

**COLLEGE STUDENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MARCH 25, 2022 AT 3PM
AUSTIN CITY HALL, ROOM 1101
301 W. 2nd STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Lira Ramirez, *University of Texas at Austin*
(Chair)

Pete Cervantes, *St. Edwards University*
(Co-Chair)

Tatum Owens, *University of Texas at Austin*
(Secretary)

Andrea Danburg, *Austin Community College*

Justin Parker, *Austin Community College*

Isaiah Smith, *Austin Community College*

Kylee Canode, *Concordia University*

Todd Clayton, *Huston-Tillotson University*

Miles Diggs, *Huston-Tillotson University*

Kennedy Fears, *Huston-Tillotson University*

Esther Heymans, *St. Edwards University*

Ethan Tobias, *St. Edwards University*

Edwin Bautista, *University of Texas at Austin*

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Time at 3:09 on 25th of March

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Betsy Greenberg:
 - i. Speaker lives in the West University Planning area and is concerned we are developing a draft to revise UNO.
 - ii. Suggested that we meet with CAMPAC and meeting neighborhood associations
 - iii. Stressed that current residents should not be expected to give up territory.
- b. Mary Ingle
 - i. Speaker also shared concerns about the housing recommendation being revised by the commission
 - ii. Suggested we pressure the university systems instead of the city, because they should be providing affordable housing for students in the first place.
- c. Deirdre O'Keeffe
 - i. Speaker works at the Central Texas Food Bank, and wanted to express excitement over our partnership in working on college hunger and the Food Insecurity Grant that we began.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Ramirez motioned to approve, with unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMISSION UPDATES

- a. As a commission, we are at 13 out of 15 members, almost filling the total commission seats.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Speaker - Texas Civic Impact Council

- a. Two seniors at UT, Vaishnav Kuruvanka and Ruth Mewhinney visited from the Texas Civic Impact Council (TCIC) under the nonprofit, Promoting Education Across the Country. (PEAC)
- b. Their goal is to solve issues of relevance in Austin: currently, with a focus on Project Connect as an opportunity to use the 7 billion investment to students' advantage.
- c. They plan on using fellows to grab stories/data and present a report on the perspectives and needs of Austin residents in planning for Project Connect and solving city-wide issues.

b. Speaker – Mike McHone (University Area Partners)

- a. Speaker McHone attended to give perspective on what the commission can do regarding U.N.O. and our recommendations.
- b. Speaker suggested that we should consider implementing incentive-based redevelopment schemes like U.N.O. on other campuses, as well as looking into how the fees included are diverted to public benefits. These included parkland fees, tree funds, transportation fees, and watershed fees.
- c. Suggested we should aim to work with the neighborhoods to ensure people are not displaced, while still working toward measures to provide affordable housing.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Working Group – Housing

i. *Bautista* provided updates: He created a draft for a recommendation. First, they will need verification from the Housing and Planning Department, as well as the stakeholders of the community, seeking out the feasibility of their recommendation. Within that, a need to provide affordable housing for students, should be considered.

c. Working Group – Mental Health & Accessibility

- a. Commission took a recess.
- b. Commission returned to discuss a recommendation provided by this working group.
- c. The recommendation was geared toward filling the gap created by COVID-19, where it asserts that we still need remote access to our educations.
- d. The Commissioners decided to hold off until the next meeting to pass the recommendation with the reasoning that they should include more representation in their data of support, especially regarding HT's information.

a. Working Group – Transportation

- e. *Bautista* joined and *Cervantes* left.
- f. *Bautista*: There will be a CapMetro meeting next Monday, and we should register for public comment, especially considering all the events surrounding the Riverside community and their transportation issues recently.

b. Working Group – Campus Civic Life

- a. *Ramirez* stepped down from working group.
- b. *Parker* spoke to ACC's lack of polling locations, and how COVID apparently had an impact on what and how many locations were available to students.
- c. *Bautista* both called for sharing the TCIC's information, as well as a recognition for bringing in Asian representation into the Commission across each campus. The Commission has never had an Asian Commissioner, and we should work to make that happen, as well as including Asian representation in the Commission's work by reaching out to Asian interest, or of Asian descent, groups on each campus.
- d. April 1st and 2nd will be an event at HT, where representatives from each university can show up to participate.

c. Working Group – Sustainability

- e. No matters at hand currently.

d. Campus Reports & Community and Municipal Involvement

- f. *Parker* had questions about campus safety, and how we can help to support students facing harassment on campus.
 - i. Commissioners *Fears* and *Smith* offered suggestions of counseling and therapy services (especially geared toward women's safety) as well as campus safety officers. There is a present need to study what the concerns are, and how they can be fixed regarding campus safety.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meetings will be April 8th and 29th.

ADJOURNMENT at time of 5:03pm.

The minutes were approved at the 04/08/2022 meeting on Commissioner *Owen*'s motion, Chair *Ramirez* second on a 9-0 vote.