

University Council Meeting 2023 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda 12/14/2023

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

Non-Voting member in attendance:

Schyler, Dr. Putman, Godstime Nwatu Ugwu,

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

2. Budget Request

- a. CAMS - requesting \$1000 for the Lunar New Year event in January (in conjunction with LMSA).
 - i. Motion to use \$1000 out of the multicultural account to co-sponsor this event. Passed unanimously.

- ii. Also requesting \$200 for food and transport of supplies/Nurse Betty Jung to the flu clinic.
 - 1. Motion to transfer \$200. Seconded by Tobi. Passed Unanimously.

2. Transfer \$200 from Programs & Projects → CAMS

- b. Maimonides Society - \$500 was approved to be sent from the multicultural account (previously approved)
- c. Thanksgiving Dinner --> \$2000 → Money has been transferred to SCGB
- d. Spring Fling --> \$4000 transferred to SCGB

3. Old business

- a. Free Narcan and Discounted First Aid/BLS training?
 - i. Free narcan training is a possibility
 - 1. Dr. Putman will follow-up. It is possible that University Police may have persons who are trainers.
 - ii. Schyler has found an instructor for First Aid/BLS training on campus
 - 1. We are unable to waive the AHA fee
 - 2. Schyler will get more information about this
 - 3. We may have this as a minicourse in the spring
- b. Prepaid metrocards for commuters
 - i. Nothing additional to report. Dr. Putman will continue to follow up.
- c. Fire entrance to the grove
 - i. The school will not budge. These entrances cannot be opened since they are not staffed.

4. New Business

- a. Bios have been updated
- b. Free coffee event
 - i. Huge success. Approximately 200 people came. We had to refill one of the coffee containers. Still waiting for the bill to determine how frequently we can do this.
- c. Step Passport photos and sign up
 - i. Consider having an event where appropriate passport photos are taken
 - ii. Consider creating an information packet that gives a step by step guide for how to digitally complete your application.
- d. Suggestions from the free coffee event
 - i. Feminine hygiene product disposals are still missing from the bathrooms in the anatomy lab. These are also missing from the 2nd floor library bathroom and the all gender bathrooms. Isaac will follow up with Adam.

- ii. Free feminine hygiene products
- iii. Improved temp regulation on campus
- iv. Free boba
 - 1. Unlikely to occur outside of club events
- v. Free printing
 - 1. Printing can not be free since the service carries a cost and needs to pay for itself.
 - 2. Consider the possibility of lowering the cost of printing
 - 3. Need for a review of the printing program.
- vi. Better chairs in upstairs library
- vii. Recycling and composting
 - 1. All of our trash is separated off site.
 - 2. We can ask DINE if they would possibly be interested in creating and managing a compost bin
- viii. Outdoor basketball court
 - 1. Possibly a consideration for the new student center
- ix. Better enforcement of quiet study area on the 2nd floor of the library
- x. CPT for international students
 - 1. Dr. Putman has spoken to SUNY and they are working on making this a reality.
- e. Updates from middle states accreditation
 - i. To be discussed at a specified future meeting.
- f. Updates from the new university student center committee?
 - i. Monthly there are hour-long meetings to finalize which facilities will go into this.
- g. Choose a new meeting date for January
 - i. Isaac will send out a when to meet.
- h. Surgeon General talk at Barclays Center
 - i. Tobi spoke with the surgeon general to discuss the initiative for implementing two mental health days per month for students. He loves the idea.
 - 1. Tobi mentioned the current barrier- the board of trustees has been unresponsive.
 - 2. The Surgeon General said that he would reach out to the board to support this initiative.
 - 3. Tobi has been in email communication with his office

5. Council Wide Initiatives

- a. Food Pantry- We received a donation of \$2500
- b. Coffee station/event- discussed in detail above
- c. Student Health

- d. Expanding awareness- coffee event (b)
 - e. Spring Fling - April 1, 2023
 - i. Total event cost will be reduced compared to using Brooklyn Museum
 - ii. Confirmed location: Brooklyn Marriott
6. Suggestion box
- a. Stop leaving bathroom doors open
 - i. This may be because of handicap access? Dr. Putman will inquire about this.

7. Program Updates

- a. **Reps, you should be attending the council meetings for your program**
- b. SGS: Students are currently defending their thesis. Many group meetings have been taking place including a faculty assembly last night. Faculty mixer took place yesterday.
- c. SPH: No update available
- d. SOHP: There have been complaints about the water pressure in the fill stations being very low. They have added a third filter which has led to this reduced pressure and they are working to resolve this.
- e. CON: No update available
- f. COM: COM 2024 Military match is taking place this week. Other early matches are also taking place. Move towards formally excusing students from rotations on match days. 2025 is having issues with clerkship grades and the appeals process. COM 2026 no ongoing issues or new issues. COM 2027 mentions that taking exams four days in a row is a challenge.
- g. **SUNY SA:**
 - i. Important notes:
 1. Thomas spoke to trustee Keith Landa about the imbalance in the allocation of funding to various campuses and he agreed to bring this up at the next trustee meeting. He also mentioned that SUNY is putting funding into open access materials for students which will make these textbooks free.
 2. SUNY closed a lot of programs at some campuses Ex. SUNY Albany lost the entire Africana & Latino studies program. Students had concerns that they were not well informed when their major was no longer going to be available.
 3. There was a lack of professionalism at this event: there were SUNY faculty presenters that exceeded their presentation event by over 90 mins resulting in the cancellation of student meetings. Very little was accomplished. Dan and Thomas have set a meeting to discuss the logistics of the conference and ways that it could be improved.

h. College Council: No Updates
Adjournment at 7:37 pm Tobi seconded.



Kelsha Sanchez
University Council Secretary