

University High School Council

Minutes 2019-2020

Meeting Date: 10/15/2019

Meeting Location: RUHS Library

Members present	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Amy Cislak	Beth Braun	Iselle Barrios	Barney Holtzman
		Jeff Marchant	Brian Belakovsky	Marisa Menchola
		Mike Schmidt	Rachel Dai	Lea Standridge
		Leiba Schuneman	Hannah Dyer	George Youngerman
		Hannah Sinclair	Reia Li	
	Community Members	Matt Ulrich	Andy Pendleton	
	Kris Tully		Daniella Quihuis-Granillo	
Members absent	Community Members	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Kevin Gebert	Kimberly King	Julian Barraza	Karen Peters
	Administration	Ann Mitchell		Chris Read
	Joel Bacalia			Tim Sonier
	Andrea Evans			Kara Vathauer

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 3:37pm
- II. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Motion by Standridge.
 - ii. Second by Schuneman.
 - b. No items for discussion.
 - c. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of the September 10th, 2019 Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Motion by Sinclair.
 - ii. Second by Belakovsky.
 - b. No items for discussion.
 - c. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. Call to the Audience
 - a. No audience members present.
- V. Discussion & Action Items
 - a. Action Item: Request for tax credit funds – JSA
 - i. Youngerman: There was no presenter for this grant proposal and the Finance committee needed clarification on some issues, so the discussion of this proposal was tabled for the next Finance Committee meeting.

- b. Action Item: Request for tax credit funds – College Visitation trip
 - i. Youngerman: Ms. Palos requested \$800 for students in the College Club to visit ASU (with a special visit to Barrett Honors College), NAU, and either Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University or Grand Canyon University. Cost is about \$85 per student, and in addition to this request the club is fundraising and requesting funds from the Foundation. The Finance committee unanimously recommended approval of this request by School Council. Chair Schmidt pointed out that the Council has routinely approved this yearly request.
 - ii. Motion to approve.
 - 1. Motion by Barrios.
 - 2. Second by Standridge.
 - iii. Discussion: The total number of students attending this trip is not known yet but usually 50 to 60 attend. Any student in the club can choose to attend the trip, and students can still join the club. Per Ms. Cislak, there is no problem with assigning funds for a visit to a private Christian school like GCU. Schools visited are usually chosen based on student interest.
 - iv. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- c. Discussion Item: Report out on Challenge Success conference and next steps in implementation plan
 - i. Cislak: A 10-person team from UHS attended a 2-day conference with Challenge Success at the Stanford University campus: Administrators Cislak and Bacalia; counselor Donahue; teachers Schmidt, Sudak, and Tully; parents Hart and Alvarez; and students Bracamonte and Canelos.
 - ii. Challenge Success is a research program from Stanford University's College of Education, focused on how rigorous schools like UHS can maintain their mission and vision while lessening stress and helping students, teachers, and parents feel more supported and reach their goals without burnout. Their approach is based on three critical core values: flexible and unorganized Playtime, Downtime (including sleep), and Family time. Their approach is described in their book "Overloaded and Underprepared." Schools that have worked with Challenge Success have given impressive feedback about their experience.
 - iii. At the conference, the UHS team was matched with their main consultant, Jon Kleiman, who will be visiting UHS in the Fall. The school will be administering surveys to students and parents starting next week to collect data on issues including time spent on sleep, technology, homework, school activities, and other activities, and opinions about their school experience. Data from the surveys will be used to generate strategies to maximize the time spent on campus to allow for less time spent on homework and more flexible homework. Data from the surveys and the school's goals and initiatives related to Challenge Success will be public. A College Success club for students is also being formed.

VI. Committee & Misc. Reports

a. Principal's Report – Cislak

- i. Freshmen, sophomore, and junior students will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday October 15th. Scholarships are available for freshmen students that need them. During the PSAT time, seniors will have the CPR training required by the state for graduation and prepare for the senior debate. No classes will be held after the PSAT; Student Council has organized a Field Day instead, with activities and food trucks.
- ii. Challenge Success surveys will start next week.
- iii. Students are expected to attend a viewing of the *Screenagers* documentary the morning of Monday 28 on campus. Another viewing will be held that evening for families and community members.
- iv. Administration has started surveying faculty for ideas on how to use the remaining \$110,000 from Results Based Funding. Only 10 responses have been received so far, with suggestions including saving the funds, using them for teacher bonuses, and buying classroom equipment.

b. Tax Credit & Budget Committee Report – Youngerman

- i. The committee is still working with the new financial staff, but the best estimate is that we currently have a balance of \$26,850, which includes the \$14,000 that will be used for stipends. Other than the JSA request for \$1,200, which is pending review, there are no other requests for funds.

c. Recruitment and Retention Committee Report – Cislak

- i. Step-Up Day is coming up on October 24. We are anticipating about 600 students to attend.
- ii. A Cog-AT prep session will be held on October 15th and another about two weeks later. The sessions will be attended by 8th graders taking or re-taking the test in December. There will be more sessions in the Spring.
- iii. Ms. Hernandez continues to meet with students in schools all over Tucson.
- iv. We have lost 2% of our Freshman class since the beginning of the year, which is a better attrition rate than last year (we had lost about 3.5% of the freshman class by this time last year). We currently have 366 freshmen. Our senior class is 230. An incoming class of ~300 students (a conservative estimate) would leave us in good shape to keep teachers and other resources.

d. Instructional Council Report – Schuneman

- i. The last two meetings have focused on the PSAT, Challenge Success, and prospective electives for next school year (options discussed include a 3rd year computer science class and creating an AP seminar class).
- ii. In response to a question regarding the availability of Rincon High School electives, it was clarified that Rincon classes only take UHS students if there is space after Rincon students have signed up, and that the same policy is in place for UHS electives for Rincon students.

e. UHS Foundation & Alumni Association – Tully

- i. The Alumni Association is focusing on activities targeting alumni coming home for the holiday season. There is an upcoming alumni mixer in October.

- f. UHS Parents' Association – Youngerman
 - i. No updates. The UHSPA will be meeting on Thursday October 17th.
- g. Student Council Report – Quihuis-Granillo
 - i. There was a good profit from Homecoming, and good feedback from students. Changes that will be implemented for Inaugural include a more efficient check-in to accommodate the large number of students buying tickets at the door.
 - ii. Before Fall Break, the Council took part in a German Exchange program.
 - iii. The Inaugural will be held at the Jewish Community Center.
 - iv. Student Council has organized a Field Day to be held after the PSAT.
 - v. A joint Spirit Week with Rincon High School will be held the week of October 28th – November 1st. While it will be advertised as Rincon Spirit Week, UHS students are encouraged to participate.
 - vi. Student Council is trying to implement a monthly movie night starting in November with *Nightmare Before Christmas*. It would be held in the auditorium. There would be no admission fee, but snacks would be sold.
 - vii. In response to a question regarding budget, the Student Council's estimate of their balance at this time is about \$12,000.
- VII. Request for Agenda Items for next meeting (please submit action & discussion items in electronic format)
- VIII. Reminders:
 - a. School Council meeting time and place will be posted 24 hours in advance (on UHS Admin. Bulletin Board and in public). Attendance and minutes will be submitted to a School Council officer prior to the next meeting.
 - b. Please observe proper decorum and schedule your time to be able to attend the entire School Council meeting. Each meeting should last 90 minutes and will be adjourned by 5:00 p.m. A quorum, your time, and your participation are valued assets of the UHS School Council.
 - c. An email will be going out from Chair Schmidt to Council members with two other reminders:
 - i. We were close to not having a quorum for today's Council meeting; Council members should let Chair Schmidt know if they will be unable to attend a meeting.
 - ii. We have two new Gmail accounts for students and parents to communicate with School Council, and we will need to identify a student representative and a parent representative to manage these accounts.
- IX. Adjournment at 4:19 p.m.
 - a. Motion to adjourn.
 - i. Motion by Standridge.
 - ii. Second by Belakovsky.
 - b. Passes by unanimous consent.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the RUHS Library.