



**Student Government Association
Student Open Forum
SEC Ballroom
Monday, February 6th, 2023
6:00 PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Julianna Sandoval.
- II. **OPENING PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, we ask that You will dismiss us with Your Blessing, and grant that we may continually experience the calmness and serenity of heart and soul which comes from YOU. Make us useful servants in all things. Amen.
- III. **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:** The purpose of this meeting will be to inform the students of UIW business in a transparent manner that may or may not have any effect on student life or any student in full-time status. To ensure the voice of the student is heard and acted on within reason of the SGA Constitution, Student Code of Conduct or any University Rules or Policies.
- IV. **ROLL CALL**
 - a. EC
 - b. Senate: Quorum met
- V. **OPEN FORUM**
 - a. Introduction of guests
 - b. Advising – Gloria Ramos-Cortez (6:05pm-6:21pm)
 - i. Zoom meeting flier past out
 - ii. Q: More advisors for the pre-health students – many have had issues with current faculty and when wanting to switch advisors no options are available.
 1. Depending on college and program, faculty advisors are may be assigned freshman year or junior year. We have a Nursing advisor, Title IX advisor (advises on pathways), and recently hired a nursing/pre-health advisor.
 2. Student suggestion: Correct distribution of advisors – a lot of business advisors and not that many in Health
 3. Faculty advisors report to the deans and UAC advisors report to Dr. Alviar
 4. If you can't get a hold of your advisor, check-in to connect you with an advisor.
 - iii. Q: Athletic advisors for athletes should have more background depending on the different paths – a student switched from biology to business, when told about the physical therapy path or kinesiology she said that she was

not aware of these options and that her athletic advisor seemed oblivious on the health side which is where she was originally inclined to.

1. We partner with primary advisors for a more holistic experience and will continue doing so to understand better about healthcare pathways. Both the academic advising and students need to be mindful of NCAA requirements.
- iv. Q: Many students do not know who their advisor is, is it possible for advisors to meet with students mandatory for at least 2 sessions rather than one?
 1. Easiest way to find your advisor and your success team is to use EAB Navigate in the Home Page. Our office has been giving out candy bags during Halloween and Easter with information of how to find advisor, sending out mass emails, and placing yard signs.
 2. UAC welcome to new ideas – first time participating in Open Forum and would want more student feedback. We have received about 10% response rate from emails.
- v. Q: Why is it that students are required to have an alternate pin number and only their advisor can give it to them prior to registration?
 1. PIN number is from the Registrar and is strategically used so that students will have to meet advisor at least once and receive the information needed for degree completion.
- vi. Q: What is the advising office doing to increase the graduation rate at UIW?
 1. Advisors will review Degree Works profile and track graduation plan. Students are able to meet with UAC advisor in addition to faculty advisor. Office is focusing on first-gen population (large amount at UIW). In the process of hiring Success Coach for at-risk students.
- vii. Q: Students have mixed feedback from faculty advisors. Will there be evaluations similar to teacher evaluations?
 1. There are evaluations for advisors that started last semester. QR code and send out in UAC mass emails.
 2. Contact: advising@uiwtx.edu
- c. Athletics – AD Richard Duran (6:21pm-6:31pm)
 - i. Q: When will volleyball locker rooms will be renovated?
 1. Work orders have been sent in for light and wall issues. Baseball & softball projects and Benson Center fieldhouse expansion underway. Convocation center will be next on the list to be renovated within the next 2-3 years.

- ii. Q: What the plans are for the upcoming semester regarding the men's soccer conference?
 - 1. Head coach and I has visited with numerous conferences, but they have been full. We working a conference from scratch (received green lights today). The new conference home will be announced in the next few weeks. It is anticipated that the soccer program will be independent this fall.
- iii. Q: Streaming of games should have better films. Athletes look at recordings and can barely see some movements which are essential for them to observe and analyze.
 - 1. Video production has been boosted due to the ESPN+ production trailer. Aaron Rye has been getting women's basketball and softball games. ESPN capabilities has enhance visibility.
- iv. Q: Are there any plans in the future for a natural grass fields?
 - 1. Topic has been in discussion in about last 2 years. UIW as a landlocked institution has limited green-space available for soccer programs.
 - 2. We are currently working with partners and hopeful to finalize deal within the next few months.
- v. Q: When will the softball and baseball bleachers be renovated?
 - 1. The conceptual drawings will be finalized within the next two weeks. Materials will arrive from overseas in the summer and anticipated to be completed for Spring 2024 seasons.
- vi. Q: In the future, will Cardinal Spirit have a locker-room?
 - 1. Cardinal Spirit did move into a locker-room about a month ago.
 - 2. Convocation renovations would have more appropriate sized locker-rooms for the different groups. They have already been established in a locker room
- vii. Q: Why don't all athletes get paid for playing, considering the fact that they do not have time to work a job outside of school and practice?
 - 1. The energy and time commitment of a D1 athletes is understandable. This has been a hot topic over last decade.
 - 2. There are also opportunities for posting YouTube, hosting summer camps, etc.
 - 3. Due the NCAA, it is illegal to pay student athletes.
- viii. Q: Why is there a change in head coaches in many sports just this year?
 - 1. Coaches may have received other opportunities and every situation is different.
- ix. Q: How can student athletes properly give a complaint to the athletic department?

1. Asking questions and bring. Student athletes are encouraged to bring concerns to head coaches/sport administrator. If voices are not being heard, my office is always open.
- x. Q: With president in attendance, I was told that ground was being broken for the new fieldhouse in the beginning of March. Is the new fieldhouse still in the timeline?
 1. Yes, it is still in the plans. Conceptual drawings are near done with the architects and surveying the land within the next few months. It is our goal to service all 25 sports on-campus.
- xi. Q: Why international students cannot participated in NIL program?
 1. Topic is being discusses at the national level, it is mainly visa issues at across all sports. It is currently still part of the conversations.
- d. Sodexo – Cindy Adair (6:31pm-6:50pm)
 - i. Q: Why are there little-to-no vegetarian and vegan options during most times throughout the week?
 1. There were chefs hired but they do not stay. A new chef was recently hired from Barbados and looking to put out exciting options.
 - ii. Q: Why do the food in the dining hall often runs out?
 1. Food does not totally run out in the dining hall. To keep the food fresh, batch cooking takes place where small batches are cooked when they are run out.
 - iii. Q: There is a lack of variety of food options in the dining hall, when can we expect changes for this?
 1. We are always looking for new options. Chef Beverly has some ideas. Recently, we implemented the Virtual Dining Concept in the Everyday app Sunday to Thursday @5-10pm for pickup in the ICC.
 - iv. Q: Are we to expect more food options other than Chik-fil-A, Sammie's Subs, and Luciano's in the near future?
 1. We are currently working on bringing in Panda Express permanently (more difficult to do) and food truck vendors on-campus.
 - v. Q: Why does Starbucks lack supplies at the beginning of the week?
 1. Delivery issues: deliveries expected on Friday and Monday – sometimes do not arrive on Friday. We hope to rectify as soon as possible.
 - vi. Q: How can students formally submit a complaint to you as soon as something is wrong with what they are consuming?

1. Comment cards in cashier stand (in cafeteria) and Hortencia's
 2. QR code on the exit doors in the cafeteria.
 3. Campus Dining email in UIW site
 4. Available anytime in office
- vii. Q: Can dining hall hours change? At least for lunch to 3pm?
1. It is complicated, but things can change. As of this year, there will be no changes in dining hall hours.
- viii. Q: (MSE Senator) Many students work later hours and unable to get food on-campus. Can the dining hall hours be extended to 9-10pm?
1. Dining hours extension is higher in our conversation, but it is something that can be looked into. Dining Hall hours will not VDC concept is open Sunday to Thursday (5pm-10pm) night for now.
- ix. Q: With all the increase restaurants and expensive food, will there be an increase in dining dollars in meal plans?
1. Anything can be can be an option, this will be can be a conversation between Sodexo and the university.
- x. Q: There is an unrefrigerated peanut butter and jelly tub (with spoons inside) outside the Benson weightroom, can there be a concession stand be open before or after lifting?
1. There has been conversation to bring back the peanut butter and jelly bar. We will talk with head coach and better use our resources.
- e. General questions
- i. Student Org Funding Requests
 1. UIWNAMI on campus
 - a. Funds Mental Health Speaker from NAMI San Antonio
 - b. Looking to provide food, mental health ribbons, and promotional items for students
 - c. Excel sheet (with dollar amount) forward to Julianna Sandoval and Marcella Pineda
 2. Pre-Law program
 - a. Funds for campus visits UT and Baylor Law for two days
 - b. Date not set yet
 - c. Planned for the semester depending on amount of funding
 - ii. Parking Pass
 1. Township Parking Passes - \$700
 - a. \$250 for commuters
 - b. Residents do not even live on-campus and drop-off is big
 - c. Complained last year and price went up
 - d. Email to Julianna

2. Commuter Parking Pass decrease
 - a. Parking is a separate division
 - b. Email Chris Summerlin and concern can be passed along to finance office
- iii. Q: (SAC) 25 D1 athletic teams (most D1 teams in Texas) and UIW receives less funding compared to competing public schools. Is there any conversations to decrease the amount of sports to support the teams we have rather than spreading the budget thinner?
 1. Athletics Working with CFO and Bury to increase funding level. We will consider asking for more funding rather than cutting out programs.
- iv. Q: (As One We Will) As seen at the Benson stadium, we see the As One We Will banner handing. Are you all willingly to support Black Lives Matter vocally?
 1. We are willing to work with campus partners to bring it up. T-shirts were made previously about “praying against racism.”
- v. T-shirt policy in the entire Wellness Center building (implemented 2013)
 1. Julianna and Beni will meet with Scott LeBlanc to discuss concern
 2. Health concern where MRSA can be easily transmitted with the equipment
 3. Dr. Summerlin will check-in to see if the policy is being fully implemented
 4. Supervisors will walkthrough facilities about every 15 minutes
 5. Will help longevity of equipment due to directly contact of sweat
 6. Technicians clean equipment throughout the day
 7. Athletics facilities (floor and equipment) cleaned once a day
- vi. Q: Classmates held back one year due to misinformation. Is it possible to receive PIN number through UAC advisors instead of faculty advisors?
 1. UAC advisors available in advising center
 2. If students are not getting a response from faculty advisor, general advising email (found on website) can be contacted, which will go straight to the front desk and checked regularly throughout the day.
 3. Monica.Jimenez@uiwtx.edu (oversees the advising) is always available for contact

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting was adjourned by Julianna Sandoval at 7:04pm.