

University High School Council

Minutes 2018-2019

Meeting Date: 11/13/18

Meeting Location: RUHS Library

Members present	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Amy Cislak	Kerry Balzer	Julian Barraza	Barbara Hughes
	Joel Bacalia	Jeff Marchant	Lauren Benz	Martha Lee
	Andrea Evans	Mike Schmidt	Enrique Castillon	Mary Palacio-Hum
		Leiba Schuneman	Derek "Brock" Lyons	Lea Standridge
	Staff	Hannah Sinclair	Anissa Meza	Bill Tong
	Martina Kimball	Chelsea Smith	Andy Pendleton	Kara Vathauer
		Matt Ulrich	Alexys Rodgers	George Youngerman
	Community Members			
	Kris Tully			
Members absent	Faculty	Parents	Community Members	Students
	Ann Mitchell	Karen Peters	Kevin Gebert	Iselle Barrios

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm by Chair Mike Schmidt. Chair Schmidt welcomed incoming new member Kara Vathauer, who will represent parents (pending a vote by the UHS Parents' Association).
- II. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Schuneman ii. Youngerman - Approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Approval of the October 16, 2018 Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Bacalia ii. Barraza
 - b. Minutes approved, with minor typo corrections, by unanimous consent.
- IV. Call to the Audience
 - a. No audience was present.
- V. Discussion and Action Items
 - a. Discussion Item: Explanation of the Policy Review process and flowchart, expectations for approval vote
 - i. Chair Schmidt explained the distributed handout: *UHS Policy-UHS Instructional Council and Site Council Sub Committee Approved*. The handout showed changes to UHS policy that were made by the Instructional Council and approved (with a few syntax changes) by the Policy Review Subcommittee of the School Council.

- ii. The policies being struck are outdated or no longer applicable, such as reference to AIMS test or “no Walkmans on campus.”
 - iii. For the next action item, Chair Schmidt asked members to please vote yes or no on this first wave of policy adjustments, which are “low-hanging fruit” in that there should be no real argument.
 - iv. Bacalia said that every stakeholder was on the Policy Review Subcommittee.
 - v. Chair Schmidt clarified that changes will be effective immediately, except in the case of student parking. Parking passes have already been distributed, so the school cannot make changes to approved parking passes. Parking policy will go into effect next school year.
 - vi. For the issue of counting high school courses taken by 8th graders in students’ GPAs: The new policy will let students determine whether the grade from 8th grade helps or hurts their GPA and then use the course only if it improves the GPA.
- b. Action Item: Approval of Policy Changes as forwarded by the Policy Review Subcommittee
 - i. Motion to approve the policy changes as forwarded by the Policy Review Subcommittee.
 - 1. Ulrich 2. Standridge
 - ii. Roll call vote: The measure passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- c. Discussion Item: Postpone discussion of any spending floor on non-designated tax credit funds indefinitely.
 - i. The Finance Committee Minutes from the October 23, 2018 meeting were distributed. The minutes included the account balance for UHS School Council: \$7,216.
 - ii. Treasurer Youngerman reported that the Finance Committee is struggling with the budget, not knowing the level of donations that will come in over the rest of the school year, so the Committee does not feel comfortable setting a spending floor.
 - iii. Chair Schmidt asked two questions to move discussion forward: Does the School Council really want a spending floor? If so, when in the year would it be appropriate to set a floor?
 - iv. Standridge said that from the last meeting’s discussion, the idea was for Finance Subcommittee to come up with suggestion.
 - v. Youngerman explained that the Finance Committee recommends postponing any decision about a floor until we have more information about funds available.
 - vi. Bacalia mentioned that most funds come in late December and late March/early April.
 - vii. Schmidt said that we need about \$14,000 to pay stipends that are included in the UHS School Council budget. We are not discussing stipends paid by other sources.
 - viii. Tong asked what happens if we don’t have the funds? Do clubs go away?

- ix. Schmidt: It would be case-by-case if we didn't pay stipends. Some clubs require such a major commitment of time that they wouldn't survive without a stipend. Other clubs, like Yoga Club, only require about 1.5 hours per week. Chair Schmidt sponsors this club without a stipend. (The clubs that currently have stipends for sponsors all require more than just a couple hours a week.)

VI. Committee & Misc. Reports

a. Principal's Report – Cislak

- i. Free and reduced-price lunch eligibility: Principal Cislak is asking for all families to apply for free and reduced-priced lunch eligibility (FRE). She noticed that UHS went from almost 50% FRE rate in 2017-2018 to 17% FRE rate this school year. Increasing our rate can bring benefits for the school. Even if families know they don't qualify, she asks them to apply. The "apply" rate can be used in some grant applications.
- ii. UHS needs 100% of seniors to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA. Colleges require the FAFSA to consider students for both merit-based and need-based scholarships.
- iii. UHS is collecting applications for the University of Arizona Honors College courses. There are 25 openings. Applications are due on November 21, 2018.
- iv. KEYS Internship applications are due on December 2, 2018. This is a summer science research internship at the University of Arizona.
- v. The Green Elephant Sale, a UHS tradition, takes place on November 14, 2018.
- vi. The Annual Veterans Day Assembly will be on November 20 at 7:45 a.m.
- vii. UHS qualified for results-based funding (RBF) again. Fifty percent of the funding has to be spent on teacher salaries. The other 50% can be used to promote programs on campus.
 - 1. Youngerman asked if UHS can we hire another teacher and offer another elective.
 - 2. Cislak said that we do not have enough students without electives for a full-time position.
 - 3. Tong asked what about UHS going to 7 classes instead of 6? Cislak said the school would need another \$750,000 to \$1 million to make that work.
 - 4. Can RBF funds support club stipends? Cislak will look into whether this might work for the Math Club and the Environmental Club.
- viii. First floor bathrooms in the U building were painted by volunteers in a 2.5 hour blitz.
- ix. The musical *Oklahoma!* will be performed at the end of this month.
- x. Band and orchestra events were last week.

- b. Tax Credit & Budget Committee Report – Youngerman
 - i. The minutes show the account balance of \$7,216.
 - ii. Since the minutes were produced, the Finance Committee has received a \$700 request from the CCCC for college trips.
 - iii. Ms. Braun’s dance group awarded invitation to perform at D-Day commemorations in France. She has to put down a \$4,000 deposit to reserve this space. Can we loan?
 - 1. Cislak: We could pay now and then she could donate \$4,000 back to Site Council general fund. Cannot loan but can make it work.
 - iv. Treasurer Youngerman asked the UHSPA President about jointly sending out a postcard asking for funds. The UHSPA declined in favor of separate mailings.
 - 1. Lee explained that the UHSPA mailing will go to 50-100 families whose addresses the PA has. It will be a targeted mailing rather than a mass mailing.
 - 2. Last year’s School Council postcard cost about \$750. Did it work?
 - 3. Bacalia: If we can get even 7-8 new tax credits, that will make it worth it.
 - 4. Cislak: A school in Tucson sends a tax credit letter to tax accounting businesses and receives around \$100,000 from people who donate in response. TUSD has just purchased a license for mailing, which will make future mass mailings easier.
 - 5. Castillon encouraged the mailing of a postcard to solicit tax credit donations.
- c. Recruitment & Retention Committee – Evans
 - i. Have had two CogAT test prep sessions. Are offering another session on December 4, 2018. Ms. Hernandez participated in Drachman K-8’s STEM night as a recruiting effort.
 - ii. The UHS Orchestra participated in Chamber Strings; parents of 8th graders registered for school tours.
- d. Instructional Council – Schuneman
 - i. Last week discussed RBF funding and how much we might need to reserve for FTE and how much can be used for bonuses.
 - ii. The Instructional Council (IC) would like to see assigned parking spaces in the future.
 - iii. The IC is broadening the scope of policy reviews, breaking the content into policy and advocacy documents. The advocacy document will include goals and aspirations.
 - iv. The IC is looking into the logistics for administering the SAT test on campus in March 2019.
 - v. Schmidt said that he relayed the advice of the Policy Review Subcommittee to the Instructional Council.

- e. UHS Foundation & Alumni Association – Tully
 - i. The Foundation and Association sponsor some exciting programs for students:
 - 1. The Keys-to-College program provides application assistance.
 - 2. Through internships or job shadowing at St. Joseph’s Hospital, students can learn about healthcare careers.
 - 3. Micro-grants of up to \$200 per student distributed through the CCCC can help students with application fees, transportation, or Internet access.
 - ii. Funds of the Foundation & Association
 - 1. Pilote Fund: grants to students who apply for four years of college. This is a very competitive grant.
 - 2. Principal’s Fund.
 - 3. General Sustainability Funds.
 - iii. Tully recognized Darin Guthrie, UHS Class of 1995, and Emma Mendenall, UHS Class of 2010, for their roles in accounting for the Foundation and Association funds.
- f. UHS Parents’ Association – Palacio-Hum
 - i. The last meeting featured a panel of seniors talking about how the CCCC benefited them over the years.
- g. Student Council Report – Barrios
 - i. The Student Council (StuCo) has been publicizing the Green Elephant Sale.
 - ii. StuCo has also been working on a UHS tradition, the Leaves of Thanksgiving Tree.
 - iii. There will be an upcoming Humane Society fundraiser selling calendars.
 - iv. Youngerman challenged StuCo to work on “No student eats lunch alone” by inviting students to join the group or by organizing frisbee games or other means. The StuCo accepted the challenge.

VII. Request for Agenda Items for next meeting (please submit action & discussion items to President Schmidt through email.)

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. Youngerman mentioned that this week is the last chance to vote for one’s preference on the TUSD academic calendar.

- IX. Adjournment
- a. Motion: Standridge
 - b. Unanimous consent
- Second: Bacalia