

University Council 2017-2018

March 15, 2018

06:00PM

Student Center Reading Room

Members in Attendance: Abhi Amarnani, Kristen Lu, Michelle Garcia, Stephanie Ngan, Zaki Azam, Andrew Hasenzahl, Maggie Tappitake, Maria Munoz-Sagastibelza, Tim Morello, Ankuri Desai, Amy Urquhart, Adam Burgman

Members not in Attendance: Julia Hess (proxy: Abhi Amarnani), Shelley Jain (proxy: Zaki Azam), Lauren Demaria

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- a. A. Amarnani called the meeting to order at 6:10PM.

2. Old Business

- a. Monthly Update from Student Councils
 - i. K. Lu met with Julie Parato, President of GSC, and they will continue to meet on a regular basis. SGS just completed their site visit. J. Parato highlighted a few items for discussion:
 1. A \$500 "bonus" for graduate students to use for memberships to professional organizations or financial supplements for conference-related fees (such as travel, hotel, or registration).
 2. Expanded career development opportunities and sessions. Examples given were 1) writing intensives, where an outside specialist in scientific writing is brought to Downstate to teach about grant and paper writing; and 2) management skills workshops, to teach team dynamics, effective communication skills, and working in a group setting.
 3. Changing the subway sign at the Winthrop Street 2 and 5 train station to indicate SUNY Downstate Medical Center. This was also submitted to the UC suggestion box, and will require follow-up.
 4. An "alumni association" to keep better track of SGS alumni. It would also be prudent to invite alumni back to speak at seminars, to host workshops, to talk to current students, and perhaps even to attend Annual Research Day activities as a way of staying connected.
- b. CHRP
 - i. S. Ngan attended a CHRP Council meeting, attended by mostly PA/OT/PT students.

1. An item highlighted for discussion was the lack of available space for classes and the issues with coordinating class times because of the limited space.
 2. Another item highlighted for discussion is an “interdisciplinary day” - detailed conversation about what specific professions entail, ethics of the professions, and the opportunity for students and faculty to ask questions and learn more about the professions.
 - a. S. Ngan and M. Tappitake will ask CHRP leadership about the ethics session to consider whether it can be expanded to a campus-wide day in conjunction with the John Conley Division of Ethics and Humanities.
- c. CON
- i. Previously, J. Hess had discussed the issue with timing in terms of nominating CON UC members. There was confusion that the person elected to be a Nursing Council representative was automatically nominated as a UC representative, but that is not the case. We will keep the UC election schedule the way it is now.
- d. COM
- i. Z. Azam mentioned that Med Council is considering hosting a “town hall”, where the premise is for students to come and discuss their concerns.
- e. SPH
- i. A. Hasenzahl reported that SPH Council is trying to coordinate meeting with Dr. Langley to get writing tutors to help SPH students. SPH Council is also trying to formalize an “alumni association”.
- f. SCGB
- i. A. Amarnani discussed the Strategic Planning Process with K. Shah, and SCGB has already conducted a survey to prepare for that.
- g. Residence Hall Council
- i. M. Garcia reported that the Res Halls are updating their laundry machines and trying to incorporate laundry fees into the rent. The Res Halls are revamping their heating. They are also recruiting for the Downstate Olympics (April 15th, 3PM). There is ongoing discussion about the WiFi network and whether the vendor will be changed.
- h. SUNY SA Resolutions/Centerwide Committee: Update
- i. M. Munoz-Sagastibelza brought the resolutions to the Centerwide Committee. M. Munoz-Sagastibelza and T. Morello will ask Downstate’s Faculty Senators to submit the resolutions to the Faculty Senate Assembly for consideration by all SUNY Faculty Senators.
- i. Completed budget meeting for Medical Council and University Council (3/7/18)
- i. UC will pre-release a little over \$15,000 dollars to 41 student groups on campus at the start of the next fiscal year.
 1. All events that are funded by UC must be advertised to and open to all students.

- ii. There are schools and organizations that are funded only by UC. M. Garcia will speak with A. Brugman and A. Urquhart about the logistics of a budget proposal session for non-MC affiliated clubs to present to UC for partial funding of their events.
- j. Meeting with Director of Marketing and Communications (Ms. Dawn Skeete-Walker)
 - i. A. Amarnani shared that Ms. Skeete-Walker is putting together a comprehensive rebranding plan for Downstate. A. Amarnani discussed the mascot change and subway sign for Downstate. Ms. Skeete-Walker is interested in featuring students in the President's Bulletin/the weekly newsletter; A. Amarnani shared the Humans of Downstate Facebook page with her.
 - ii. T. Morello also met with J. Deshong and Government Relations is also on-board with these ideas about the mascot and subway sign.
- k. Library: Hours extension past 5PM on Fridays
 - i. Both UC and Med Council are in continued discussion with Academic Affairs to try to coordinate this - it's been more difficult than expected. A. Amarnani mentioned this to T.J., our liaison with the President's Office, who will discuss this with Dr. Guinn.
- I. Update from Simulation Center Committee
 - i. Welcome Nicholas Harris
 - 1. The last meeting of the Committee was on February 27th, and has representation from COM, SPH, CON, and CHRP. The Committee is trying to increase their numbers.
 - 2. N. Harris asked that students should let UC or members of the Simulation Center Committee know if they have proposals for new ideas or programs the Committee should explore.
 - ii. M. Garcia shared that they have a tour scheduled of the new building on April 11th from 6-8PM. The tour is open for all elected student representatives from the Councils, and all members of the Simulation Center Committee.
 - iii. A. Amarnani will work with A. Urquhart and A. White to send an email to all invitees.
- m. Multicultural Fair (April 18th, 5:30-8PM)
 - i. 17 people responded to the survey indicating their interest in selecting food and 2 said no to distributing food.
 - ii. Maximum funding will be \$200 per group, with a \$2500 budget. UC will allot \$500 for beverages, decorations, and cutlery, and use \$2000 for food.
 - 1. Groups include DHWS, Maimonides, CAMS, APAMSA, MSA, Haitian Creole Club, and SALUD, and 5 others who did not identify with clubs on campus. CAMS/APAMSA asked about combining their group or serving separately.

2. A. Amarnani has not yet emailed individuals who did not identify with a club.
 3. A. Burgman and A. Urquhart also have posters from last year's Fair that can be reused.
- iii. SCGB/Khushal Shah are helping with Multicultural Fair as well.
1. At their last meeting, they allocated \$750 to help support the food.
 2. K. Shah will also put together a playlist for the event.
 3. Activity suggestions (taken from the survey results):
 - a. Menu of food being provided and a description of the significance, if any
 - b. Map: "pin the country you culturally identify with"
 - c. Music or other performances

3. New Business


- a. Budget Requests
 - i. No budget requests this month.
- b. Senior gifts!
 - i. A. Desai, M. Tappitake, S. Ngan, and L. Demaria are graduating!
- c. Strategic Planning Process
 - i. A. Amarnani shared the feedback form for each Council to complete by mid-June. The Councils should show that they have made efforts to contact the student body and fully address concerns, issues, and questions that are representative of the entire student body.
 - ii. A. Amarnani met with members of the Executive Committee and the Office of Policy and Planning.
 1. Students will participate in the working groups and are also allowed to participate in the Steering Committee.
- d. PT White Coat Ceremony costs
 - i. A. Amarnani shared that he has brought up the issue of White Coat Ceremony costs being placed on students with T.J., UC's liaison in the President's Office. UC supports the idea of all schools finding funding sources to offset the costs of the White Coat Ceremony, so that students are not unfairly burdened.
- e. University Council Nominations
 - i. Deadline is March 27th. UC needs representation from all schools.
 - ii. Voting will take place online from April 9-11, from 9AM on Monday to 3PM on Wednesday.
 - iii. Based on UC's new bylaws, the ballot in April should include President-Elect with M. Garcia's name.
- f. Upcoming SUNY Council Meeting
 - i. Scheduled for March 29th from 11:30AM-1PM in the President's Board Room. A. Hasenzahl will attend. M. Tappitake offered to help present a discussion of what A. Hasenzahl planned to present in terms of who UC is, our function, and our relationship with different administrative bodies.

- g. Final April Meeting Date (April 19)
 - i. Executive Board will be selected at this meeting.
- h. Final May Meeting Date (May 10)
- i. Annual Service Learning Poster Competition (April 10, 12-1PM)
 - i. The submission date is April 2nd.
 - ii. A. Amarnani and A. Desai (tentatively) will attend.

4. Adjournment

- a. A. Amarnani adjourned the meeting at 7:25PM.

Minutes officially submitted by:



Kristen Lu, University Council Secretary