

University Council Meeting 2023 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda 9/21/2023

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Student Center Reading Room

Members:

Member	School	In Attendance (Y/N)	Proxy (if Absent)
Tim Morello	COM 2024	Y	
Freddie Birnbaum	COM 2024	Y	
Tobi Somorin	COM 2025	Y	
Isaac Vingan	SGS	Y	
Amayra Choudhury	Nursing	Y	
Paul Fried	COM 2024	N	Shiva
Thomas Sanford	COM 2026	Y	
Kelsha Sanchez	COM 2026	Y	
Shivasuryan Vummidi	COM 2026	Y	
Lindsay Blank	COM 2026	N	Freddie
Sonja Joshi	SOHP	Y	
Janille Williams	SPH	Y (early departure)	Tobi
Kunika Chahal	COM 2026/College Council	Y	

Non-Voting member in attendance: Adam Burgman, Dr. Putman, Daniel Green, William Cao, Andrew Liu, Raphael Kirou, Hector Gonzalez, Carmen Yu.

1. **Call to Order at 6:08pm by Isaac**
2. **SUNY SA**
 - a. Quick discussion on what SUNY SA is
 - b. SUNY SA applicants present
 - i. Andrew Liu (2nd year PT)
 - ii. Will Cao (MS2)
 - iii. Dan Green (MS1)
 - iv. Two applicants could not be present

- c. SUNY SA Vote
 - i. Adrew Liu
 - ii. William Cao
 - iii. **Dan Green → wins!**
 - iv. Malaika Dewes
 - v. Emmaly Guitierrez

3. Budget Request

- a. **IMIG Club**
 - i. Requesting \$250 for food, pizza and beverages for the upcoming general interest meeting on October 4th 2023. Deferred to Med Council.
 - ii. **Request withdrawn. → Shiva emails.**
- b. **ENT Club- no show**
 - i. Inappropriate- Further guidance will be sent to clubs.
- c. **(Anesthesia Society also submitted a budget request sheet)- no show**
 - i. Inappropriate- Further guidance will be sent to clubs.

4. Old business

- a. Student Health Insurance Renewal
 - i. Downstate **faculty** leadership can't tell students to apply for Medicaid.
 - ii. Send an informative email in October to ensure students have time to apply for medicaid before the insurance switch period (December).
 - iii. Draft of email in hand by next meeting: (Shiva, Sonja, Tobi, Kunika can help draft)
- b. Block party
 - i. Big success. Over 405 people attended. The event company was over 90 mins late and are offering a discount on the event in October to compensate.
- c. Student Activity Fair
 - i. Yielded an increase in followers - 80 new followers!
 - ii. Over 100 suggestions from students. These are being compiled and sent out to appropriate councils
- d. Student Center Advisory Council updates
 - i. Over 90 ideas were presented and consolidated into a list of about 30. These now need to be prioritized in terms of "must have", "want to have" and "don't need". Isaac will forward this list to UC for input.
- e. Brooklyn Museum - Africa Fashion Updates
 - i. Moving forward with this project
 - ii. Tentative date: Oct 14. Split between UC and SCGB

5. New Business

- a. Farewell to the former Nursing Council Representative
- b. Activity Fair
 - i. **Programs and project money for x purpose - \$433.08 towards the activity fair thus far, more to come next meeting. → revised to \$505.63 after Adam gave Shiva more forms**
- c. Council Leadership Mixer → postponed until after new nursing council is elected, excused by Adam
- d. Room reservations - There is a common issue of lack of study space. Isaac will send an email outlining these concerns that would be sent to Dean Putman to be passed on to the Deans of the different colleges.
 - i. How can we help streamline the process?
 1. All reservable classrooms are listed online. Library study rooms can be requested at the front desk.
 2. Some rooms currently have screens outside of them that show whether they are reserved and these rooms may also be reserved through Outlook.
 - ii. Are schedules available through classroom services?
 1. Schedules are posted outside the classrooms in PHAB.
 2. Dean Putman says that they are working to get exam schedules posted for the carrels
 - iii. Are there restrictions on which rooms students can reserve?
 1. Conference rooms in PHAB are not accessible by students. *How can we make these available?*
 2. *8th floor classrooms could be converted into study spaces?*
- e. Suggestion box idea for more free coffee and food
 - i. Tabling idea- this space needs to be reserved in advance
 1. Set up a table once every month in the Lenox entrance to interact with students. This addresses the points below:
 - a. we want to get UC name out there more
 - b. what if we set up a table in one entrance, 2 UC reps sit there for an hour or so, we have free coffee and snacks
 2. Isaac will send out a when to meet to determine UC member availability to staff this table. .
- f. New account and budget for Multicultural/Diversity Programing
 - i. Establishing a strong relationship with Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster (Associate Dean for Diversity Education and Research)
 1. UC can guide clubs to her office
 - ii. **Motion to create a new credit line- Passed unanimously**

- iii. Motion to take \$5000 from programs and projects and put it into this new credit line - Passed unanimously
- g. Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation process
 - i. Dr. Putman has asked us to appoint 4 students before the end of the month.
 - 1. Student roll: Full member of the committee, each task force reviews and makes sure that Downstate is complying with Middle States Commission standards.
 - 2. Members UC is appointing: Shiva, Kunika, Tobi, Kelsha
 - ii. Does not have to be council members, but should represent across multiple programs
 - iii. Other councils will also be appointing 2 members except med council which will appoint 4 members

6. Council Wide Initiatives

- a. Food Pantry
 - i. At least \$700 donation from SUNY- pledged
- b. Coffee station
 - i. Currently tabled
- c. Student Health
 - i. Student health services - Lindsay update- will be revisited next meeting
 - ii. Email was sent out to the Student Health Coordinator and she replied promptly. She emphasized staffing issues and a willingness to collaborate. She is asking for our next meeting date. We will continue this dialogue.
 - iii. Issue raised- a referral from student health was not accepted at University Hospital cardiology department. This department wants referrals in Health Bridge and the Student Center does referrals on paper. Dean Putman will look into this.
- d. Expanding awareness
 - i. Moving forward with tabling idea

7. Suggestion box

- a. Suggestion box suggestions from Activities fair
 - i. Five main categories
 - 1. Student center
 - 2. Food and drink
 - 3. Facilities Improvements
 - 4. Activities
 - 5. Academic Improvements

- b. Sanitary product disposal in ALL bathrooms
 - i. Isaac will email Adam for additional guidance on who to reach out to within FM&D in regards to placement and maintenance of these receptacles
- c. Emergency exit to the grove, open access
 - i. better knowledge that the other outdoor seating is open access

8. Program Updates

- a. **Reps, you should be attending the council meetings for your program**
- b. SGS:
 - i. Search committee has been formed, student is on the board but its secret
 - ii. Will be accepting MS2s into MD/PhD. They are no longer accepting direct admits. Interested applicants will apply during the second year. In this new model, there is no stipend or medical school tuition for the first two years of medical school.
- c. SPH:
 - i. First meeting occurs next week Friday.
 - ii. Recent networking event for students.
 - iii. Concerns with non- SHP students using the study spaces and classrooms in the PHAB. Reports of negative interactions between faculty and students disputing the use of the space. There have been issues with cleanliness of the spaces as well with food scraps and spills being left behind. As a result, they are reaching out to the Dean about gaining exclusive spaces for public health students.
 - iv. Dr. Rivera was contacted because MD/MPH students are not in the SPH listserv. Temporary solution is to develop a list of students in this category.
- d. SOHP:
 - i. September 9th community health fair went well. Great turn out
 - ii. OT students had a backpack awareness day yesterday
 - iii. Welcome breakfast for SOHP on the 26th
 - iv. Reestablishment of class representatives on SOPH council. They have not had representatives since COVID
- e. CON:
 - i. Spending situation from the summer was resolved
 - ii. Rollover funds were settled
- f. COM:
 - i. Working to find new vendors that are Halal to improve Halal options for students. Adam is currently speaking with a potential vendor.
 - ii. Concerns about contamination of the kosher table during the Block party. Suggestions for increased signage and guidance of students.
 - iii. 4th years are applying to residency

- g. SUNY SA:
 - i. Leadership meeting was canceled
 - ii. Nov 17th - 19th date of SUNY SA Conference meeting (Syracuse)
- h. College Council:
 - i. ATC conference coming up

Adjournment at 8:47pm Tobi seconded



Kelsha Sanchez
UC Secretary



Please check one box:

University Council Funding ONLY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Med Council Funding ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
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ORGANIZATION NAME: INTERNAL MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP (IMIG)

PRESIDENT: ARIEL GIDON

VICE PRESIDENT: RAPHAEL A. KIROU

BOX #: _____ TELEPHONE: (516) 423-1081
 PROMI

TREASURER: TASMIA

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
IMIG General Interest Meeting (10/04/2023): Panel of Attending and Resident Physicians will discuss their experience in Internal Medicine to interested students	Pizza and beverages for attendees: \$250.00 (Amount granted for same event last year)	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00

USE THE BACK OF THIS FORM IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND CLEARLY. ILLEGIBLE REQUESTS WILL BE REJECTED.

