

Meeting Minutes of: Council of Orgs

Date: Dec 2nd 2016

Location: A436 Academic Building, UHD

Meeting called to order at 2:19 pm by Daral Moore Washington, Chair of UHD Council of Orgs

Roll Call: Not performed

- I. Daral gave an overview of the minutes for the previous meeting November 4, and called for a motion to vote. Member motioned to vote; motion was seconded by another member. Daral called for a vote on the motion, minutes were approved by a clear majority (about 31 members).
- II. Daral gave an overview of the agenda, and called for a motion to approve it. Member motioned to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded. Approval for agenda passed with a clear majority.
- III. Daral invited Edward Yang, Chair of Council of Finance, to give updates on the Council of Finance.
- IV. Edward introduced the Fall 2016 End of Semester Report. He detailed to the members that there were a total of 40 proposals approved in the semester, creating a 73% approval rate and a 27% rejection rate. He told them to expect the total of money paid out, which is so far about \$36,000 to go up, as not everyone has claimed their approved proposals. He asked members to please make sure that any vendors they use are tax exempt in order to avoid problems with Student Activities. He also let them know that Student Activities will now take money from Organizations so that they will no longer need to open bank accounts. The forms for proposals for the Council of Finance will also be updated and improved. They will be sent out in January. In addition, all communications will now be sent through Gatorsync. He asked the members to check Gatorsync often and make sure their officers and advisors are on it. Faryal Gul asked when exactly the forms will be updated. Daral responded that they would be ready before the Spring semester, but after the beginning of January.
- V. Daral asked Mr. Kwasikpui to introduce the special speakers. Mr. Kwasikpui welcomed Ms. Olivia from the Houston Food Bank to speak about a new program coming to UHD. Ms. Olivia introduced herself as a representative for the Houston Food Bank and welcomed the members. She asked the group how many of them had previously heard of or volunteered at the Houston Food Bank, and asked one to share their experience. The member told her that he had sorted food, and other members assented that they had done the same. Ms. Olivia told the group that the Houston Food Bank has distributed around 70 million meals in 2015. The new initiative that she came to present is the Food Scholarship Program. Students will be able to apply to receive free groceries at UHD, if they qualify. Students will receive \$60 for each credit that they take during a semester to use at the scholarship food market with a scholarship market card, which will remain as

long as they maintain their grades and credit hours. She explained that this program was created with the purpose of keeping expenses for groceries low, keeping students fueled and healthy, and allowing them to spend less time working and more time studying. The market will offer fresh fruit, vegetables, bread, cereal, rice, pastas, frozen meats, and items can change with student suggestions. The program will also include two possible job opportunities for students. Member asked what the jobs entailed. A faculty member explained that the positions will be more like a volunteer working experience or work-study. She assured them that there would be more information sent out to students and organizations when the application becomes available for the program's scholarship and jobs.

- VI. Daral invited Mr. Kwasikpui to give updates. Mr. Kwasikpui explained that applications for the Food Scholarship Program will be available in late December or by the 1st week of January. He is hopeful that it will be a community service and volunteer opportunity. The food scholarship market will be around the corner from the SGA office, and he hopes that there will be volunteer opportunities helping with deliveries and set up for student organizations to meet their required 15 hours of community service. He explained that the food Scholarship Program is the second "prong" of a new initiative, the first being the Child Watch Center on the 2nd floor, which offers child care for \$5 per hour for students, with a certain hours limit. The third part of this initiative involves bettering the visibility of Student Activities and continuing to improve student services overall. He told the members that the Gator Leadership Academy, to be held in February, application had just opened and encouraged them to invite new members with leadership potential; he noted that there is no fee involved and it is just a good opportunity.
- VII. Daral announced the next official Council of Organizations Meeting on Feb. 3rd. She noted that the location is pending but it will probably be held during at the usual time from 2:00-4:00 pm. For people interested on tabling during welcome week, she recommended a meeting before the semester begins on Jan 6 or 13. She asked the members to raise their hands if they were interesting in helping to plan Welcome Week tabling, and about 20 members raised their hands. Daral let them know she will hold a meeting in January for planning. For future updates, she reminded the members of the upcoming calendar for all student events, and the One Main Event at the end of next semester. She is also looking to introduce an end of year report to showcase how active and involved student organizations have been. Daral invited Percy Jackson to talk to the members.
- VIII. Percy told the members that the meeting was meant to be very informal, and commended them for doing a tremendous job throughout the semester. He has seen over 100 events submitted for approval on OrgSync at one time, and sees that organizations are constantly holding events for students. He asked anyone with an ornament, ugly sweater, or gift for the toy drive to bring them up to the stage. He explained that catering for lunch would be served by Nuke's Eatery, which is new to Texas and sells pizzas, soups, desserts and

freshly brewed teas. He asked them to please enjoy and let them know what they thought about the food. He asked the members to go in rows and to take a seat afterwards for the raffle and games.

- IX. Members were dismissed to eat.
- X. Daral invited Hatziri Rancano, Vice President of the Student Government Association to talk about a project that she would like to start in the Spring semester. She told the members that they were at the right place at the right time, but were not taking advantage of all the opportunities that are available. She told them that she understood that students are busy and that for that reason she has been trying to figure out how to help them. She asked the members to give her their support for a great idea she has, and showed them a sign in sheet, instructing them how to fill it out. She is still working with the school, but assured the members that she will let whoever signs up take advantage of the opportunity to help first. For the first step, she is planning a fundraiser event called the UHD Organizations and Sports Club Gala. She would like to do it on a Friday and set up on a Thursday. She wants to see organizations showing up to showcase their successes, to come to the gala and tell good stories. She detailed that it will cost about \$15,000 to hold the gala, and plans to set the cost of tickets at \$60 each. She noted that the numbers are not random, as she used the same numbers as the gala held by student activities in the spring. She explained that total profit would be \$80,500, but if they sold more tickets they may reach about \$100,000. She encouraged the members to help her and told them she believed it was possible with their support. She said that she would like to organize two fundraiser teams, one that will organize the presentations by organizations. She told them that she wants everybody to help, asked the members to sign their names and told them that they are the best of the best, know time management, and thanked them for listening.
- XI. Percy Jackson led the “cookie jar” game and winners came onstage to receive their prizes. This was followed by a relay race game with two teams. The winners received snow globe ornaments. He then presented the only ornament and “ugly sweater” submissions and awarded the prizes to the members who brought them. He followed by pulling out names for the raffle and asked the winners to go onstage to choose a present and sign forms as they were called. Some members took pictures with the donations for the toy drive.
- XII. Meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

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