overview of what to expect.
 - Eve will send out info to help prepare – acknowledging students
 - Coog\$ave -
 - Sairam – New faces -
 - Program from SC – incentive to save money through offering many discounts.
 - 30 or 40 categories
 - Make sure students can save alot
 - Game Night in November – huge success
 - In February 10th, 2025 will be a game day in the afternoon from 2pm to 5pm – all are welcome (students and staff)
 - Will also hold a raffle
 - 10 Year Celebration
 - Cake shaped like SC building
 - Photos on the website
 - Time capsule
 - Coog\$ave table – Sairam and Jamail
 - T-shirt cannon (Dr. Kittle) we were first to use
 - Sasha and Shasta stopped by
 - Boba mascot attended as part of unveiling of new drink robot (coupons, discount)
 - Thanks, Daniella, for coordinating first Alumni night (current and previous leaders for gathering)
 - Will received and will continue to celebrate in future
 - BotRista
 - More updates to come
 - IHeart my Student Centers – free food and tshirts and arts and crafts around Valentines day (creativity event)

- In the Houston Room (will be inside since may be chilly out).
- *Report from Associate Director, Student Centers – Bridget Portier – Won Division Golden Paw award*
 - Upcoming events –
 - Fall Term report – number of visitors between North and South – tracked by doors 1.5 million 571, 226 (Tracked from August 10th to December 31st, 2024)
 - Study Rooms – saw 75 hours of weekly use (500 students took advantage of the spaces).
 - Recycling – 197 tons of recycled material collected during fall of 2024
 - CARS – collaborated with 292 student organizations (revenue \$286,000 - up 2% compared to last fall) (on-campus and off campus events).
 - Good to see that number is growing
 - Leisure Svcs – Shasta's saw 30% increase in fall of 2024 as compared to fall of 2023
 - Creation Station – 9.5% increase in total revenues (printing, signage svcs) - \$86,000 in revenue
 - Polling location November 2024 – 7,848 people voted / 9,284 attended to vote
 - Strong turnout for Student Centers
 - Question – Are there any records or numbers for 2020 election? Bridget will look up the data to share.
- *Report from Director, Center for Student Involvement -*
 - Upcoming Events
 - 565 – 570 for registration last year (Keith will look up)

VI. Old Business

- Smaller Meeting rooms (Quiet Study Room)
 - i. In-acted policy for using smaller meeting rooms
 - ii. Next week those rooms will be available leading into finals week
 - iii. Saw good usage and good foot traffic in those spaces – making those rooms available
 - iv. Don't require setup – signage in the fall that indicates study room and IG used to advertise
 - v. Will continue program -
 - vi. No barrier to entry – anyone can walk into study
 - vii. No complaints about noise or misuse of rooms.
- Library Crowding -
 - i. Looked at current study room usage – 74 hours of usage a week
 - ii. Certain times of day they aren't used – charge for subcommittee is to look at possibility of making spaces more available – looking into that
 - iii. Questions – Brisa asks – has the library offered suggestion of students using the Student Centers
 - iv. Kerry will check with front desk – but doesn't think they are sending people to SC quiet rooms.

- v. Daniella – suggest they talk with housing to help promote the SC study rooms – so that more students are aware. So they know it’s available. Library and Housing should promote to the Students.
- vi. Bridget – suggest map (similar to visitor parking map) that helps students be aware of the SC study rooms.
- vii. Eve – combination of ability to reserve and how to reserve.
- Pie in the Face Policy
 - i. Bridget – Designated pie in the face table – Table #4 (between South and North building) purposely positioned by the door.
 - ii. Location can be booked multiple times a day
 - iii. Still seeing some safety hazards – incident occurred last week – group had an event and made a mess in North Building restroom on first floor (slip hazard – whip cream or shaving cream). Metro Clean responded quickly and got back in working order. Will continue to monitor any hazards it presents for any students using the facility.
 - iv. Fundraiser – but hazard – trying to come up with creative ways to make sure it’s done safe.
- CougarRed Friday Designs -
 - i. Waiting for new designs and will share when available.

VII. New Business

- Proposed Vision of New Building -
 - Eve reviews map showing Carroll spaces
 - Impact is that while being built – we’ll have to reduce space and areas will be transformed.
 - Any other ideas or suggestions on how to manage the displacement of Carroll spaces?
 - Options discussed – first come first serve
 - Can be reserved for the day
 - Or check-in /check-out
 - How much space will still be available for use?
 - Brisa asks – what do students use them for?
 - Daniella suggests – renting lockers – can be rented by the hour
 - Keith – suggests building a tent on front lawn (a/c or heated in the tree area near the monument). Like the tent near A.D. Bruce
- Keith – 1262 for Cats Back numbers (we usually add numbers from organizations) - will be sent on Monday or Tuesday.

IX. Announcements –

- **Changing Policies in regard to ICE coming on Campus** – University has put out some FAQ’s
 - Student Centers used as example in FAQ – Email referenced that was sent out less than an hour ago.
 - Common areas are public access
 - Other areas are limited access
 - They can be in hallways (public)
 - They can’t be in reserved rooms or offices.
 - Give numbers for Chief of Police

- University policey for use of space
- Asks all to please take a look and readover.

X. **Adjournment** - Adjournment at 1:02pm.

Next Meeting: January 31, 2025 (Senate Chamber)
February 21, 2025 (Senate Chamber)
March 28, 2025 (Senate Chamber)
April 25, 2025 (Senate Chamber)