

TCMA City Managers of Tomorrow Committee
July 12, 2019
9:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.
University of Texas – LBJ Library

Members of committee present: Committee Chair Scott Sellers, City Manager, Kyle; TCMA President Kenneth Williams, City Manger, Buda; Noel Bernal, City Manager, Brownsville; Austin Bless, City Manager, Jersey Village; Ed Broussard, City Manager, Tyler; John Cabrales Jr., City Manager, Lake Dallas; Julie Couch, Town Manager, Fairview; James Earp, Assistant City Manger, Kyle; Brant Gary, Assistant City Manager, Fulshear; Kent Myers, City Manager, Fredericksburg; Joe Price, Assistant City Manager, Borger; Michelle Rivera, Assistant City Manager, McAllen; Chris Sharp, Finance Director, Canyon; Hugh Walker, Deputy City Manager, Bryan

University Representatives: Teodoro Benavides, MPA Director, The University of Texas at Dallas; Brian Collins, Associate Professor, University of North Texas; David Coursey, Chair, The University of Texas at Arlington Faculty Senate, University of Texas at Arlington; Rob Greer, Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University; Jean Loveall, Faculty, Sam Houston State University; Don Kettl, Sid Richardson Professor, The University of Texas at Austin; Nandhini Rangarajan, MPA Director, Texas State University; James Thurmond, MPA Director, University of Houston

Guest by web conference: Mike Land, City Manager, Coppell; Kirsten Wyatt, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Engaging Local Government Leaders; Joe Nail, CEO, Lead for America

TML Staff: Kim Pendergraft, Affiliate Association Manager, Texas Municipal League; Tristan Gideon, Affiliate Association Coordinator, Texas Municipal League;

Chair Scott Sellers opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending and provided a review and history of the City Managers of Tomorrow Committee. TCMA President Kenneth Williams thanked everyone for attending and recognized the accomplishments made over the past year. He also shared that the Board approved additional funds to build on the success of the Committee.

Committee Reports and MIR Activities

- Manager in Residence (MIR) Manual: Noel Bernal, Ed Broussard, and Chris Sharp reported that the manual is not fully adopted, but is almost complete. The manual will serve as a guide for the MIR Program and can be distributed to universities. **Tristan Gideon will distribute the Manual to the Committee for further review.**
- College Bowl: James Earp provided a report including feedback from the conference survey and a debrief from students following the competition. The feedback was overall positive and areas for improvement will be incorporated.
- ELGL Inspire Events: The University of Texas-San Antonio, University of North Texas, and Texas State University reported that the Inspire Events were well received, but recruiting students to attend was a challenge. Kirsten Wyatt recommended a distribution list to be sent to departments outside of government related degrees to attract a wider

array of students. Kirsten also recommended that social media be implemented to increase exposure of the events.

- Texas A&M Career Day: Hugh Walker reported on the Texas A&M Career Day and discussed the pros and cons of the event. He recommended that diversifying those who represent the city management field during a Career Day to include a younger and diverse section of the field in order to attract more students.
- Knowledge repository: Michelle Rivera collected documents and presentations that can be duplicated in the classroom. TML staff will make them available on the TCMA website.
- Ethics in the classroom: Rob Greer reported that his students completed the 101 Online Ethics course with Hugh Walker and other city managers followed up with classroom instruction on the material.
- Membership goals: Scott Sellers reminded the Committee that the goal is 200 student members. Kim Pendergraft reported that there are currently 38 student members.

Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) Report

- ELGL Inspire Event: Kirsten Wyatt provided a brief background of the program. Tristan Gideon reported on universities that plan to host an event for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The universities include Stephen F. Austin University; Texas State University; The University of Houston; University of North Texas; University of Texas-Arlington; The University of Texas-Austin; and The University of Texas Rio- Grand Valley.
- Kirsten discussed how to improve exposure for the event by reaching out to several departments and not focus solely on government related departments.
- Kirsten shared how the ELGL website provides profiles of speakers and LinkedIn information for students to connect with speakers prior to the event.

Internship Reports

- Lead for America: Joe Nail presented the Lead for America model.
- Scott Sellers emphasized that all internships should be funneled through the TCMA website.
- Scott reported that The Volcker Alliance considers the MIR program and partnership with The University of Texas-Austin a great example of government-university collaboration to support the pipeline into public service that The Volcker Alliance wants to promote.

During a working lunch, attendees broke into four focus groups: MIR Program; Intercollegiate Bowl; ELGL Inspire Events/ Career Day; Internships/Fellowship

Feedback from Focus Groups

1. MIR Program
 - Reach out to various departments and not solely to the political science/public administration department.

- Assign two MIRs and university representatives per university.
 - Larger cities need to get involved.
 - Involve younger organizations including UMANT, UMACT, and UMAST.
 - Create a welcome reception for universities.
 - MIRs should provide reports of their activities and accomplishments.
 - Examine the NASPA roster for additional Texas higher educational institution contacts .
2. Intercollegiate Bowl
- Incorporate the alumni networking event.
 - Provide awards for separate events.
 - Create regional opportunities and expand the program.
 - Accommodate housing for students.
3. Internships/Fellowship Programs
- Send an email to cities to gather internships and projects.
 - Encourage cities to post internships early in the spring for graduating students who are seeking internships.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.