

University Council Meeting 2024 – Meeting Minutes

Agenda 5/09/2024

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 | |
| Jake Britton | Nursing | Y | |
| 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 | Shivasuryan Vummidi |
| Sonja Joshi | SOHP | N | Daniel Green |
| Janille Williams | SPH | Y | |
| Daniel Green | COM 27 / SUNY SA Rep | Y | |
| Kunika Chahal | COM 2026/College Council | N | Freddie Birnbaum |

Non-Voting member in attendance: Adam Burgman, Schyler Hooke, Jeffrey Putman, Justin Ingram, Kadeen Kladron, Mayouri Bhattacharjee, Dhruti Patel, Madhavi Jere, Joya Ahmad, Nour Elshabassy, Karina Munez

1. Call to Order at 6:15 PM seconded by
2. Welcome new members
 - a. Introductions
 - b. Adam's Address

- i. Expectations: attend meetings and participate. Communicate future absences **in advance**. Be an active member of the council including participating in events. "We want UC to be a powerful body on this campus."

c. Seniors

3. Budget Request

- a. Follow up on Pride Club Drag Queen Bingo and Brunch- Date confirmed for May 21st
- a. Radiology club → rejected since it's an individual expense and not a club expense.
- b. DOSA- Requesting \$300 for Chai Night, a stress relief event the week before MS1 exams but open to everyone.
 - i. **Motion to transfer \$300 to DOSA from Programs and Projects (Account 40-70173-016) seconded by Shiva. Passed unanimously.**
- c. Volleyball club- Requesting \$200 for Pizza and Game night, seconded by Paul.
 - i. **Motion to give \$200 to Volleyball Club seconded by Tobi. Passed unanimously.**
- d. Yearly budget approval
 - Some main adjustments from last year:
 - i. Clubs that haven't spent any UC money in 2 years lose their funding for next year but can always request UC funding for campus-wide events.
 - ii. Addition of \$2500 for DEI account
 - iii. Increase in SUNY SA funding
 - iv. \$500 reduction in UC meeting food budget
 - Motion to approve the 2024-2025 budget (as attached) brought forth by Isaac, seconded by Tobi. Passed unanimously.**

4. Old business

- a. Prepaid metrocards for commuters
 - i. No progress.
- b. Updates from middle states accreditation?
 - i. In progress. All students who were appointed will get a letter from Dr. Riley and should expect a subsequent meeting as well as documents to review before the next draft is completed.
- c. Earth day -
 - i. Huge success. Over 600 people attended!
- d. Leadership Dinner

- i. Huge success. General feedback was positive and everyone was excited about the awards. Next year there will be additional awards.
- e. Wider access to journals
 - i. Program reps are still working on a list.
- f. University Hospital Closure
 - i. A committee was formed and is going to do a review over the next year (Due April 2025). This gives more time for discussions to be had. The deficit has also been addressed.
- g. SUNY SA
 - i. One applicant- Thomas Sanford (current out-going rep)
 - ii. Motion to accept Thomas as SUNY SA rep. for 2024-2025, seconded by Tobi, unanimous acceptance.
- h. Update from Tobi-
 - i. Met with CMO for Lorna Breene Foundation to discuss the mental health day initiative. Currently the Surgeon General's Office is also involved. There is a future meeting scheduled to discuss this initiative with one of the SUNY trustees. Making excellent progress.
- i. Espresso your thoughts
 - i. Really well received.
 - ii. Students from various schools attended and gave feedback. We used less coffee than last time but went through all the snacks.
 - iii. Financial Aid (Farah Burnett) would like to work with UC to sponsor one of these events in August or September.
 - iv. Suggestion box responses from this event are still pending. Joya will follow up with Lindsay who is the current owner of the form. This form is linked below:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7IF1Ya MDnJzgVC7zAWfc2UvswNk G4Wv5xwf594g-89lpg/viewform?pli=1>

5. New Business

- a. SUNY SA Elections
- b. Health Insurance – Dr. Putman
 - i. Enrollment has dropped from ~600 students to ~300 students. This was causing an increase in cost. We were discussing going with another company, however the insurance company (United Health Care) has offered to reduce the current rate by 15% for the next year, dropping the cost from \$665/ month to \$615/ month starting August 1st. Out of network deductible will remain at \$32.50/ visit and ~\$3300/ year.
 - ii. Three main drivers of health insurance cost on this campus are OB, Cancer and Mental Health.

- iii. Switching insurance providers runs the risk of losing access to specific physicians.
- iv. Similar insurance plans on the exchange cost within \$5 per month.
- v. Motion to endorse FSA extension of the contract with HSAC Inc/ United Health Care Student resources for one additional year at a rate of \$615 per month, delaying the bidding process for 1 additional year. Motion by Isaac, seconded by Shiva. Passed unanimously.

6. Council Wide Initiatives

- a. Food Pantry
 - i. Doing well
 - b. Coffee station/event (\$500)- 11:30-1:30pm
 - c. Book store
 - i. No update.
 - ii. COM and SOPH are working on white coat and jacket orders through the student center.
 - iii. COM alumni association sells swag online but it all says 'alumni'.
 - iv. In progress- online package for incoming COM students to purchase required equipment from the book list.
 - d. Student Health
 - i. Following up on email sent by Isaac- the early registration suggested in the campus wide email has been helping with volume. There has also been increased staff at student health.
 - e. New logo purchases
 - i. New Banner
 - f. Students reporting to FM&D
 - i. Students can call EXT. 1212 to make a complaint. They must clearly state that they are a student and are not requesting a call back.
 - ii. Should we make signs and post them in hot spots?
 - 1. To be discussed via slack/ tabled for the next meeting.
7. Suggestion box
- a. No new entries in the monthly suggestion box.

8. Program Updates

- a. **Reps, you should be attending the council meetings for your program**
- b. SGS: Student- Faculty mixer today. & students will be walking at graduation next week and 7 are graduating. There are 8 new PhD students joining the graduate school.
- c. SPH: A number of students are graduating and ~ 13 are Dr/Phd students. The new council was elected. End of year graduation party is scheduled pending room request approval. Still trying to gather a list of journals from students. Award ceremony and faculty awards will take place on Monday.

Request for more events at the Manhattan campus. Students have been emailing FSA to advocate for the return of the bookstore.

- d. SOHP: Awards day coming up on Monday
- e. CON: Good turn out at recent research day.
- f. COM: COM24- Awards ceremony took place earlier today. Graduation is next week. COM 25-27- no updates.
- g. SUNY SA: Two weeks ago the SUNY SA conference took place. Dan and Tom were in attendance. A new board was elected. This is the first time in years that they got through all the things on the agenda. Three different resolutions were addressed. Passed: (1) Amendment to bylaws, (2) requesting support for sustainability legislation, (3) asking SUNY Board of trustees to amend diet plans to consider diet restrictions. Budget did not pass. The SUNY Downstate closure was discussed including a request for support from the other colleges.
- h. College Council: No Updates.

Adjournment at 8:00pm by Isaac, Thomas seconded.



Kelsha Sanchez
University Council Secretary