

University Council Meeting 2023 – Meeting Minutes
Agenda 10/18/2023 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Student Center Reading Room

Members:

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

Non-Voting member in attendance:

Dr. Pervil-Ulyssee, Adam, Schyler, Kareema Carter (Employee Health Services), Diva Verma

- 1. Call to Order at 6:09pm by Isaac**
- 2. Welcome Carla Boutin Foster (~6:00 PM)- Unable to attend)**
 - a. establish an ongoing collaboration following the creation of the multicultural/diversity Programming Account- postponed till next meeting
- 3. Welcome Dr. Pervil-Ulyssee (~6:30 PM)**
 - a. continue talks of how we can help improve student experience at student health. Updates from Dr. Pervil-Ulyssee:
 - i. Kareema Carter assumed her position at student employee health services in April and has been working hard- including long hours

- ii. Staffing shortages including recent retirement of student health coordinator, shift of NP to the hospital during on boarding. Two new staff assistants were hired to assist with shortages. Reports:
- iii. All new students for fall 2023 were on boarded in a timely manner
- iv. Some of the prior students may not have gotten clearance as priority was the on-boarding of new students.
- v. Recent survey showed 88% satisfaction with wait time after changes to reduce wait time
- vi. Acknowledges current issue that walk-ins may delay students with appointments
- vii. The Quantiferon machine breaks down periodically which delays results.
- viii. Current pilot study to reduce the time for student health clearance by attempting to send out packages earlier and update the MEDICAT system which currently requires each record to be reviewed manually. The goal is to have charts authenticated so that they can be viewed from the student side. This system when fully up and running will automatically notify students of upcoming expiration of clearance items. The NP is currently the only person doing this authentication. There is consideration to hire another person specifically for this.
- ix. More frequent meetings of the Student Health staff with the Academic Deans of the colleges have been in effect.
- x. Acknowledged that communication was poor and they have worked to improve this to ensure student emails are addressed in a timely manner
- xi. Peak clearance time- April- June, August- September
- xii. CON has 'Typhon' system that alerts students 6 weeks prior to the expiration of a clearance item. Yet, these students tend to wait until 2 weeks before the expiration. We want to encourage students to come as early as possible.
- xiii. Students often request clearance only a couple of days before rotations and this causes a delay of other students as these urgent cases delay other students.
- xiv. Question from SPH representative about whether MPH students need clearance. Currently only required for in-person students. Given the non-clinical nature of their program, the health clearance form for this college has been reduced to a two page document. SPH and their adviser will meet with the team separately to come to a resolution.
 - 1. Student health will work on authenticating all UC Eboard members so that we can see what the full system should look like from our end.
- xv. Actions for UC
 - 1. Email from UC to all students encouraging them to get clearance early and during the low traffic times like now. Inform students that they may not see anything on MEDICAT if their file has not yet been authenticated.
 - 2. Email Dr. Ulyssee the list of all UC e-board members

3. Email to Dr. Putman and Dean Christophoro about reaching out to Unit directors to tell students which upcoming units require clearance- to aid urgency.
4. **Budget Request (~7:00 PM)**

Presented by Adam:

- a. **American Medical Women's Association - \$125, account needs to be created or reactivated**
 - i. For a dinner that they are putting on. Hoping to cater to 60-75 students. They will be inviting alumni and surgical staff to mentor and speak with students. They are working together with AWS for this event. This event is open to any student on this campus who identifies as a woman. Each club is requesting additional \$500 from the alumni office.
 - b. **Association of Women Surgeons - \$125, account needs to be created or reactivated**
- Motion to grant both groups \$125 - passed unanimously. Lindsay Abstained**

5. Old business

- a. Room reservations -
 - i. Isaac is following up with Dr. Putman on this
 - ii. Janille is still speaking with the SOPH dean regarding study spaces solely for SOPH students. They are also discussing placing desktop computers in the PHAB building.
- b. Suggestion box idea for more free coffee and food
 - i. Isaac will send out a when to meet to gage board member availability
 - ii. We will avoid Mondays until after the SOPH fundraiser
- c. New account and budget for Multicultural/Diversity Programing
 - i. Dr. Boutin Foster was unable to be here today but looks forward to meeting with us.
- d. Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation process
 - i. Members UC is appointing: Shiva, Kunika, Tobi, Kelsha
 1. No additional guidance was provided since the last meeting

6. New Business

- a. Welcome Dan Green
- b. Council Leadership Mixer - postponed to
 - i. Last week November/1st week December
- c. Free Narcan and First Aid/BLS training?
 - i. Through the Mini-Course program
 1. This will be discussed further with Schyler

- d. Community Fridge (**not** student pantry)
 - i. Spoke with Alishia Goodridge and she said that this is not feasible. It's a liability issue- consider a case where a student gets sick from eating the food in the fridge.
- e. Following up on the flooding and lack of communication
 - i. Medicine notification to forgive absences was sent over an hour into classes
 - ii. Several students were trapped on campus
 - iii. Students took expensive Ubers to get to campus only to be told that absences to classes would be forgiven.
 - iv. SPH still has not been emailed about the handling of absences for that day possibly since they have no classes on Friday
 - v. This matter needs to be taken to each of the councils to be discussed with the individual deans in preparation for future occurrences.

7. Council Wide Initiatives

- a. Food Pantry
 - i. Dine got a food handler permit
 - 1. Will reach out to them about putting food they grow into the pantry fridge
- b. Coffee station
 - i. waiting to hear back about if something similar will be in the new cafeteria
- c. Student Health- discussed above
- d. Expanding awareness
 - i. social media- UC.downstate
 - 1. Consider having a dropbox that students can use to submit pictures from events
 - ii. Reminder to fill out the bio for the UC page
 - 1. Send Isaac any suggestions you may have for what you want the updated UC page to look like
 - iii. Consider running a workshop to help students curate what they post online.
 - 1. How can we support students who have had their information leaked online in response to their political opinions? How can we support students who are afraid of being persecuted for their opinions?
 - 2. In light of rising tensions related to the turmoil here and in other countries.

8. Suggestion box

- a. Sanitary product disposal in ALL bathrooms

- i. waiting to hear a further update from JB
 - ii. If you know of bathrooms that don't have sanitary disposals, reach out to Adam with the building, floor and room number.
- b. Emergency exit to the grove, open access
 - i. better knowledge that the other outdoor seating is open access
 - ii. Isaac spoke with university police deputy chief and he said he said it is listed as an emergency exit and it is out of his scope to convert this to open access
 - 1. Moving on to speaking with Fire and Safety

9. Program Updates

- a. **Reps, you should be attending the council meetings for your program**
- b. SGS: Research Slam symposium last week. MDPHD program is meeting with the Dean tomorrow to discuss the change in the acceptance to this program.
- c. SPH: Coffee break with students and Dean where they were able to bring up concerns including the need for increased statistical analysis training. Classroom 2E the mic does not work so students online are unable to hear the lectures- AV is aware of this. Adam will follow up with them.
- d. SOHP: No Update
- e. CON: Disconnect between faculty and students. There is miscommunication. Lack of communication- this will be addressed during the next Nursing Council Meeting. Recent switch over to a new board. All dates are set for white coat ceremonies and other ceremonies. The council has resolved the funding for these events with the nursing program to ensure that there is an agreed upon budget.
- f. COM: ERAS is submitted for forth years. Question about student accommodations and how these students are unable to get feedback on in house NBME questions. More discussion about helping students cope with the chaotic changes in the world like the 'day of rage'. They are discussing counseling options. Discussion about remote learning options for Med students but they have said that the logistics is still a barrier at this time.
SUNY SA: No updates
- g. College Council: No updates

Adjournment at 8:18pm Tobi seconded



Kelsha Sanchez- University Council Secretary