

Council of Organizations Minutes

Date: March 3, 2017

Location: N1099, One Main Building UHD

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm by Daral Moore Washington, Chair of UHD Council of Organizations

Roll Call: not performed.

I. Guest Speakers

- a. Because Gladis Moya, Employment Services and Operations Business Administrator, and Mustaphya Nyallay, Student Body President, were not present, Daral introduced Valencia Spencer as the first guest speaker.
 - i. Ms. Spencer is an Admissions Counselor and Admissions Recruiter. She informed the group of preparations for **Open House** on April 8th. High-school, Middle School and parents will be in attendance, and she would like to have more student participation. Student organizations can table or volunteer to gain volunteer hours. A member asked what time volunteers will have to be there for the event. Ms. Valencia said that Open House will be from 9:00-1:00 pm, so volunteers would be there a little earlier. The location would be the welcome center near the Office of Admissions. An email will be sent out with further information. A member asked what the predicted attendance would be. Ms. Valencia let him know that there were about 550 attendees in the Fall and about 600 last Spring. She is working to increase the numbers by communicating with high schools and other colleges. She asked anyone with any questions to visit her at the Admissions Office in the Girard Street building, and let them know that more information on volunteering would be sent out soon.
- b. Daral invited Chloe Hamilton, the sustainability coordinator to speak.
 - i. Ms. Hamilton introduced an opportunity to receive grant money to fund **student projects related to sustainability**. Any idea related to sustainability from any field will be looked at, and she asked the members to email her at hamiltonc@uhd.edu with any ideas. A member asked her what other categories there were for grant funding. She clarified that any idea related to sustainability would be reviewed. Another member asked about the amount of the grant. Ms. Hamilton said she was not sure but amounts could differ and her department would help figure out ways to fund any project, big or small. She also let the group know that she was located in N725 Suite H.
- c. Daral invited Mustapha Nyallay to speak.
 - i. Mr. Nyallay stated that he would like to give updates on the highlights from the previous meeting and emphasized to the members the importance of being involved and informed in creating a shared government. He said he is looking

forward to sharing information with them so that they can share it with the constituencies of their organizations. He explained the importance of **shared governance committees**, and detailed the different kinds including academic ones dealing with university policy, standards and regulations. There was even one dedicated to parking, which deals with parking tickets, and defining the rules enforced in the parking lots. He stressed that participation in these committees was necessary in order for students to be informed and hold administration accountable. He told them that it was important especially because students were not involved as they should be, and he wanted them to start acting like they belong to the school by talking about these issues. Some committees did not involve students because administration is unable to get them to be involved and Mr. Nyallay expressed that he wants to make sure all committees are including students. Some committees searching for candidates to fill positions allow students to meet with candidates for important positions and make sure that the administration is picking someone who understands student interests. The VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Committees will have candidates visiting soon and feedback will be very important. He noted that Sports and Fitness Center town halls are also a way to become involved and ask questions as they are there to connect with students.

- i. Ed Yang asked if the President of the University had sent him to recruit members to the committees and if he gave any kind of reports on the committees, because he had not received any information. He noted that he considered that representing the information learned in the committees should be the main job of these representatives.

Mr. Nyallay affirmed that administration was asking for these positions to be filled and that Ed had a valid point.

- ii. Ed interjected to ask what qualified a student to be part of a committee, since he expected that students should not just be able to sign up for one but have some level of expertise on the subject of the committee. Mr. Nyallay tried to respond, but Ed asked him again to send a report of the work of the committees, because he was not content with just signing up.

Mr. Nyallay affirmed that, although some reports were given during General Assemblies, the Student Government had not done a great job of promoting the information learned and discussed in the committees.

- iii. Ed asked him to send out an email detailing the work of the committees and the decisions being taken.

Mr. Nyallay began explaining that he had sent out an email periodically to the student body last semester, and Ed interrupted to ask him not to talk about what has been done in the past but what he will do to report the

activities of the committees. Mr. Nyallay explained that at least for the search committee that he was a part of he had performed telephone interviews for some of the 160 candidates. Ed asked him again to send a report through email. Mr. Nyallay recognized that it was not the best place to go over everything and will try and figure out how to inform the members and send out information.

- iv. Alan Modrow asked to speak and noted that the student government is tasked with filling committees and that although the system could be improved filling them was a first step. He clarified that they are attempting to let the student body know what is happening, but need a starting point to continue improving.
- v. A member asked how they will know if a committee is made up of students or staff.

Mr. Nyallay explained that they are made up of both students and administrator. He let everyone know that the appointments had become monopolized by the student government, and he is looking to start expanding to see more students involved.

- vi. A member noted that most of the people in leadership positions and at the Council of Orgs meeting were juniors and seniors and it was difficult for them to join another committee. He asked if the Student Government was looking to involve freshmen and sophomores to fill positions.
- vii. Alan Modrow let him know that he was a freshman, and that he had gotten involved. He also noted that student organizations could send information to their members and get them involved in decision making. Administration is asking SGA to fill positions and that committees are made up of faculty, staff and administrators.
- viii. Ed reiterated that he did not believe it was useful to have students who had no expertise in charge of representing the student body in a committee, especially since he did not see any way of maintaining accountability.
- ix. A member noted that he would like agendas before the meeting in order to be better prepared to discuss these topics, and said he also saw a lack of involvement. He asked for the email that Mr. Nyallay will be sending about the committees to also include information about the meeting and to think about ways to improve the larger governmental body in order to improve involvement. Another member mentioned to the group that the Peer mentoring program has groups of freshmen and that providing information to Peer mentors would be a good way to involve newer students. The member that was previously speaking

noted his concern for this not being purposeful as 85% of the school's graduates did not start off as freshmen. Some members shared that the purpose of the Peer Mentoring program was to retain students at UHD after their freshman year.

- x. Ed asked Mr. Nyallay to send an email with the committees, what they entailed, and include reports on the ones previously worked on.
- xi. Landon Gregory spoke to let the members know that one of the largest problems in the university was that committees were always being created and dissolved as students left, and that it was time for organization to go against the administration. He asked Mr. Nyallay not to put the blame on them as students, as they should not have to set up committees every time there was an issue in the school. Administration should be taking initiative to solve issues without putting student involvement as a pretext.
Mr. Nyallay noted that search committees for positions like the Dean of Students require the student voice because the role has an important job in the University and students must ask questions to make sure the correct candidate is hired. He let everyone know he would be passing out a signup sheet for the committees for anyone interested.
- xii. Daral interjected and asked anyone with further questions to remain after the meeting to discuss them.

II. Important Dates

- a. Daral asked Percy to speak about the Bayou Bash. **The Bayou Bash Crawfish Boil** will be held on March 22nd on the South Deck from 4:00-7:00 PM, and volunteers are needed. Volunteers will get a T-Shirt, and VIP food line privileges. There will be more information sent out for anyone wishing to volunteer.
- b. Daral informed everyone of the **UHD Staff Chili Cook-Off** which will be held March 24th on the South Deck from 4:30-7:00 PM. Students are invited, and she let the members know that student orgs would also probably be allowed to participate in the competition.
- c. Percy let everyone know that **One Main Event** will be set for April 14th at the Hotel Zaza. A member asked if tickets will have to be requested through OrgSync like the previous year. Percy said they were evaluating the process for ticketing. A member asked about awards within organizations. Percy let them know that award nominations will still be happening, and Student Activities will be giving out 10-12 awards.
- d. **The Santo de Mayo 5K** race on May 7th is looking for volunteers and runners. There will be a form sent out where students can register with a 15% discount with the code UHDGATOR. One of the pass options comes with a beer and party pass, badge, t-

shirt and a commemorative pint glass. A member asked what the time will be to show up as a volunteer or runner. Percy let him know that all of that information will be on the form to sign up to volunteer, but that the first shift to volunteer was probably around 7:00 am. A member let everyone know that he volunteered and had a good experience helping in the parking lot, explaining rules, passing out water and seeing people accomplished as they finished the race. There was also a small party afterwards with booths and he recommended volunteering at the event. Percy affirmed that it was a good opportunity to gain volunteer hours, and that they would count for the required hours for each organization.

III. Council of Finance

- a. Daral reminded everyone that she let them know to send her **amendments for the Council of Finance rules**, but since she did not receive any, she will give everyone until the following meeting where they will vote for any proposed changes. A member asked if it was possible to have more than three people per request and have multiple requests on a single form for travel. Ed Yang, Chair of Council of Finance, let him know he could and Daral demonstrated on the computer.

IV. Council of Organizations

- a. Daral reminded everyone that last meeting she discussed setting up a **Council of Organizations Guidelines Committee** and that anyone interested could come meet with her afterwards to set a time and date for the first meeting. She is looking to set up workshops at the end of March and before the beginning of the coming month.
- b. The **next meeting** times for the Council of Organizations will be
 - i. April 7th room A436
 - ii. May 5th room N1099
- c. **Planned Workshops**; All dates and times are to be determined. Any other ideas should be sent to the Council of Orgs email at uhdcounciloforganizations@gmail.com
 - i. Project Management, Edward Yang MBA Student
 - ii. Best Marketing Practices, Tremaine KwasiKpui, Student Activities
 - iii. Building Your Resume, Wendy Cooper, Career Development Center

V. Open Forum

- a. A member asked Daral if she could send an email reminder a couple of weeks beforehand. Daral noted that she usually sends the agenda and email with some time before the meeting, and also requested that everyone send her additions to the agenda with time.

VI. Meeting was adjourned at 3:16 pm.

Contact Information:

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