

University Centers Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

Winter 2019, Week #5

February 5, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the University Centers Advisory Board was called to order at 2:02 pm on February 5, 2019 by Alex Morrow in the Warren College Room.

Attendees

1. Alex Morrow (UCAB Chair)
2. Joey Mendoza (UCAB Vice Chair)
3. Jesús Fernández (Student at Large Representative)
4. Liora Kian Gutierrez (Interim Staff Association Representative)
5. Pamela Frugé (Alumni Representative)
6. Katya Garcia (Sixth Representative)
7. Nikhil Pothuru (AS Representative)
8. Achol Chowdhury (Muir Representative)
9. Aditya Arora (Warren Representative)
10. Reilly Cannon (Revelle Representative)
11. Daniel Howanec (Student at Large Representative)
12. Annamarie Bucknum (SCERC Representative)
13. Sharon Van Bruggen (Director) – ad hoc, non-voting
14. Elijah Garcia (UCAB Secretary) – non-voting

Public Input

Member of the public, Zachary Jafak

- Zachary expressed concern with vendors who are driving on library walk “semi-aggressively”, pushing pedestrian traffic out of the way
 - He spent time researching the policies regarding service vehicles (owned by UCSD) on campus, and believes these policies should be applied to third-party vendors as well
 - Policy states that scooters and carts are not permitted on primary pedestrian walkways during class changes
 - Wants to include “must not force students off of paths” to policy
 - Additionally, carts and scooters should not block accessible pathways

- Alex: Which vendors are you specifically referring to?
 - Zachary: The biggest concern is with the big trucks, such as party rental vendors
- Joey: And when you say “carts” do you mean the smaller ones that carry chairs?
 - Zachary: No, the UCSD carts follow the guidelines, however outside vendors not in direct contact with administration tend to drive dangerously
- Alex: Please email me with your concerns so we can get to the bottom of this.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from Week 4 of Winter 2018 as amended: Nikhil
 - Second: Liora

Special Presentation

Members of Greeks Gone Green, Uday Gouindswamy and Amber Fossier

- They're in the final steps of implementing entire project on campus
 - Installation set-up: The smog-eating poster will be the focus, adjacent to a plaque; underneath will be a plain white poster (36" x 27"), small portions of which will be removed and taken to labs for analysis. These cut-away portions will be painted over to maintain the poster's white appearance.
 - Samples will be taken to Chem department over time, to validate Smog-eating poster technology
 - The team is asking for approval before the final go-ahead
- Achol: So the plaque is above, and underneath is the white poster. Is the white poster part of the whole thing?
 - Uday: The white poster is made from the same material as the smog-eating poster.
 - Achol: Would someone be able to tell the difference between the poster and the white painting behind it?
 - Uday: No, it will be painted behind and just look white.
- Joey: Any white, empty space is prime placement for posters and flyers. Are there any other possible locations for placement? Maybe higher on the wall?
 - Uday: There are a lot of safety issues to placing the poster higher, due to safety issues with using an exacto knife on a ladder.
- Daniel: Will the poster be a permanent installation next to the mural?
 - Uday emphasized that this is a research experiment, not an activist experiment, so the poster will be up as long as they collect data

- Uday: Amber would like to get more in touch with marketing or campus outreach resources.
 - Alex: just have her sign in and add her email so we can connect her to them
 - Marketing from UCEN will take care of the plaque
 - Liora: The university administration will be very interested in this, Christine Clark will like this. For marketing, I'd suggest putting a ribbon-cutting event in the Insider newsletter. We're happy to help.
- Achol: Could I recommend, in the last paragraph, mentioning the purpose of the white paper underneath the plaque? That way when you look at the mural it's not just a mural, a plaque, and a piece of white paper.
- Alex: I'm concerned about mentioning the white poster on the plaque, since the poster is only going to be up for about 6 months, but the plaque is more permanent.
 - Uday: The paper is kind of permanent, since it'll be connected to the wooden support on the plaque.
 - Sharon: We're tight already on the copy deadline for the plaque. If we add any more, we won't finish it by the 20th of February.
 - Uday: We could have the Clean Air Act on the white poster, but it would look strange if we were cutting away portions of it.
- Alex: Are there any other concerns about the writing before we give it the okay? ... Consensus is the writing is fine.
 - Achol: I'd only add writing to the white poster if it's permanent.

Member of Soda & Swine (S&S), Arsalun Tafazoli

- Arsalun: I'm just here to answer questions if anyone's curious, it's important that we're inclusive of the community.
- Liora: Having watched the campus through the years, I can't imagine why it [the construction and opening of S&S] is taking so long.
 - Arsalun: There isn't a clean answer to that question. There are a lot of factors, particularly a lack of experience dealing with UCSD. We're used to pushing the envelope a little bit, but we understand the dynamic and structures of our world, downtown San Diego, and it's a very different sort of place here at UCSD.
 - Arsalun: We also came into the project planning to spend \$600,000, but we've spent \$1.4 million. We should've scaled down our ambition. But I feel confident that, when completed, people will understand where those resources went.
 - Arsalun: We continually have to put things in context, we're trying to create an institution that'll be here 10-20 years. There's a huge expense to carry this stuff, and always have a superintendent on site during construction.

- Liora: I understand about construction, and following policies, but do I understand you won't be open until June 2019?
 - Arsalun: As of right now, we will have people in the space, hopefully, by the beginning of April. Depending on how we're progressing, much earlier. From a business standpoint, having a grand opening at the end of the school year wouldn't be ideal.
- Aditya: Why is your budget more than double what you had planned?
 - Arsalun: We've had struggles internally with our own competency, and partly struggled with navigating UCSD and the scope of the project.
 - Arsalun: We were told we'd have a new rehabilitated shell space that the campus spent \$2 million on. We haven't completely figured everything out yet, but there are specific things that must be done for campus construction projects.
 - Arsalun: We're making significant investments in dealing with asbestos. A new company put a new roof over an asbestos ceiling. We can't penetrate, and you have to when doing CI of any sort.
 - Arsalun: We have a new fire sprinkler suppression system, which took 2 months of remediation to deal with lead pipes that any modern facility wouldn't have. Two engineers are overengineering something for a light fixture that many campus entities have to sign off on. The ceiling doesn't drain [rainwater] so people have to physically pour out water from the roof.
 - Arsalun: We also got more ambitious with the design. You, Liora, mentioned the Original Student Center (OSC). Energy and feeling is what we do and that's our business, but not in a holistic way. You can walk into a room and automatically feel the energy in a room, and when I walk into one of our spaces and people are enjoying themselves, it's a magic in its own sort of way.
 - Arsalun: We tried to, within the surrounding OSC areas, create something that was somewhat apart but also together. We're spending \$120,000 on custom paver system to make space feel like our own and create our own little atmosphere, since the area isn't very warm and right next to parking lot.
- Achol: I see that there are a couple of changes, including the removal of a living wall, not planting vines, and a van is supposed to be added in the patio?
 - Arsalun: Yes, we're working on a breakfast project outside of UCSD, and we have a partnership with Modern Times, serving their coffee at all our restaurants. With the investment we're making, we're concerned with the energy shift of the campus past 7:30 [pm]. 8:00am and onward has the most amount of people

coming by, so we thought we could do breakfast tacos and sandwiches with coffee service, using the Modern Times van.

- Aرسالun: But feedback came back regarding a coffee cart, Art of Espresso, across the way. We want to contribute, not compete, so we're now in process of doing a matcha or juice alternative, not espresso or coffee, that'll still be morning-focused
- Achol: Was the van included in the plan, or was it a late addition?
- Aرسالun: It wasn't in the original plan, but we adjusted and added it after the fact.
- Achol: When was this added?
- Aرسالun: The van was originally submitted about 4 months ago.
- Joey: In October.
- Joey: Regarding the warm shell, was that information provided for the newspaper [the Guardian] article you interviewed for?
 - Aرسالun: I don't want to seem like I'm coming out against the university, since I don't think it's good for anyone's interests. At the end of the day, we need to make sure relationships are good moving forward. I did not mention it when the journalist reached out.
- Joey: Craft and Commerce, Ironside, and False Idol are 3 of my mainstays; as a consumer and a fan, I get part of the time invested in opening delays. Everything is cultivated from the tiles to the salt on your food, everything has minute details and I get that. Plus, Born & Raised had to deal with airports, so that opening delay made sense.
 - Joey: As a fan I empathize, but as a student when I think of the UCSD community, the lack of spaces for activities bums me out. That, and the trend of space openings taking 1 year or more, especially since there's nothing like this [S&S] on campus.
 - Aرسالun: As you mentioned, we really do curate every aspect, and since we're trying to create a long-term institution it does take longer. We're used to dealing with developers, trying to put our heart and soul into these things, and we usually overinvest. For them there's less at stake in the investment, but in this case, it's been more personal.
 - Aرسالun: We've had students reach out to us, asking about the opening. We've given them gift cards for our other restaurants, trying to make up for it. I've been a student here, so I know that to be promised something and have it drag on is awful. We believe it'll be worth the wait when it does open.
- Daniel: I think one of the main issues I've noticed is a seeming lack of transparency.

- Daniel: People have lost interest in the space. It's become less of a restaurant and more of a constant construction site over the 3 years the space has been empty.
- Arsalun: We got approval to actually build around 10.5 months ago, so we're not going to take the full heat for the emptiness of the site. We are way behind where we should be, but not in terms of years.
- Arsalun: We do have to figure out how to reach out and generate excitement, so we have to figure out the best way to do that.
- Pamela: I'm glad to find out you're an alum, so you know the history of the area and the Pub. We're excited to see something unique come and replace the Pub. I think what you're doing will generate its own energy and reactivate that part of campus. You mentioned you're thinking about doing some things to make it up to students and the campus population. What types of things, and how the logistics work to roll them out?
 - Arsalun: Right now, we've been brainstorming, we haven't finalized anything yet. We're considering doing separate things for the major student groups on campus, such as this one, and figuring out what it'd take to reach them all.
 - Arsalun: We considered making everything free the first week, but I don't think it'd be possible. We're still trying to work it out, but we understand we have to come in and do something to make it up.
- Alex: Thank you for coming in. We're all really passionate about this space.
 - Arsalun: As soon as we get a hard date, I want to come back and get any input from you guys and hear any insight you have to generate enthusiasm and make up for the delays. Thank you.

Chair Report

- If you have any feedback for Arsalun you can go ahead and email me.

Vice Chair Report

- None

Director Report

- None
- Jesus had a question about UCEN link for advertising being down for about a week now
 - Sharon: I'll look into it. We recently redid the site, so everything is entirely new. It's possible the link has been broken.

- Daniel had a question about a budget issue
 - Sharon: I haven't heard anything about a budget issue.

New Business

Tech Fee Subsidies

- None

Blue Pepper

- Alex: Last week there was a presentation regarding whether to renew Blue Pepper or look into inviting a new vendor.
- Achol: Muir didn't have a council meeting last week, but I did ask around about Blue Pepper. Almost everyone I asked said they never went to Blue Pepper, or only went to the space to study. I didn't get many positive reports regarding quality or relevance. People said that if they did want Thai food, they would go to Lemongrass.
 - Jesus: Most people will make the effort to go to Lemongrass for Thai food.
- Alex: Do you think Lemongrass and Blue Pepper are in the same cuisine style?
 - Daniel: No, I personally don't think they should be compared since they offer different menu items. However, the student body compares them.
 - Joey: I don't think of Lemongrass and Blue Pepper as same in terms of cuisine, but Lemongrass overshadows Blue Pepper in quality.
- Joey: Also, if you haven't yet taken a look at the plans for Torrey Pines Living + Learning Center (TPLL), I strongly advise you do so. We should no longer think of PC and OSC as separate entities, but we must think of the campus as a whole.
 - Joey: Hypothetically, if I was a student in Warren and Rocky Rocky Ramen opened in TPLL, am I going to go out of my way to go across campus to get Rocky Rocky? Absolutely. Am I going to go across campus to get Blue Pepper? Absolutely not. We can't think of OSC and our areas as staying this way forever. TPLL is coming. Are we going to have something exciting for our student body if we keep Blue Pepper? We should want our students to be in our spaces because they want to be there, not because of convenience.
 - Joey: If Soda & Swine was open already in the OSC, this would be different.
 - Reilly: I agree completely with Joey, the campus is bringing in exciting projects and new things. Renewing something seen as mediocre is the easy way out.
 - Pamela: I do agree, that space is very special. If we're bringing in unique, different places like Soda & Swine, Blue Pepper doesn't fit in anymore. It lacks

the energy and quality of food that you could be getting. I go because of proximity, but it's mediocre.

- Aditya: As a freshman asking others, 90% of freshman didn't know what Blue Pepper was.
- Alex: I'd like to take the vote today or next week regarding whether we consider Blue Pepper or consider a new vendor for the Blue Pepper space. If we do renew their lease, we get to determine the new lease length.
 - Neill: If we were to take a vote, I'd like to take it next week, so we can meet with our college councils.
- Motion to table Blue Pepper discussion until next week: Neill
 - Second: Jesus

Old Business

Cash Policy

- Alex: Seed & Sprout doesn't accept cash, only card. Some have complained there isn't enough signage explaining this policy. Since their cash policy isn't in the lease terms, we can't force them to do anything, but we can encourage them.
 - Pamela: They've put a sign up, right at the register.
 - Jesus: Was the sign at the register, or the line when you first order?
 - Pamela: It's when you first order, right by the case of beverages. It was very helpful.
 - Joey: Was it handwritten still?
 - Pamela: No, but it was printed on a piece of standard paper.
 - Joey: My recommendation is to do something using the Seed & Sprout design, so it has their logo and looks more official. We can recommend they elevate this [cash] policy and do so by making a good sign.
- Straw pull motion by Alex: 11 votes, all in favor
- Motion to table Seed & Sprout cash policy indefinitely: Daniel
 - Second: Reilly

Member Reports

- Nikhil Pothuru
 - I know some of you were at the retreat we had a couple of weeks ago; there was a proposal to create commuter lounge/outreach office.
 - With the development of 7th and 8th college, there needs to be new study spaces to accommodate the students.

- Goals
 - Add new study space on campus
 - Create space for orgs and faculty to meet w/ students
 - Take first steps to a more centralized campus (commuter lounge in central location)
- Alex: I'll open up a speakers list.
 - Jesus: It'd be nice to have extra commuter lounges, but with the draft proposal, there needs to be a proposed location. Maybe we don't need a new commuter lounge, but ideas on how to make the current commuter lounge in PC East more inviting and exciting.
 - Reilly: You're looking at making an additional commuter lounge along with the current one? University centers are more a space for hanging out and having lunch, rather than a study space. We don't want University Centers to become like the library, which is right there.
 - Achol: I don't know if we need 2 commuter lounges in PC, and I know you emphasized you want it to be central to campus.
 - Katya: If you were to have a new space, it should have some new features for commuters, like the commuter fridge in the arcade area.
 - Achol: How much does the arcade get used?
 - Sharon: I don't have an answer off the top of my head, but I can pull door tracker stats.

Open Forum

- Joey: First of all, I'm super proud of a lot of you for speaking up and having meaningful things to say this week. There's a correlation between people who spoke up and who went to the retreat. I think we should have another retreat soon, because those conversations had a lot to do with how we determine space criteria and how we prepare proposals. Let's capitalize on our momentum and move forward.

Announcements

- Alex: We have a new member, Katya. She's a member of 6th college student council, she will be the representative for rest of the year
- Pamela: I want to announce Black History Month activities. There are some great things happening this week. Come out and participate! Quincy Troupe is coming, great music coming to the Loft. He did an installation downtown by the Children's Museum.

- Sharon: University Centers has purchased a table for the scholarship brunch, recognizing student excellence with scholarships.
 - Pamela: It's on the 23rd, at 10am. There will be good food and music, plus a keynote speaker.
 - Sharon: We have 8 seats available, but if everyone wants to go, we can purchase another table.
 - Pamela: All students get time with the speaker. There will be time in the Cross Cultural Center where you can sit down and get to know them in an informal setting.
- Alex put forward straw poll for interest in attending the brunch.
 - 5 votes

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm by Alex Morrow. The next general meeting will be at 2 pm on February 12th, 2019 in the Warren College Room.