



COLLEGE STUDENT COMMISSION MINUTES

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
(29, APRIL, 2022)**

The College Student Commission convened in a special called meeting on the 29th of April, 2022 at Austin City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair *Ramirez* called the Board Meeting to order at 3:04p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Lira Ramirez, Pete Cervantes, Tatum Owens, Edwin Bautista, Todd Clayton, Esther Heymans, Justin Parker, Isaiah Smith, and Ethan Tobias.

Staff in Attendance: Staff member *Dr. Chiquita Eugene* and Liaison *David Alcorta*

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Mike McHone:
 - i. Speaker returned to address Commissioner Bautista's housing recommendation, of which he acknowledged that is should value change, our neighborhoods, and working together. He also recognized how affordability factors into housing for Austin residents and provided some foundational advice and edits to make change in that endeavor within the recommendation.
- b. Mary Ingle:
 - i. Speaker returned to reiterate her vested interest in this area because of her status as a property owner. She stressed the importance of talking with others, across colleges, and making change slowly, but surely within our institutions on this issue.
- c. Betsy Greenburg:
 - i. This speaker agreed with Ingle, in that she believed the recommendation was not ready but that there are good values and points to be made through it.
- d. Megan Misonvock:
 - i. Speaker talked about her neighborhood's worries on how this would impact the borders of UNO.
- e. Lorie Boykain:
 - i. Speaker returned to bring up the issues with public transportation underneath CapMetro's umbrella. She addressed a lack of timely payment, safe work conditions, and exhausting hours with no support in the work environment.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMISSION UPDATES

- a. Chair *Ramirez* communicated that the Central Texas Food Bank (CTFB) is seeking assistance with their grant program that we helped get started.
- b. Liaison *Alcorta* addressed the change in agenda, where a speaker from CapMetro cancelled because of their positive COVID-19 status.
- c. Dr. Chiquita Eugene will be speaking later today.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Two amendments were made to the April 8th meeting minutes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Recommendation- *An Obligation to Reform Progressive Neoliberal “Affordable” Housing in the City of Austin Part 1 of 2***

- i. This recommendation was postponed with a motion from Commissioner *Owens*, which was seconded by Commissioner *Tobias*. This was a unanimous vote in favor of postponing both part 1 and 2, made by Commissioners *Heymans* and *Clayton*.

- b. **Recommendation- *An Obligation to Reform Progressive Neoliberal “Affordable” Housing in the City of Austin Part 2 of 2***

- i. In continuation of that postponement, some commissioners had suggestions moving forward.
 - ii. Chair *Ramirez* said that we should be speaking with more stakeholders, and ensuring their comments and concerns are brought into the recommendations. Furthermore, our tone is important in working with our community.
 - iii. Commissioner *Heymans* reminded the commission that we are servants of the public: here to represent the community, so we should do more research and have fully informed perspectives.
 - iv. Liaison *Alcorta* suggesting a more formalized, procedural process with recommendations.

- c. **Dr. Chiquita Eugene**

- i. Dr. Eugene spoke about our roles as commissioners, the values we should bring into this commission, as well as what work we might be able to participate in representing our universities and the city.
 - ii. She also stressed for a stronger reliance on her, our liaison, Robert’s rules, and each other.
 - iii. She proposed the idea of a retreat to help commission cohesion.

- d. **Election- Chair**

- i. Commissioner *Heymans* won with a (6-3) vote supported by Commissioners *Cervantes*, *Owens*, *Ramirez*, *Clayton*, *Tobias*, and *Heymans*.

- e. **Election- Co-Chair**

- i. Commissioner *Owens* won with a (7-2) supported by Commissioners *Cervantes*, *Owens*, *Ramirez*, *Clayton*, *Tobias*, *Heymans*, and *Parker*.

- f. **Election- Secretary**

- i. Commissioner *Owens* motioned to postpone this election of the secretary based on available time left in the meeting, with a second from Commissioner *Smith*.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Working Group Updates**

- i. Housing:
 - 1. Commissioner *Parker* spoke on their survey regarding housing needs, which received 533 responses.
 - ii. Mental Health & Accessibility:
 - 1. Chair *Ramirez* and Commissioner *Owens* shared their experiences and information gathered from attending a UT ADA forum. Some topics mentioned were the conditions of ADA-focused transportation in parking spaces, classroom conditions, and remote classes. They suggested the commission take our Remote Access recommendation to our colleges to advocate for that hybrid format.
 - 2. Commissioner *Smith* spoke about healthcare on each campus, and compared insurance plans for each as an example.

3. Commissioner *Parker* also touched on campus healthcare, but instead focused on the Student Healthcare Center opening at the ACC Eastview campus.

6. ADJOURN

- a. Chair *Ramirez* adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m. without objection

The minutes were approved at the 09/16/2022 meeting on Commissioner *Owen*'s motion, Chair *Heymans* second on a 9-0 vote.