

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT CENTERS

Student Centers Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 25, 2025

Student Center North – Senate Chamber

Attendees: Eve, Micah, Ali, Tulin, Diego, Brisa, Omar, Yhoali, Keith, Debbie, Katy, Kerry, Tav, Tomika, Bridget, DeNesha, Jordan

Voting Members: Kerry Creelman, Dr. Tomika Greer, Omar Castanon, Yhoalibeth Guerrero Becerril, Jordan Porter, Tulin Nanneh, Diego Arriaga, Sairam Veeramsetty, Sung Yun Kim, Lucy Lerma, Ansel A Garcia, Brisa Gossett, Debbie Samuels

Non-voting Members: Keith Kowalka, Eve Esch, Katy Kaesebier, Deb Huebler, Bridget Portier, Micah Obregon

Call to Order & Introductions

- **Approval of Agenda**
 - None against
- **Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (March 2025)**
 - None against
- **Chairperson's Report**
 - At Large Members
 - 3 positions, 4 candidates, 2 of those voting members
 1. Ali Mirza
 - i. Wants to see change with Student Center, make it a safe, relaxing space
 - ii. Those changes are more affordable food options, more spaces for clubs, and in carrel spaces
 2. Diego Arriaga
 - i. Wants to improve and grow as a community space; wants to improve exposure to it
 - ii. Would advocate for student center to be seen as community space by finding innovative promotion, collaboration
 3. Omar Castanon
 - i. Wants to create a space for students to advocate for themselves with food, games room, spatial expansion particularly for students
 - ii. Will balance knowledge by implementing what he's learned in the classroom into his time on Policy Board
 4. Tav Cockrell
 - i. Concerned about the students who don't have time or exposure to other buildings beyond where their classes are
 - ii. Praises Student Centers for changing his higher education experience

- **Committee Updates**

- o Facilities Use & Policy Committee:
 - Policies to vote on
- o Lease Operations & Student Organization Space Committee – Special Presentation:
 - Pizza Hut
 - i. Can order, can do grab-and-go, will be able to have catered
 - ii. May need to only have bone-in wings because of Chick-Fil-A next door
 - iii. Chosen for its variety: pizza, pasta, chicken wings, breadsticks, salads
 - iv. Chosen for price point
 - v. Focus group came back that students want Italian as an option
 - vi. Hours: 7 days a week, 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
 - vii. Needs to figure out about meal exchange program, Pizza Hut is open with select menu
 - viii. Range of \$8-\$12+
- o Long Term & Current Projects Committee:
 - Casino front was put up
 - New golf cart
- o Sustainability Committee – Earth Week Recap:
 - Lunch & Learn
 - Plant Swap
 - E-Waste Drive
- o Art Board – MFA Show options:
 - Art piece w/ daycare notes
 - “Are We There Yet?” resembles the inside of a subway car
 - Two pictures next to each other; tall, vertical; contains Arabic script
 - Two oil paintings; realism, life-sized
 - Will have Undergrad pictures after May show
- o FSAC – Jordan:
 - Last meeting next Friday
 - Will evaluate ride and dine shuttle

- **Staff Reports**

- *Report from Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs – Student Life*

- i. SCN Expansion update
 - Expansion will be underway
- ii. Stress Free Finals
 - Starting on upcoming Tuesday with 10 events

- *Report from Executive Director, Student Centers*

- i. External Review coming very soon
 - Draft turned in
- ii. Program Updates- March Madness
 - Threw game-watch party
 - 210 in attendance, at least
 - Sustainability events
- iii. Staffing Update
 - Micah new Secretary/Admin Coordinator

- Program Manager 2 for Leisure Services posted
- Grad student graduating soon; his replacement is in the hiring process
- Posting Marketing Graduate Student
- *Report from Associate Director, Student Centers – Bridget Portier*
 - o Recent and Upcoming events
 - 1) Stress Free Finals
 - 2) Study rooms, and quiet study rooms: Third Ward, Washington Ave, and Museum District; to be advertised with Instagram, UH Marketing, and digital signage
 - o Secret Shopper Update
 - 1) Pleased with feedback and participation
 - 2) Lower performing department will need training; improvement suggestions provided for all
- *Report from Director, Center for Student Involvement - Katy Kaesebier*
 - o Fiesta Recap
 - Went well
 - Thanks everyone for support
 - ~8,000+ attendees
 - o Carrel/locker move out begins Monday!
 - May 15th first deadline
 - o Hiring student leaders for 2025-2026
 - Executive positions in May
 - Non-execs July
- **Old Business**
 - o Study Room update
 - Done during Bridget's report
 - o Special Event Spaces
 -
 - o Digital Signage
 - Policy public, not signed off by Board of Regents
 - RSOs used to be able to use, now just campus department – to be voted on
 - Passed to have this as 'pending approval'
- **New Business**
 - o Additional Policies
 - Meeting rooms or table space cancellations, warning
 - Cancelling Houston room or other large space, fee would still be in effect
 - Student Life now responsible for Freedom of Expression form; new email
 - Above passed

IX. Announcements –

- CCA & RHA won Program of the Year
- Yhoali won a volunteer award
- Omar won the Dean's Award, Legacy Award, and others

Save the Date & RSVP for **Student Life End of Year Celebration – May 8th 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. SC Ballroom**

X. Adjournment -

Omar adjourned

Next Meetings: (Save the Dates)

9/12/15
10/10/25
11/14/25
12/12/25 (if needed)
1/30/26
2/27/26
3/27/26*
4/24/26