

UNIVERSITY CENTER GOVERNANCE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, May 23, 2025

Voting Members Attending: Alejandro Ordaz Gutierrez, Tiffany Jordan, Skylar Burke

Voting Members Not Attending: Mina Santamaria, DeAnna Rodriguez, Bed Oak, Erika Cortez, Kaustav Barnejee.

Ex-Officio Members Attending: Nestor Covarrubias, Louis Reynaud, Nick Engebrits, Carol Destre.

Ex-Officio Members Not Attending: Willie Brown, Hugo Rios.

Advisors Attending: Megan Lee.

Advisors Not attending: Kris Ehrman, Farid Hadj, Afiya Browne, Jose Montano.

Additional Attendees: Arlene Contreras

1. Meeting Called to Order by Alejandro Ordaz-Gutierrez at 12:35 pm

2. Motion to approve and vote on previous meeting minutes: The previous meeting minutes were approved via email.

3. Project Updates:

a) Contemplation Room: The new Contemplation Room, located on the third floor in the former storage space has been completed. It is significantly larger than the previous room, approximately four times the size, and includes windows for natural light. The room has been painted, the carpet has been shampooed, and shelving has been installed for students to store their shoes before prayer. Photos of the space will be shared at the next meeting.

b) Game Room: A 2023 student survey revealed that 35% of respondents expressed interest in having a game room. The Director shared an image of the completed game room, located on the first floor of the Hub. He explained that the space has been painted, refurbished, and upgraded with new lighting. He also discussed how the games will be arranged. Five new games will be purchased next week, and he will provide an update once they arrive. The total budget for the project was \$50,000.

4.Committee updates:

a) Campus Store: A lobby sale took place on May 20, 21, and 22. In addition, A staff appreciation sale was held yesterday. The team is now preparing for graduation and gearing up for summer orientation events.

b) Campus Dining: Mony's restaurant and the team are working hard on rehabilitating the dining space, with many improvements currently underway. They are still aiming to reopen by August 1 and are making good progress. Additionally, the Starbucks renovation project is scheduled to begin on June 16. This will require closing the current Starbucks location for approximately six weeks, with a projected reopening at the end of July or early August.

c) Space Allocation: A tentative improvement plan is underway to allocate space for RCL on the third floor. Additionally, a more extensive renovation is being considered for the lower level, targeting the areas previously used by the Finance Department and parts of the back-of-house Campus Store. This project, intended for Conference Services, is currently at 50% design development. Once designs are finalized, it would be ideal to bring the project manager on board to present the plans.

d) Budget and Finances: The department currently lacks a dedicated financial analyst, and the TPS Financial Manager is providing interim support. While this has presented challenges for both UCen and UCen Administration, significant progress is being made in cleaning up financial records and reviewing expense allocations. UCen Administration is showing a deficit, while student fee-funded areas have surpluses due to historical allocation issues. The team is working to correct this in the current fiscal year, with adjustments planned for future budget cycles. There's also ongoing work to complete a facility assessment, which will help clarify the financial needs for maintaining the building. Despite being a transitional year, substantial progress has been made, with more updates to come.

e) Programming/Events: The HUB hosted the Gaucho Factor American Superstar event, which drew 150 attendees, featured 8 participants, and had 3 winners. At the Corwin Pavilion, the Spring Foundation event was held last Friday, May 16. Additionally, the Nigerian Student Association event is scheduled at Corwin Pavilion on May 30.

5. Comments/Questions/Concerns: A question was raised regarding alternative coffee options during the Starbucks closure. Nick responded that a temporary Starbucks kiosk had been considered; however, it was ultimately cost-prohibitive given the short duration of the closure. Unfortunately, customers will need to visit the Arbor for coffee during that time.

5. Future meetings: May 30th.

Adjourn Meeting: At 12:49pm