



UTGSU Civics Committee Meeting Highlights

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 11th, 2014

Location: UTGSU Executive Office, 16 Bancroft Ave.

Time: 4 – 6pm

Chair: Susanne Waldorf, Civics and Environment Commissioner

Vice-Chair: Phillip Baiden, Executive-At-Large

Present: Phillip, Angelita, Alex, Susanne

Regrets: Mehreen, Debra

Minutes:

We did not have quorum for this meeting.

International Student Mock Vote and Get-out-the-Vote Party Debrief

- Tabled

2014-2015 Legislative Program

- Improving voter turn-out at the UTGSU Executive Elections (in Feb.)
 - Brainstorming:
 - Give out incentives – i.e. \$5.00 vouchers to be used at Harvest Noon or the Pub/ this idea might be better for attendance at meetings like Council meetings or Committee meetings
 - Online voting – we discussed how this would likely increase voter turnout, but also discussed the fact that there is an ongoing process within the UTGSU to determine if this is feasible for the UTGSU and if so how to implement it. This process will take some time and won't be completed in time for this years' elections.
 - Some reasons why people don't vote – they aren't on campus; they don't know anything about the candidates; they don't know what the UTGSU does for them
 - Candidates have to do a better job of promoting themselves
 - We could promote the things that the UTGSU does – to provide some of the background info on why it is important to vote
 - Especially highlight the UTGSU's recent achievements
 - Candidates should have their platforms up on websites
 - We could ask the candidates to provide their stance on 5 major items of importance to graduate students – we could distribute this information – it should be a short response – like 140 characters
 - Could we get the debate to run on campus radio? Does anyone listen to

campus radio?

- We should create a Facebook event or page for the Election itself and provide incentives for people to “like” it, just as we did for the Orientation BBQ
- We could provide food at the polls – we could advertise that people will get food if they go to the polls; this idea and several others should be run by the CRO after they are elected in Dec. and also by the Executive
- Hire casual staff to go out during voting days and hand out information in front of the polling locations –
- Recruitment of candidates is also an issue to consider
- **Action items:**
 - Susanne will begin creating a document of UTGSU achievements and Grad. Students major issues that can be circulated prior to the nominations period – as a tool to both recruit potential candidates for the Executive team and to be used to inform our members at large. She will circulate this document over the list serve for feedback. We will later make changes to this document to include candidate stances on 5 major issues, which can be circulated during the campaign period to encourage Grad Students to vote.
 - Susanne will bring some of the other ideas to the UTGSU Executive for their feedback and then possibly to the CRO once they are elected (after Dec. 1st).
- Accessibility to the UTGSU (tabled)
- Promoting Off-campus Volunteerism (tabled)

Any Other Business/Announcements

None.

Next meeting date/time/agenda

- We would like to meet during the 1st week in Dec., if possible. **Susanne will send out a doodle poll to schedule.**
- One item to add to the agenda is how/whether or not to incentivize committee work.