

University Council Meeting 2023 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda 11/16/2023

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	N	Isaac Vingan
Freddie Birnbaum	COM 2024	Y	
Tobi Somorin	COM 2025	Y	
Isaac Vingan	SGS	Y	
Jake Britton	Nursing	N	Sonja Joshi
Paul Fried	COM 2024	N	
Thomas Sanford	COM 2026 / SUNY SA	Y	
Kelsha Sanchez	COM 2026	Y	
Shivasuryan Vummidi	COM 2026	Y	
Lindsay Blank	COM 2026	N	Freddie Burnbaum
Sonja Joshi	SOHP	Y	
Janille Williams	SPH	Y	
Daniel Green	COM 27 / SUNY SA Rep	Y	
Kunika Chahal	COM 2026/College Council	N	Thomas Sanford

Non-Voting member in attendance:

Adam, Schyler, Dr. Putman

1. Call to Order at 6:15pm by Isaac

2. Budget Request

- a. DOSA- DOSA has gone over budget and ~\$57 was taken from projects and funding to cover their last event. More funding may be requested.
- b. Diwali event co-sponsor (\$500)- this event is taking place on Monday Nov 20th.
 - i. Still waiting on invoices from the vendor
- c. \$2000 for Halloween Event

- i. Motion to transfer \$2000 to Student Center Governing Board → seconded by Isaac. Passed unanimously.
Transfer to SCGB - **40-41006-015-30001- SPECIAL EVENTS (SPE)**
 - d. \$500 for sex in medicine week
 - i. Motion to give \$500 from programs and projects for sex in medicine week. seconded by Daniel. Passed unanimously.
 - e. \$200 requested from SCDID (Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses at Downstate)- Requesting new club funding. This club is meant to increase inclusion of individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses. They have already requested \$200 from Med Council.
 - i. Motion to give Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses at Downstate \$200. Seconded by Isaac. Passed unanimously.
Create an account for this group.

3. Old business

- a. Meeting with Dr. Pervil and Company
 - i. Email from UC to all students pending
 - ii. All students on UC are authenticated in the system now
 - iii. Email to Dr. Putman and Dean Christophoro pending
- b. Free coffee and food
 - i. Tentative date: 27th November - 1st December. Isaac and Freddie will take lead on this.
- c. New account and budget for Multicultural/Diversity Programing
 - i. How were the first programs funded by this account?
 - ii. Co-sponsoring Diwali event (\$500) from the account
- d. Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation process
 - i. No updates
- e. Council Mixer- Tentative date December 4th. More information to follow.
- f. Free Narcan and Discounted First Aid/BLS training?
 - i. Free narcan training is a possibility
 - ii. Will follow up with Schuyler about discounted First Aid/BLS training
 - 1. Training may be possible but not with discounts

4. New Business

- a. Prepaid metrocards for commuters
 - i. Dr. Putman will follow up before the next meeting.
- b. Potential issue for SUNY SA with request for research faculty funding from the state for SUNY Downstate
 - i. Isaac and Dr. Putman will elaborate
 - 1. Possibly addressing the issue of low numbers of Downstate research faculty at SUNY SA.

- c. Date for the Multi-Cultural Fair – April 4th
 - i. People fasting get their to-go box to take food/break their fast later

5. Council Wide Initiatives

- a. Food Pantry
 - i. Lots of donations made at yesterday's Thanksgiving event.
 - ii. 2 frozen turkey breasts available. Schyler will send out an email on Monday.
 - iii. Three more names are being drawn for \$10 Amazon gift cards
 - b. Coffee station- no updates
 - c. Student Health
 - d. Expanding awareness- Lindsey will provide updates at the next meeting
 - i. social media
 - ii. Bios
 - 1. Sent to adam
 - e. Spring Fling - April 1, 2023
 - i. More information will be released to the student body in December including the venue location. 300 tickets will be sold.
 - ii. Marriott by Brooklyn Bridge
6. Suggestion box
- a. Emergency exit to the grove, open access
 - i. Adam and Isaac will follow up with Fire and Safety

7. Program Updates

- a. **Reps, you should be attending the council meetings for your program**
- b. SGS:
 - i. MD/PHD program has named a new program director- Dr. Weiss
 - ii. MD/PHD students sat down with the dean of the graduate school expressing concern about recent changes and the discrepancy of the stipend. Result: Students received a pay bump for the last 2 years.
 - iii. Town hall meeting with the dean 2 weeks ago. The dean is committed to getting the time to degree down.
 - iv. The Graduate support office is bringing in new employees.
- c. SPH:
 - i. Two computers were requested. These were purchased and will be first placed on the fifth floor PHAB on a trial basis with intention to also place computers on the 4th floor. No plan set for the management of use.
 - ii. Regained use of the office space including a printer.

- iii. International students have mentioned difficulties with meeting daily costs and with limited access to jobs. Dr. Putman indicated that this issue is on his radar.
- iv. Students are seeking funding opportunities for conferences.
- v. Students have expressed that they want to do more research and would like more opportunities to be integrated into the Downstate community through opportunities like shadowing
- vi. Plan to end the year with a holiday party.
- d. SOHP:
 - i. White coat ceremony on Monday
 - ii. Lots of interest for CPR and narcan training was expressed.
- e. CON:
 - i. White coat ceremony was on Tuesday
 - ii. Shared governing body is almost filled with representatives
 - iii. Meeting next week and hoping to discuss a toy drive.
 - iv. Upcoming accelerated nursing program graduation date -Tues Dec 19th. Working with Schyler to finalize this event.
- f. COM:
 - i. 4th years are in interviews.
 - ii. Clinical students had issues with getting shuttles to Maimo to be consistent.
 - iii. Continuing issue of remote access to Health Bridge
 - iv. Climate control is still an issue in the carrels. Conversations are ongoing with FM&D
 - v. Ongoing discussion about having a variety of diet restrictions met at events.
- g. SUNY SA:
 - i. Meeting tomorrow!
 - ii. An email was sent to various councils to elicit concerns but no responses were gathered.
- h. College Council: No Updates

Adjournment at 7:22 pm Tobi seconded



Kelsha Sanchez

UC Secretary 2023-2024