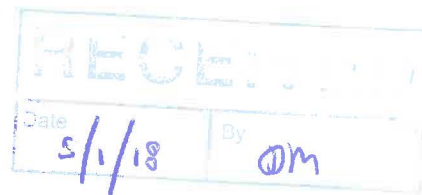


University Council 2017-2018

April 19, 2018

06:00PM

Student Center Reading Room



Members in Attendance: Michelle Garcia, Kristen Lu, Ankuri Desai, Andrew Hasenzahl, Tim Morello, Andrew White, Amy Urquhart

Members not in Attendance: Abhi Amarnani, Shelley Jain (proxy: Kristen Lu), Zaki Azam (proxy: Michelle Garcia), Maria Munoz-Sagastibelza (proxy: Kristen Lu), Stephanie Ngan, Maggie Tappitake, Julia Hess

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- a. M. Garcia called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

2. Old Business

a. Monthly Update from Student Councils

- i. GSC
- ii. CHRP
- iii. CON
- iv. COM
- v. SPH
- vi. SCGB
- vii. Residence Hall Council

1. A. Desai reported that the new Residence Hall Council was elected. Free laundry will be implemented by the end of the month.

b. Multicultural Fair (April 18, 2018)

- i. A. Hasenzahl, A. Desai, and M. Garcia attended on behalf of UC. There were 10 tables. It was a success!

c. Service Learning Poster Competition (April 10, 2018)

- i. A. Desai attended on behalf of UC. There was one group project and multiple individual projects. A. Desai polled UC about divvying up other tier group project prizes for individual projects - UC voted unanimously to support this.

d. Strategic Plan process

- i. A. Amarnani has not yet sent update emails to each Council President to obtain information about their plan for getting input from all students (Survey, Town Hall, etc.). A. Amarnani has not received information about a formal timeline or an announcement from the President's Office.
- ii. Dean Putman's comments on Strategic Plan process

1. Dean Putman is not directly involved in the current Strategic Plan process. In 2016, Middle States accreditors specifically requested a Strategic Plan.
 - a. The current Strategic Plan has six committees - all committees will have students on them, and a coordinating committee will assemble all the information from each committee into one plan.
 - b. Interdisciplinary collaboration between the different colleges is very important for this current Strategic Plan.
 - c. President Riley wants to get "new people" who have not been involved in committees previously to get involved in this process.
- e. Simulation Center Update (A. White)
 - i. The Simulation Center Committee and student representatives from the Councils were invited for a tour on April 11th.
 1. The New Academic Building, including the Simulation Center, may open in phases - it is unclear when the Simulation Center will be ready to open.
 - a. It seems like there will be an "open house" / ribbon-cutting ceremony in July.
 2. Next Committee meeting will be at the beginning of May.
 3. A Committee member is working on surveying Downstate students to learn how to improve simulation for everyone. Another member is attempting to improve simulation experiences for third- and fourth-year medical students.
 4. T. Morello asked if we could rent our Simulation Center out to other programs as a potential revenue source.

3. New Business

- a. Budget Requests
 - i. Women in Science and Engineering at Downstate (WISED) - New group recently established by SGS students, requesting money for a career development panel.
 1. After brief discussion, the following motion was made by A. Hasenzahl and seconded by K. Lu.
 - a. Motion: To approve their budget request for \$250. **Motion passes unanimously.**
 - b. \$250 was approved from Programs and Projects Account 40-70173-016-30001 to WISED Account 40-70364-016-300001.
- b. SUNY SA Resolutions Update from SUNY SA Conference (April 6, 2018) (M. Munoz-Sagastibelza)
 - i. Resolutions discussed

1. **International Student Housing and Services Resolution**, which requests an expansion of housing services at Community Colleges and would provide more aid to international students in finding off-campus housing, if needed.
2. **A Further Endorsement of the Deregulation and Legalization of Cannabis** - This resolution did not pass.
3. **Equal Access to Library Information Services for all SUNY Students and Establishment of Central SUNY eJournal and Database Access System** (one of our resolutions). The Executive Committee will form a study group to see how we can improve the Interlibrary loan system and add supplemental material to the journals that students request.
4. **SUNY Flag Policy** - This one passed with some opposition. It was decided that each SUNY Campus has to apply their own rules for the flag policy. It can't be a SUNY system law because then everybody will have the right to put any flag on campus.
5. **Application Fee Waiver for Veterans**, to implement an application fee waiver for all veterans wishing to enroll in a SUNY institution.
6. **Funding for Training of Students in Research** (one of our resolutions). Unfortunately, it was not voted on because many people had concerns about how "easy" it will be to convince the Research Foundation to allocate money for this project. But current SA President M. Cohen created a task force to work with different students and members to try to figure out how we can move some money from RF to these programs.
 - a. M. Munoz-Sagastibelza was appointed the Chair for this task force.
7. **Opposition to the Proposed Increase in Fieldwork Hours for Pre-Service Teachers** - requests that the Regents and State Education Department maintain their recommendations for new scaffolding of clinical experiences without increasing the number of hours for P-12 educators to 200 hours. This resolution passed with some people against.
8. **Gun Reform Support and Proactive Screening of Donations** - involves the demand for stricter gun laws in New York and across the United States, the banning of assault rifles from the public market, denouncing NY politicians who have accepted donations from the NRA and/or voted against background checks and gun reform laws, supporting politicians who are transparent in their endorsements and proactive in screening donations against affiliations with the NRA. This resolution was not voted on.

9. **Criminal Justice Reform** - to enact the equitable expansion of eligibility for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to incarcerated individuals, and the divestment of the New York State Common Retirement Fund from the for-profit prison industry.
- ii. M. Munoz-Sagastibelza also reported that the SUNY SA held elections and that she discussed a number of issues with the SA President-Elect.
 1. She discussed changing the name of Downstate to SUNY Brooklyn. SA President-Elect M. Braun said he would support this if it is brought to the Board of Trustees meeting by President Riley, with whom we still have to discuss this change.
 2. She also mentioned the hospital funding cuts. SA Chief of Staff A. Ostro mentioned that the State negotiated and it is expected to be offset by \$90 million federal appropriation for FY 18-19 in federal omnibus. But this program comes with some requirements such as implementing mandatory programs in the hospital so negotiations are still ongoing.
- c. Visit from Dean Putman
 - i. Friday library hours
 1. Attempts have been made to keep the library open for 24 hours, but the usage did not seem to markedly increase. It is a bit too costly to keep it open every week - but Dean Putman mentioned the library administration is willing to try again in the future. Dean Putman mentioned that one particular instance of extending hours was during exam week, rather than during the study periods before exams, so that could be amended in the future.
 2. The library administration is now under Dr. Imperato's purview.
 - ii. Progress on Transportation to Field Experiences
 1. Dean Putman reported that the administration has not found a company that allows for some sort of discounted rides for students.
 2. Dean Putman mentioned that the administration is in the process of reducing clinical experience at the Staten Island site, and is trying to move more clinical experience at Maimonides.
 - iii. Transcript cost services
 1. Any student getting licensed usually orders multiple transcripts to be delivered to various sites - on average, it can be upwards of 15 transcripts. Right now, each transcript costs \$5.
 2. Dean Putman mentioned other schools have a policy of a "transcript collection fee" that is \$5 per semester (fall and spring only, covered by Financial Aid) that gives students up to 50 transcripts per year for 5 years after graduation and then 25 transcripts per year after that.

- a. Considerations need to be made to accommodate MD/PhD and PhD students who may be at Downstate for > 4 years.
- 3. SUNY is considering switching to an electronic transcript service, which could be offered with no additional cost in conjunction with the fee. This would apply to students from 2009 onwards.
- 4. UC voiced their support for the transcript collection fee.
- iv. No increases in tech and health fees for next year
 - 1. UC was asked by Dean Putman to vote electronically, and the vote unanimously supported no increase in tech and health fees for next year.
 - 2. Students were also asked to vote on whether the activities fee should be increased for next year - the activities fee will not be increasing for next year.
- d. Ballot for 2018-2019 year
 - i. Congratulations new UC members!
- e. May Meeting
 - i. The meeting will be May 10, 2018, in which we will hold elections.
- f. Student profiles in the President's Bulletin will begin
 - i. The President's Office has begun running faculty highlights weekly, but has not been able to get student highlights/nominations from faculty
 - ii. They will include 2 upcoming features of students (1 SPH and 2 COM students) in the coming weeks.
 - iii. The following submission form has been created:
<https://goo.gl/forms/gLamTayEsMIQg1nB2>.
 - iv. UC will filter submissions and submit them to T. Rashid in the President's Office.
- g. UC Suggestion Box
 - i. No new entries.

4. Adjournment

- a. M. Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Minutes officially submitted by:


Kristen Lu, University Council Secretary