

Council of Organizations Minutes

Date: April 7, 2017

Location: A436, Academic Building UHD

Meeting was called to order at 2:12 pm by Daral Moore Washington, Chair of UHD Council of Organizations

Roll Call: not performed.

- I. Daral invited two representatives from Blend Design Group to speak. They let the members know that they were a small company just a couple of blocks from the university, and they were interested in connecting UHD with events happening in Downtown. 1.5 Billion dollars has gone into redevelopment and the continued growth of new residential areas in Downtown Houston which is expected to increase the amount of retail business in the area. They were also working on establishing partnerships with residencies in Downtown to offer discounts and plan options for UHD students. They asked the members to make an effort to go into Downtown regularly and break the barrier between the school and the city beyond Commerce Street. They had a website set up called DowntownHoustonLive.com, which they told them would be a good start to increase student engagement with the city. They would like students submit videos to their website, and hopefully set up an area on the website dedicated to UHD, showcasing students “living, working and playing” in Downtown Houston.
 - a. A member asked them how they wanted to make students aware of information about events in Downtown Houston, since he saw that communication with UHD administration was not good. They clarified that at the change would be gradual and that activity is expected to grow Downtown with the new residential areas that are being built.
 - b. A member asked if they could work on establishing a hang-out spot in Downtown Houston just for UHD students, similar to UH’s Cougar Den. They asserted that they were working on something like that.
 - c. Another member asked the speakers what steps everyone could take to create the city life they were envisioning. The presenters responded that simply by crossing into Downtown, a bringing friends, and sharing the experiences with others, involvement could be increased.
 - d. A member asked if a dorm system could be added and told everyone that he believed the jail next to UHD had once been a dormitory but for some reason there were no longer housing options for UHD students. Daral told him that the representatives were not employed by the university, and had no jurisdiction in that area.
 - e. Ralph Bradley, President of C.A.B. asked the presenters to clarify if they were just asking the students to be more involved in the Downtown area. The presenters said yes, they were just representing marketing firm and were longtime residents of Downtown looking to have more students engaged with the city.
 - f. A member noted that many people try to leave as soon as possible because of the traffic that forms near the afternoon and lasts until the evening, and that this is a

reason for a lack of involvement in the city. The presenters acknowledged that it was a problem, but that is why they wanted to have a conversation regarding this lack of engagement with the city.

- g. Ed Yang, Chair of Council of Finance noted to the members that in order to get cheaper housing and more affordable options in Downtown Houston, students had to prove that they were willing to be customers of the city. He told them that by helping the presenters, they would also be able to encourage students to get more attached to the school and the city, therefore increase involvement. He asked them to go represent and spend money in Downtown.

The speakers thanked everyone and let them know they would leave flyers for their website, and their cards with contact information.

- II. Daral invited the next speaker, a representative from the Community Service Learning Center. The presenter reminded everyone that the community engagement grant would be released in the beginning of the fall semester. She also informed the members of an opportunity April 21st to advertise for membership, during a student org fair held during lunch time for high school students involved in the Bayou Service Project. It would be held in the South Deck from 12:00-12:45. She asked them to please send an email to CCESL@uhd.edu by Friday April 14th if they wanted a table.
 - a. A member asked how much time would be available for set up. She told him their organization could start setting up as soon as 11:30 am.
- III. Daral invited Valencia Spencer to give updates about Open House.
 - a. Ms. Spencer let the members know that for organization signed up to help during Gator Connect, the room would be open from 11:00 – 12:00 pm but student orgs could begin setting up as early as 10:30 or 10:45. The student showcase would be held outside during lunch, and organization should set up no later than 11:00 am. She let them know she was very appreciative of everyone who signed up, although only 15 organizations out of the 100 registered will be participating, it is still a much higher number than usual. She gave recognition to the organizations that had signed up, and asked them to email her if they had questions. Parking in Vine St. and Shea would be open, as well as the faculty garage.
 - b. A member asked if he could sign his organization in late. She told him space was very scarce, and there would probably not be any space for a late sign up.
- IV. Daral went over the dates on the agenda, noting that Council of Orgs Workshops would be held through the end of April. Registration for One Main Event this year will be through Event Brite and Ed Yang would be co-hosting with her. Tickets are limited, so she urged them to let their members know. She also reminded them that nominations for Student Activities' Awards have been open on OrgSync, and would be decided through a committee vote. Student Organization Awards have to be submitted by Wednesday, April 12th at 5:00 pm and student Organizations are responsible for ordering their own awards.
 - a. A member asked how the winners for the Student Activities' Awards will be decided. Percy let him know a committee would read over the submissions and

decide a winner based on the content of the submission. He would also take into consideration records of activity on campus, through flyers that have been submitted to Student Activities.

- b. A member asked who the DJ would be for the event. Percy said they would be hiring a DJ from Best Entertainers.
- c. A member asked if people had to dress according to the theme. Daral let he know it was not necessary, although the attire was formal. Percy also let everyone know that they would have a “Gatsby Award” for the Best Dressed.

Daral reminded everyone of the 5 De Mayo volunteer opportunity, and asked them to sign up on GatorSync. Percy let them know he had flyers and promotional materials if any were interested in sharing them.

- V. Daral presented a proposal for an amendment to the Council of Finance regarding a change to the number of students that can be included in a proposal for travel, and separating forms. She noted that there were no specific changes on the form, so they would simply vote for a change.
 - a. From those present, the vote for changing the number of students that can be included in a proposal for travel was 19 in favor, 1 against, and 3 abstaining.
 - b. From those present, the vote for separating the event registry form from the registry for hotel was 15 in favor, 2 against, and 3 abstaining
 - c. Daral asked all of them to consider that the single form was done for convenience, and that it was easier for people who needed to request both.
 - i. A member responded that it was not fair to get a full registration rejected just because of one part.
 - d. Ed Yang noted that registration should not be covered under travel because they were separate things.
 - e. Daral clarified that one is the number of people going to the event, the other includes any event off campus that require registration.
 - f. Percy asked everyone to concentrate on the issue regarding the number of people allowed to be petitioned for. The best idea would be to not separate everything, but to instead itemize the form. He also asked everyone to remember that they still had to keep within their budget’s limit.
 - g. A member noted a problem with submitting the form and receiving a response about it too late. Ed let her know that he does not have access to GatorSync, and receives the forms when Student Activities send them to him. He let them know that 90% of the time he send a response that same day.
 - h. Ed let everyone know that at the beginning of the year, the Council of Finance had two forums and only two people show up. Council of Finance would be available coming in the fall, and asked everyone if they would be showing up to that.
 - i. A member asked to please move on to the next topic.
- VI. Daral assented and explained that at the end of the meeting, she would open recommendations for chair, assistant chair and secretary. They would be open until April 12th, and emails would be sent to those nominated by April 28th to accept their

- nominations. The election would be held during the last meeting in May. She asked people not to nominate themselves, however. She is also looking to work on COO Guidelines to record traditions in the Council. She also asked everyone to send a list of their graduating members and their 900 numbers by next meeting to be recognized.
- VII. Daral opened Open Forum for general questions or information.
- a. Alan Modrow, Chief of Staff of SGA reminded everyone that voting for the new representatives and for the referendum would close at 5:00 pm. He also informed them that the UH System had broken its contract with Aramark, and would be accepting proposals for the entire UH System. If anyone wanted information about joining the committee, they could come speak to him. He thanked everyone who participated in the Go around the World Event, which had a good turnout. The new president would also be starting in the university on April 13th, and a festivity would be held from 3:30 to 5:30 to thank President Olivas. He also told them that SGA had held a town hall to voice concerns about the shooting on campus, and let them know that some reports would be sent out soon.
- VIII. Daral thanked everyone and dismissed the meeting.
- IX. Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 pm.

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