

University Council Meeting 2020-2021

Thursday, February 18th, 2021

6:00 PM

Zoom

Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

Name	Email
Timothy Morello	timothy.morello@downstate.edu
Oladunni Ogundipe	oladunni.ogundipe@downstate.edu
Evelin Hernandez	evelin.hernandez@downstate.edu
Victoria Ayvazian (proxy: Timothy Morello)	victoria.ayvazian@downstate.edu
Justin Ingram (proxy: Isaac Vingan)	justin.ingram@downstate.edu
Isaac Vingan	isaac.vingan@downstate.edu
Robert Beale	robert.beale@downstate.edu
Clarisse Quirit	clarisse.quirit@downstate.edu
Alecia James	alecia.james@downstate.edu
Lauren Vicente	lauren.vicente@downstate.edu
Natasha Masub	natasha.masub@downstate.edu

Voting Members not in Attendance:

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Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Adam Burgman	adam.burgman@downstate.edu
Sejal Shah	sejal.shah@downstate.edu
Adriana Kavoussi	adriana.kavoussi@downstate.edu
Alexis Roth	alexis.roth@downstate.edu
Andrew Hasenzahl	andrew.hasenzahl@downstate.edu
Jonathan Leong	jonathan.leong@downstate.edu
Jeffrey Putman	jeffrey.putman@downstate.edu

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- a. T. Morello called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Budget Requests

- a. None

3. New Business

- a. MC 2024 - 1st years feel there is a disconnect between the students within their year and the years above them due to the limited in-person interaction. They are hoping for more in-person interactions for unit 5. Virtual social events have been challenging. Looking for more support and peer mentoring from upperclassmen. There is frustration due to bigger issues not being resolved like not being able to relax due to Spring break being removed. There is currently a higher burnout rate among the students and they are worried about their mental health.
- b. New SUNY SA Representative: Ahmed Aboseria
- c. SAF Fall Refund - T. Morello proposes a refund of 80% of the Fall amount.
 - i. **Oladunni Ogundipe** motioned to refund 80% of SAF Fall amount
 - ii. Seconded by **Isaac Vingan**
 - iii. **Motion passes unanimously to transfer 80% of SAF Fall amount to the student body.**
- d. Spring Fling
 - i. Funds returned to UC by SCGB
 - ii. Reducing UC contribution - Spring Fling mostly attended by medical students and SOHP students. Considering reducing the amount of funds UC contributes to Spring Fling by \$2000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and future budgets. Amount can be picked up by other councils or covered with an increase in ticket price (hike of about \$5 per ticket). Another option for the future is using a sliding scale on a year-to-year basis. For example % medical students attended last year (e.g. 75%) * total cost (32k) = portion that Medical Council contributes for the upcoming Spring Fling.
 - iii. **Timothy Morello** motioned to reduce contribution to Spring Fling by \$2000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and future budgets.
 - iv. Seconded by **Oladunni Ogundipe**
 - v. **Motion passes unanimously to reduce UC contribution to Spring Fling by \$2000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and future budgets.**
- e. Graduation - SUNY Downstate has a contract with Carnegie Hall. If we use Carnegie Hall all graduates could attend with no guests. Carnegie Hall, however, is currently closed and Downstate is trying to work around the contract before considering alternatives. Albany (System Administration) has required that we plan for a virtual graduation but that does not mean it will be virtual. (backup plan needs to be established). Currently not considering a special hooder for College of Medicine. Discussing with SUNY Upstate regarding their plan. Some schools are doing smaller ceremonies. Downstate is hoping to announce something soon. To voice our concerns we can reach out to the Students' Voices Action

Committee, specifically Kingsley and Dr. Graham or the Student Assembly. UC to draft a letter to the Chancellor to advocate for the importance of an in-person commencement by Monday February 22nd. The letter will also be sent to the five Deans and Dr. Riley.

4. Old Business


- a. Downstate advertising (I. Vingan) - I. Vingan and T. Morello met with James Gerontzos to discuss ideas to expand advertisement of the Downstate schools from changing subway stations to having flagpole banners. I. Vingan to reach out to Dr. Putman to discuss further and make some progress.
- b. SUNY Wide Concert - currently forming a committee. Everything else is TBD.
- c. SCGB/Student Center Updates - Opening back up on March 2nd for two days a week. Link was sent out with a signup sheet for one hours slots. New equipment is on the way.
- d. Updates
 - i. SGS - research day is coming up and students are back to productivity levels pre-COVID.
 - ii. COM - 1st years are having a tough time and are feeling disconnected. 3rd years are preparing for their senior schedules. 4th years are doing ok considering everything that is going on.
 - iii. SOHP - schools are doing their rotations. SOHP meeting will be next week and will focus on the graduation gift. SOHP is looking to collaborate with the Dine Nutrition Empowerment club for a green initiative.
 - iv. Nursing - T. Ayvazian not present.
 - v. Public Health - no major changes. Upcoming social event.

5. Adjournment

- a. **T. Morello** motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by **I Vingan**. Meeting ended at 7:42pm.

Minutes Officially submitted by:

Evelin Hernandez, University Council Secretary



Electronically Signed by Evelin Hernandez