

**COLLEGE STUDENT COMMISSION  
MINUTES****SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
(8, APRIL, 2022)**

The College Student Commission convened in a special called meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 2022 at Austin City Hall in Austin, Texas.

Chair *Ramirez* called the Board Meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:**

*Lira Ramirez, Pete Cervantes, Edwin Bautista, Todd Clayton, Kennedy Fears, Tatum Owens, Justin Parker, and Isaiah Smith.*

**Staff in Attendance: Liaison David Alcorta**

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- a. Betsy Greenburg (CANPAC): Speaker felt that proposed changes to U.N.O. were not communicated from the commission representatives or recommendation.
- b. Megan Misonvock: Speaker is also on alert to see what changes are proposed.
- c. Mary Engle: Speaker was concerned about her neighborhood, the commission's focus on UT-related areas, and community values.
- d. Karen Kincaid-Brady: Speaker was supportive of the conversation being started around U.N.O., however they would have liked more advance notice of this meeting and its information.
- e. Lorie Boyain: Speaker shared her experiences with CapMetro, and wanted to start conversation about payments, safety concerns, and intervention with the state of public transportation in Austin.
- f. Paul Cato: Speaker was concerned about the environmental impact of U.N.O. revisions.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. Two amendments changing grammar were voted unanimously in favor of approval.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMISSION UPDATES**

- a. Liaison *Alcorta* suggested that we practice rotating leadership as out two current chairs will be stepping down this semester.

**4. NEW BUSINESS****a. Recommendation – Disability & Remote Higher Education Access**

- i. With one amendment to change a percentage in the recommendation, the motion with Bautista's second was approved with unanimous votes in favor.

**b. Discussion – Proposal to Revise to the University Neighborhood Overlay**

- i. Chair *Ramirez* agrees that we need to address the correlation between student needs and lack of affordable housing, where looking to U.N.O. as a model could be a resource in that endeavor. However, revising U.N.O. would be very complex, so we should instead make general suggestions that the city

can craft into policy. Speakers here today put forth concerns that are valid: heights, fees, eligibility requirements. So we're going to take our time with this.

- ii. Commissioner *Bautista* suggested that we create an impact analysis of U.N.O. on the West Campus and relevant neighborhoods.
- iii. The College Student Commission will take no formal positions on U.N.O. or the past proposed recommendation at this time, but we would love to hear from college students and other Austin residents in the future before doing so.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Working Group- Housing

- i. ACC representatives Student Government representatives are meeting with ACC's Chancellor Dr. Rhodes and top administration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss housing issues in Austin. Commissioner Parker has also been in contact with over 300 neighborhood associations and ACC to discuss resources for college students.

### b. Working Group- Transportation

- i. 79% of ACC students do not take public transportation because of delays and accessibility overall.
- ii. Commissioner *Bautista* suggested that we all look to the TCIC and Rise Riverside groups again to support them in their plans to advocate for better conditions in public transportation in Austin.
- iii. Commissioner *Smith* brought a speaker today that can speak to CapMetro's current issues. He also shared that he visited the CapMetro board meeting previously, and afterward thought Lorie would be a great source of information in this matter.
- iv. Speaker Lorie Boyain was invited to address the working conditions she was underneath as a professional driver for CapMetro. Overall concerns were wages, untrustworthy contractors, and most importantly the safety of drivers and riders,

### c. Working Group- Campus Civic Engagement and Outreach

- i. *Bautista* motioned with Parker's second to rename this working group to the "Campus Civic Engagement and Outreach" working group.
- ii. Unanimous vote in favor of that motion, motion passed.

### d. Campus Reports & Community and Municipal Involvement

- i. Commissioner *Smith* shared that he was the ACC president, so he hoped that he could be more involved as an ACC representative with that new role.
- ii. Commissioner *Owens* shared that UT-Austin will be having an Earth Day Fair on April 21<sup>st</sup> that could be beneficial to the Sustainability working group. Furthermore for more UT-Austin involvement, there will be an ADA Accessibility Forum on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- iii. Commissioner *Fears* shared that there would be an upcoming safety forum at HT on April 29<sup>th</sup> and April 31<sup>st</sup>. She also shared that UT will be hosting a "Careers in Politics" event tomorrow, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Elections will be occurring next meeting, so Chair *Ramirez* and Co-chair *Cervantes*, will be stepping down for new people to run.
- b. Commissioner *Smith* plans on graduating this semester, which will mean he resigns this semester as well.
- c. We will try to meet during the summer, hybrid or not.
- d. The next meeting will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**7. ADJOURN**

- a. Chair *Ramirez* adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the 04/29/2022 meeting on Commissioner Owen's motion, Chair Ramirez second on a 9-0 vote.**

