

Highlander Union Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019

10:00am-11:00am

HUB 367

- I. Call to Order @ 10:04
- II. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present
 1. Tommaso Menara, **Chair**, GSA
 2. Adam Gutierrez, ASUCR
 3. Andy Veliz, ASUCR
 4. Sawanee Zadey, ASUCR
 5. Nushera Khan, ASUCR
 6. Leandra Doan, ASUCR
 7. Pablo Unzeuta, GSA
 8. Jessica Noll, GSA
 9. John Haberstroh, GSA President
 10. Julian Gonzalez, ASUCR President
 11. Alex Ruiz, Staff
 12. Dr. Kerry Mauck, Faculty Position
 13. Brendan O'Brien, Ex-Officio
 - B. Members Absent
 1. Carolyn Chang, ASUCR
 - C. Guests
 1. Julie Salgado
 2. Nick Olivara
 3. Denise Cisneros
 4. Crystal Petrini
 5. Elizabeth Ignatius

6. Soha Siddiqui
7. Zaynah Wassuw
8. Ross French
9. Jeff Gired
10. Chris Heun

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Motion to approve June 3rd 2019 minutes by John, second by Pablo

1. In Favor 10 Oppose 0 Abstain 2

B. Motion to approve October 23rd 2019 minutes by Pablo, second by Adam

1. In Favor 11 Oppose 0 Abstain 1

IV. Approval of Agenda

A. Motion to move Old Business right after Dr. Brian Haynes report by Tommaso, second by Adam

1. In Favor 12 Oppose 0 Abstain 0

V. Dr. Brian Haynes, Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs

A. Dr. Brian Haynes provided a quick VCSA update. Many challenges that VCSA has encountered, but they are trending in the right direction. UCR is in a growth and building mode, the Student Success Center is another transformation for UCR. Primarily going to serve as a classroom and first floor will provide students with activities as soon as they step outside the classroom. Construction will continue for the building for two years. North District will increase the number of on campus beds for the student experience. On a side note, exploring different names for the project and naming some of those buildings and sites after our indigenous people who were here first. Dundee project will open in fall of 2020. Student Health and Counseling Center is another project on the

horizon and going to begin in 2020. Will open doors around 2022. Student Affairs are working on the final stages of a strategic plan. Plan will be finalized in the next couple of weeks. Implementation of the plan will begin early winter 2020 and will have a transformation of student experience. Tommaso asked Dr. Haynes where the new health center going to be located. Dr. Haynes responded that it is going to be off Linden Ave. by lot 21. With the new center it will allow us to hire more counselors for students. Jessica Noll expands on Tommaso question if they will be able to access the plan. AVC and the student health to come and present to the board about the plan. They are not that far along in the plans.

VI. Old Business

A. Fee Waivers (10 min.)

1. Crystal Petrini introduces themselves as the President UCR Staff Assembly. Reason they came back was due to the fee waivers going away they wanted to reestablish that they are not department on campus and are an association of staff on campus. They have to fundraise most of their money It is difficult when fee waivers disappear so suddenly after receiving the fee waivers for several years. They have a tight budget and impacts their budget by \$5000 when they only have a \$12,500 budget. Provide such service for the staff on campus and they are at a critical moment where we have the highest rate of losing staff members than keeping them at any UC campus. Many staff on campus feel that they are not even psychologically safe while on campus. They are doing everything they can to combat the problem and affects faculty and students. Asking again for consideration of the department fee waiver since they are not a department.

Want year to accommodate them and so they can plan for the elimination of the fee waivers. If the conversation of the fee waiver elimination happened all of last year it was disappointing that they were not invited to be part of the discussion.

2. Ross French introduces themselves as past president of Staff Assembly. Stands behind what Crystal stated previously. The biggest concern was her last point. Understands it costs money to run the building, in 2000 when French arrived, they held the Student referendum to finance the building. The only way the building was going to be built was through a student referendum to finance the building. Referendum passed with 71% of students voting yes for the referendum. The building was built by saying that the building was going to be for students because it was the only way the referendum was going to pass. The people who voted for the building to pass did not pay any fees until the building was completely finished. This facility is a public UCR building for the people of the campus community and a resource for everyone. Can argue that it is not a fee increase and the fee has not increased in 14 years. Taking away fee waivers even though they are not guarantee is a fee increase. It costing more money since there is no more fee waiver. The issue is that they have a finite amount of funds and not other departments on campus and it is difficult for them to absorb fee waiver elimination. They do not have other options and they can not host their Community Partner Fair and is open to anyone on campus to attend and they can not do it outside due to weather. It is their major

fundraiser for the association. No there is no other place for them to hold their holiday party and they bend over backwards to accommodate the needs of the students. Asking for us to do is to reconsider the concept of fee waivers and how, why, and the impact it has on other organization.

3. Dr. Kerry Mauck is a faculty representative and commented on the staff statements on as a faculty perspective. The staff is absolutely right that they are not equivalent to a department. If Dr. Mauck submits one grant to the NSF they can get an overhead cost the price of staff assembly yearly budget for one grant. Department has money which is different from an organization based on staff. Issue that can be discussed at a higher level. If can not be resolved as a board they would like to elevate to that level. Completely removing the fee waivers is moving in one direction too quickly as staff pointed out. Potentially, budget a certain amount to go to fee waivers and when that budget is expended no more waivers are granted. Costs are under control and adjust on a yearly basis and how far in advance someone can submit a fee waiver request.
4. Tommaso states that he stands by the boards decision. From our point of view, the elimination was not sudden since the meetings are open and publicly discussed for the whole year. Main reasons for the elimination was space is limited everywhere on campus. Since it is the student union, the board wanted to prioritize students. There is the possibility of ASUCR and GSA step in on the issue. Wants to allow an

extra 3 min for ASUCR and GSA to comment their views on the topics.

5. Adam had a question for Crystal. How many faculty members are apart of staff assembly. Crystal responded that staff and faculty are two different things, but they do work close to faculty. To have the relation with the student body because at the end of the day we are a campus community to work together. The staff is only here to serve the faculty and the students. Would not receive any type of service if it were not for the staff. This is a student issue by the staff that are being impacted. Adam asked a follow up question if there was a time where they have not held a program and lost result staff as a result. If there is a correlation between lack of program and losing staff. Crystal states that they are losing the most staff higher than any other UC campus. Highest rates of staff not feeling safe while at work. They provide programs that help recognize staff and provide positivity.
6. Alex asked Tommaso if he remembered the root cause for the discussion of fee waiver elimination began. Brendan said that overall as an auxiliary department and the increase in facility cost. Everytime we granted a fee waiver it was less money at our disposal to pay for those costs and capital projects. This was an opportunity that was great for the staff but as a board we saw that it was something that was unsustainable long term and put us in a precarious financial situation. Projects like the Student Success Center where we need to finance student staff and professional staff. To elaborate it is a difficult conversation and we have to be

mindful of our own finances. Every single dollar is accounted for that we have. The reserves are for emergency funds we can not go to Chancellor Wilcox or Dr. Haynes for money; it falls back on us. If we want to do capital projects like downstairs (1st Floor Lobby), that is money we needed to make improvements. There are many people sitting on the floor downstairs, many facilities need repair. Started to take care of Costo Hall, it had been ten year since they received updates that is where funding is going. For the future for students who need a new student union it is in long range development plan. In order to lower the referendum for the new student union building those reserve fee will be utilized for that purpose. Will pushback on the discussion that we have money, we do not we are an auxiliary unit that has to allocate every single dollar towards our services for students. Alex comments that he sees the perspective and likes to add. Advance booking with the fee waivers, we have one page today two year ago it would be up to ten pages of advance bookings. Organizations were saying that they can not find rooms for their organizations. We looked at the request and saw how many other departments were getting bookings.

7. Tommaso motions to give one extra minute to the public and 3 min for ASUCR and GSA, second by Pablo

a) In Favor 12 Oppose 0 Abstain
0

8. Ross questioned who initial determination that cost that your budget pool need to be increased. Brendan answered that it came from the board. Dr. Haynes, mentions that these

conversations have not been had with the senior leadership of student affairs.

9. Franco questions it was a hot topic last year. How was it communicated to your clients. The reason he found out was he went on our website and this is what they voted on at the last meeting what was the rollout of transparency. Adam states that the board secretary records the minutes. Understands the recordings, but did you invite your clients to these meetings. Tommaso states the meetings are meetings are public. Brendan states that it is not included in our bylaws but throughout the process the folks applying for fee waivers they would notify them that it was in discussion with the board. Our meetings are public they are available to the public. We had those discussions with the board openly. Crystal reiterates that they are 800 staff down so the fact for them to constantly review the minutes of board meetings is unfair. Tommaso states that time has run out and to table to next meeting. Ross states that the June minutes were not put up until October and unable to find out what happened at that meeting. Brendan answers that they have to be approved before being posted. Ross says that he understands that but there was no notice about the fee waiver eliminations. Tommaso gives the floor to GSA and ASUCR as the time for the public was over.
10. John, GSA President, had some comments about the fee waiver eliminations. The most alarming issue was the transparency. If as a campus we want to have transparency, the board did the less of what they could have done last year governing board. Decisions can be made on a yearly basis

and we are not banded to stick with last year decisions. All it takes is a vote to change it. Not advocating for going to extremes every year, but our hands are not completely tied. There are exceptions to every rule, does not know why all fee waivers must be gone. Exceptions need to be made for certain cases and basically it removed any flexibility for the board to make any decisions. As a board member more data is needed to make a decision. GSA does not have a stance on the issue right now, but encourages board to have another look at the fee waiver eliminations and make our own decisions. Julian states that ASUCR does not have a stance right now. John asked what the next steps are because we can keep tabling for every meeting. Is the chair and vice-chair going to make a proposal. Tommaso states that it is not going to be coming from him and stands with the boards decision. ASUCR and GSA can act on the decision if needed. Dr. Mauck states since the board is standing with the decision that it is a discussion for GSA and ASUCR if they want to have a proposal. Brendan states he will help with the process and it is a GSA and ASUCR discussion. Dr. Haynes adds how he can be of assistance with the discussion.

VII. Chair's Report: Tommaso Menara, HUB Chair

A. Subcommittees: Dining and Honorarium

1. Creation of two subcommittees. One committee will be the dining committee that Tommasso will chair. Discuss the amendments to the bylaws regarding dining. The power of the board to approve new vendors, how to manage rent to our dining guest and long term plan. Adam and Alex joined

the dining committee. The next committee of the honorarium of the board to look into how other board members are being paid at other campus. Pablo and Tommaso joined the honorarium committee

VIII. HUB Report: Brendan O'Brien, Director

A. Altura ATM/Location

1. Athletics approached Brendan about adding Altura atm to our hub facility because they are not getting a lot of traffic at the SRC. Charging a rent to them. Adam asked if it will be an installation or just move the machine. Brendan states that they will just move the machine to the Habit. In December, will have more information about the transition. Alex asked if there is a place more accessible than the Habit. Brendan states that they asked to be put in the Habit and prefer location. Tommaso adds that he hates that the Bank of America ATM is located in front of the Habit entrance since there is always a line there. Look for moving of all the atms and place a smaller bank there it will fix some of the foot traffic. Leandra asked if there were statistics of how much the ATM was being used at the SRC because the vending at the SRC South only accepts cash and there is a sign that says there is an ATM on the SRC North. If athletics wants to move forward and ask the SRC how they feel about it. Brendan states nothing has been finalized, but will follow up with Eric about the discussions. Dr. Mauck elaborates on Tommaso about the Bank of America ATM that it can cause security issues as well for the people using the ATM.

B. Paint Colors

1. An office would like to repaint their offices but currently do not like out paint color palette. Looking at lighter colors. Alex states that it should follow the new campus color standards

C. 1st Floor Lobby Feedback

1. Adam states that first floor lobby is more spacious. Adding a tv and now only operation from the laptop kiosk.

IX. Food Service Report

- A. N/A

X. Public Forum

- A. Students raised the concern about the lack of halal meat on campus. Right now Chronic Tacos is the only place that serves halal meat specifically hala chicken at an additional cost. Halal chicken at the dining hall is really dry and does not taste good. Adam states that last year when the issue was addressed to the board, there was no hala options. Chronic tacos was the only vendor that was willing to work with the HUB Board about the issue,. Panda Express has recipes that they can not change. Alex states that it is an opportunity for the dining committee to work on this issue. Brendan states he will let food services about the issue since the response from dining is that halal food does not sell. The main issue that the quality is not there and that might be why it does not sell. Tommaso states to try and get numbers of students requesting for halal foods to recognize for the demand. MOD pizza was willing to sell Halal food and to check with Panda Express because there are Panda Express that do sell halal options.

XI. Subcommittee Reports

- A. N/A

XII. New Business

- A. Exterior Card Readers Project

1. \$18,000 for two card readers but will discuss more next meeting because the price increased.

B. Departmental and Off-Campus Room Rental Fee Increase (3%)

1. It is the time of year to submit those to SFAC committee and need to know by December for the increase of 3%.

C. Feed Your Brain for Fall 2019

1. \$3000 from catering or get the snacks from Sam's Club or other restaurant. The board agrees to get snacks from Sam's club instead.

D. Advance Booking Request

1. Motion to approve advance booking request from letters a to i by Adam.

a) In Favor 11 Oppose 0 Abstain 0

XIII. Announcement

A. N/A

XIV. Adjourn

A. Motion to adjourn at 10:59 by Adam, second by Pablo

1. In Favor 11 Oppose 0 Abstain 0