

University Centers Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – REVISED
Winter 2019, Week #9
March 5, 2019

Opening

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

Attendees

1. Alex Morrow (UCAB Chair)
2. Joey Mendoza (UCAB Vice Chair)
3. Daniel Howanec (Student at Large Representative)
4. Liora Kian Gutierrez (Staff Association Representative)
5. Reilly Cannon (Revelle Representative)
6. Achol Chowdhury (Muir Representative)
7. Harrison Oliphant (Marshall Representative)
8. Aditya Arora (Warren Representative Shadow)
9. Katya Garcia (Sixth Representative)
10. Sharon Van Bruggen (Director) – ad hoc, non-voting
11. Elijah Garcia (UCAB Secretary) – non-voting

Public Input

- Representatives Shafeen, Zanra, and Mohammed from the Muslim Student Association (MSA) came to present ideas and projects that the organization is working on
 - One of the MSA's projects is to establish more halal food options on campus, and looking into certified halal options for the dining halls
 - For context, NYU recently opened the first halal dining hall in the country
 - Lemongrass, Bombay Coast, and Seed&Sprout have halal food days, but no process for students to be sure their food is actually halal
 - These vendors should be maintaining halal friendly food prep spaces
 - More transparency is needed regarding food sources from Price Center vendors
 - The representatives suggested that UCAB consider halal vendors for new leases
 - The Halal Advocates are a reputable halal certification group
 - Joey asked what the standards and issues are regarding halal meats
 - Sharon: We asked several vendors last year to provide a halal meat option, and several restaurants agreed to do it (Bombay Coast, Lemongrass)
 - This is not a lease requirement, just a suggestion we asked of them
 - The challenge is that there are meats labelled as halal, but not verified to actually meet the halal standard
 - brought this back up @ vendors meeting last week, to see if we can get a few restaurants verified by Halal Advocates Group
 - Bombay Coast was interested in this
 - Shafeen: Especially in the American halal industry, there's been a debate on what qualifies as the standard of halal
 - A lot of people won't eat a halal meat unless it has been certified by a reputable source

- Another issue is the distinction between hand slaughtered and machine slaughtered meats, and some don't consider the latter to be halal
 - The MSA would like to display certificates of the meat supplier in front of the vendor spaces, so students are aware
- Joey commented that the certification processes have costs, and these vendors may become more expensive
 - He wanted to make sure the students the MSA represents are willing to pay more for their food because of this
 - Shafeen: The prices difference between hand and machine slaughtered is not very large, but many students would be willing to pay the extra cost knowing that they can actually eat the food
 - She added that the vendors can know they wouldn't have to worry about losing business, since the Muslim student population would appreciate this extra resource being provided to them
- Alex: What suppliers did you have in mind?
 - Shafeen: There are many different suppliers in any given area, but the Halal Advocates would be able to provide that information
 - The vendors would be able to choose which options work best for them
- Another MSA project is searching for a larger prayer space
 - Muslims pray five times a day
 - Given the current social climate, students don't feel as comfortable praying outdoors as they used to
 - The MSA has been using the Contemplation Lounge and enjoying this space, but the room has reached capacity, and there is often no room to pray at peak use times
 - The MSA is hoping to work with University Centers to find a larger, more permanent space, which would also allow them to record room usage metrics
- Joey: Did you apply for space allocation in spring quarter of last year?
 - Shafeen: We have a SAAC (Student Affirmative Action Committee) office, but we did not make the deadline for the spaces here
 - Joey asked why MSA had large items in their office, but not in a University Centers storage space
 - Shafeen clarified that they don't use the Contemplation Lounge as a storage space, acknowledging that it's a campus resource for all students
 - Shafeen: Earlier this month, we talked to some University Centers people about temporarily storing some items in our SAAC space for the week
 - We are not looking for storage space, but more space to pray
- Achol: Do you know what the capacity is for the Contemplation Lounge?
 - Shafeen: We've been looking, but have not been able to find it posted
 - Sharon: It's an open space, and doesn't have a closing door
 - Achol: Potentially how many people could pray in the room at once?
 - Shafeen: Maybe 15-20 people at once. We get about 60-70 unique individuals a day, but when factoring in that people return several times each day, at least 100 people use the room
 - The MSA is working on gathering and compiling all of this data

Approval of Minutes

- Alex provided a correction regarding the motion to add Tech Fee Subsidy Criteria discussion to New Business
 - Jesús most likely seconded the motion
- Liora provided a correction under the Tech Fee Subsidy Criteria discussion
 - Changed the bullet to: “Liora mentioned that the Alumni Association may be bringing back a Staff-Faculty Alumni Organization, which existed in the past, and a staff member from the Alumni Association would be assigned to lead it”
- Alex: Regarding Member Reports, what \$5000 budget was Aditya referring to, specifically?
 - Aditya asked for clarification regarding a \$5000 budget for special projects
 - Sharon: This would be the UCAB Special Project Budget, though it was not allocated specifically for nap pods
 - Changed bullet to: Aditya suggested using the \$5000 UCAB Special Project Budget to pay up front for the pods, instead of charging students directly, if possible
- Motion to approve the minutes from Week 8 of Winter 2019 as amended: Reilly
 - Second: Liora

Special Presentation

- None.

Chair Report

- Space Needs Committee
 - The committee met this week, and came up with 13 different criteria for the board to discuss when deciding on new vendors for spaces
 - They’re still narrowing these criteria down, and working on developing specific questions for each criteria idea
 - Next quarter, the committee will meet to rank all the different space needs that Sharon presented
- Last quarter, UCAB talked about renovating the patio space by Tapioca Express
 - Sharon is looking into possible plans for this space
- Last week, the board discussed adding nap pods and/or hammocks to the budget, and Alex asked the board what their constituents would prefer
 - Harrison replied that it depends on how much we want to spend, since hammocks would be cheaper, but nap pods would be more comfy
 - Marshall College is getting new hammocks, and which are relatively cheap and come with a lifetime warranty
 - Joey stated that he is in favor of hammocks and against nap pods, since the hammocks would be more cost-effective (free) and accessible to students
 - Harrison asked where would the nap pods would be, and how many the board would consider ordering
 - Alex: The location is unconfirmed, but one idea would be the patio area outside PC
 - Aditya supported nap pods if can be made cost effective or free
 - Joey gave an example of the nap pods at Google HQ, which were about \$14,000 apiece
 - Along with installation cost, it’s important to consider maintenance and staffing costs

- Reilly supported hammocks, since those would be free, and asked how nap pods might be regulated
- Harrison: How big would the nap pods be?
 - Alex: There are different types of nap pods; Google's circular pods take up a decent amount of space and require electricity
 - The pods UCAB looked at last year were actually miniature rooms with walls
- Sharon asked if the hammocks in Marshall College are removed at night
 - Harrison: They don't take them down at all, and the only reason they are not up right now is because they are broken
- Achol: If we choose nap pods, they would be placed indoors; since hammocks would be outdoors, they would be useless in the rain
 - She found some cheaper nap pods that are essentially mini tents, which might require less cleaning and maintenance
 - If electricity and maintenance aren't factors, students might not have to be charged to use the pods
- Alex: There are some people who are homeless, and not students, who spend time around campus, and that would be a concern for the hammocks
- Sharon recommended looking at a variety of different nap pod options (cost, space required, electricity needs)
 - Potential option would be a lounge with a door that would only be available to students
 - Then nap pods wouldn't be necessary, and the room could be filled with lounge chairs and no study tables
- Alex added that there is a lack of space within University Centers buildings, but a lot of space outside these buildings
 - Potentially look into a student ID-locked gate to close access
- Katya agreed that UCAB has to maximize outdoor spaces
 - Even if the board went for indoor space, she would still like to see something done with more bare outdoor spaces
- Harrison asked what the purpose of nap pods or hammocks would be (to sleep, relax, hangout)
 - Alex: I'd assume they would be for relaxation and sleep, not a hangout space
 - Joey: It would be difficult to control usage if we did have hammocks, since they would essentially be the same as our other outdoor spaces
 - If the nap pods were in a room and regulated, their use could be controlled

Vice Chair Report

- None.

Director Report

- Sharon brought pics of Blue Pepper
 - She encourages UCAB members to visit the space themselves and see the changes
- There will be an Off-Campus Housing Fair for students looking for housing for next year
 - Different landlords from around the area will be present
 - Event will be on Tuesday, April 16th from 11:00am - 2:00pm in PC Ballroom East
- Regarding the patio outside Tapioca Express

- Sharon mentioned that placing shade structures would add a better sense of place, but would be more difficult to plan and install than furniture
- The University Centers survey will go out this afternoon
 - Let everyone know to take the survey, so University Centers can receive a good volume of feedback
- Liora noticed that there aren't any booths by Tapioca Express anymore
 - Sharon: A team is researching and testing many different furniture grouping options in the atrium and by Tapioca Express
- Daniel: Levitts Design at UCSD is having a Pepper Canyon Station design competition
 - They're having a student organization competition to design certain aspects of the space
 - Alex: the Design Lab is a main partner, Design at UCSD and Design For America are also involved
- Achol recommended finding higher capacity seating for Tapioca Express and the area surrounding it, since students often pack the area
 - Sharon: We're looking at options to maximize the space without having it feel crowded
- At this point, Alex had to leave and Joey took over the meeting

New Business

Tech Fee Subsidies

- None.

Old Business

Tech Fee Subsidy Criteria

- Joey: Last week we left off on developing a list of examples that might help define "actively promoting alumni participation" for Criterion 5
- Reilly suggested if we changing the language to "involves alumni", and ask if an event alumni are presenting at these events or if the event is directed toward them
 - Achol agreed, and suggested changing the language to "involve alumni participation"
- Aditya commented that required alumni involvement for Criterion 5 would prevent certain events from getting those funding points, since many events don't pertain to alumni
 - Wouldn't want to have students lose this criterion if it's not relevant to every event
 - Sharon clarified that the criteria should be thought of less as points to lose, but points to earn
 - Criterion 5 helps events meet the criteria that might not otherwise
- Joey commented that his idea was to keep the language, but add examples that clarify the meaning of the criterion
 - Proposed examples, to be added in parentheses after the criterion: alumni presenting, alumni participating, or alumni actively involved
 - Reilly agreed with these examples
- Motion to table this discussion for next week, when Pamela (Alumni Representative) is present: Liora
 - Second: Reilly

Member Reports

- None.

Open Forum

- Daniel wanted to promote the Peer to Peer Conference hosted by Center for Student Involvement
 - The event will be Thursday, April 4th in the evening
 - An AS graduate student will be the keynote speaker, discussing “Self Care Isn’t Selfish”, on balancing leadership positions with self care
 - The event is open to public

Announcements

- None.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm by Joey Mendoza. The next general meeting will be at 2:00 pm on March 12th, 2019 in the Warren College Room.