

University Council Meeting 2024-2025

Thursday, August 27th, 2024

6pm

Student Center Reading Room

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- a. Isaac in lieu of Joya called the meeting to order at 6:13PM.
- b. New Member Introductions

2. Budget Requests

- a. LMSA - Hispanic Heritage Club - approved (\$500)
 - i. UC presenting on behalf
 - ii. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Sa7r_IwmKW9LNC2mE_t2pttgVzOx1C1CVW1kuSacdo/prefill [budget request form]
 - iii. Approved unanimously
- b. Planetary Health Club - rejected
- c. Maker Club - rejected
- d. National Perinatal Association Student Society (NPASS) - rejected
- e. \$2500 Block Party
 - i. Adam presenting
 - ii. \$1500 comes out of P&P
 - iii. Approved unanimously
- f. \$2500 Halloween Extravaganza
 - i. Adam presenting
 - ii. Approved unanimously by UC
 - iii. This is incomplete.

3. New Business

- a. Constitution Update Committee - we're making a new committee to help Isaac rewrite some of the language in the Constitution. Dan, Kunika, and Nour agreed to help Isaac.
- b. Staff/employee emails being sent to students - Dr. Putman says that we get a lot of ethics emails and Title VI, but the person in Communications Department seems to have forgotten about making the change. Dr. Putman will remind them that they agreed to reduce the staff-only emails students receive.
- c. Registration/clearance process at Kings County - Proposal to expedite the process to give KCHC more advance notice for clearance, as clearance for KCHC is a bottleneck. Janelle Gordon is the contact person, but now KCHC wanted a month in advance. There would have to be more restrictions on where students can rotate, as the changes can't be done < 30 days before the student's rotation begins. Downstate is working with them to get things done earlier and to streamline the process for students with consecutive rotations at KCHC. Their process supposedly requires students to have to redo clearance altogether.

- d. Elective course enrollment for all programs - 4th years don't see electives show up in New Innovations. Other schools do not have New Innovations. This is a purely medical school thing.
- e. Curricular/faculty liaison committees check-in - Do any other programs have a formalized mechanism to submit information about career/faculty comments? Medical school has that separate from MC, GS doesn't. SPH has a mechanism. PA doesn't have a formal mechanism. Nursing does have a suggestion box.
 - i. MC has SLC for preclinicals - we elect students that work with MC to then work with unit directors and help design the curriculum by going over concerns and suggestions to serve the students. CFA is mandatory for students as well.
 - ii. Suggestions to implement SLC-like systems for other schools - UC might help with that.
 - iii. CON and PA programs are disorganized and everything is too fast-paced. It's often the case where students have to bring up issues with faculty which is uncomfortable for students.
 - iv. SOHP is made of several programs, so implementing a single system might be more difficult than we anticipate. There needs to be a system to anonymously provide feedback without fear of retaliation.
 - v. History of meeting minutes in other schools to document when issues are first recorded. Dr. Putman will speak to the deans of the other schools about it.
- f. Block Party 9/5 & Activities Fair 9/12 - need UC reps; we should get our faces more well-known on campus. We would be serving food at the Block Party event and accepting suggestions/complaints/comments at the Activities Fair.
- g. Tutoring Services - Same tutoring office for all schools → makes it a UC problem. It's very resource limited. Downstate students don't have access
 - i. COM: There aren't resources for students who failed Step 1 - Dr. Langley said that there is not enough of a budget for tutors to have more than a few students a week and that weekend/holiday tutoring has been recently prohibited. Most students use tutoring for the first few units. Concerns about using Nearpod as well for tutoring.
 - ii. SPH: Uptick in need for stats/epi classes; tutors might not be available
 - iii. CON: Not enough availability
 - iv. SOHP: Not informed about tutoring services
 - v. A lot of the funds come from Work Study and voucher money is limited.
 - vi. How do we get professional tutoring staff for classes like statistics/things all students use?
 - vii. Dr. Putman is going to look into it and speak to Dr. Langley why the weekend rule was implemented and figure out if/how to get us more professional tutors.
- h. Work-Study for later starting first-year students, campus-wide announcement? - National problem (budget cut by 30%). Work-study is money that gets to a student and that money gets offered to an office that matches them with a job position.
 - i. There should have been more Student Assistant money (given to department, not to student)

- i. New Clubs - Last leadership training was last night, clubs will get their funding. Adam currently working out pilot-registration program, no guarantee of new clubs in Dec/Jan but definitely for next June, details to come - Clubs send apps 2x a year, reviewed by anonymous committee, Adam reviews it as well. By the end of calendar year, clubs who have sent in their applications will have been reviewed. Adam will announce which clubs are approved. This procedure is awaiting approval. This is piloting - formal announcement will be made later in October or November.
- j. Thanksgiving Dinner 11/18, sales start 10/7 (tiered prices - \$5 for the first 2 weeks, \$10 following 2 weeks, \$15 last 2 weeks, \$20 at the door, can get someone to buy on your behalf, GMC President will help) - UC and SCGB fund it.
 - i. Before tickets go on sale, we should announce this to our respective school chats.

4. Old business

- a. Water fountain reporting process - need to make placards for reporting; students can report issues with the water fountain by calling 718-270-1212, stating that we are students, and not wanting a callback.
 - i. Bathroom issues and Hydration Station water filter replacements are the most common issues.
 - ii. Paper placards can be installed by the fountains and placed on campus.
 - 1. Isaac and Madhavi offered to place these placards throughout campus.
- b. Coffee House Event - between Oct-Jan
 - i. We decide in Slack.
- c. New Budget Submission process
 - i. Tabled until next meeting.
- d. Health Insurance - updates?
 - i. We will appoint a student health advisory committee to revise this. College Council can appoint 2 students to help with bidding out the policies (starts October)
- e. Accommodations Person - updates? - new person (anonymous by HR right now), will start 10/1.
 - i. Directory of Accessibility Services to work with students who want accommodations or have other issues/need more support.
 - ii. Can refer people for neuropsych testing
- f. Wider access to journals - tabled for now due to staffing
 - i. The person who manages interlibrary loan passed away, and a successor has yet to be appointed.
 - ii. Hard for smaller institutions to get access. We could also split the cost of access with other SUNY schools, but the exact method of splitting might make things difficult.
- g. Middle States - students still not on committees; we appointed students to be on Middle States committees. The process of appointing took too long and appointing students to committees that already started will join in the fall. Two students were appointed to the steering committee, the rest of the students will be appointed to the student advisory

board, where they will be presented with the 7 areas of the Middle States committee, and then the student panel will review. Appointed people will get a letter in 2 weeks.

- h. Food Pantry - has enough \$\$ for the next 2 years, moved to SCGB permanently, not under UC anymore; we got a fridge.
 - i. Got another grant from the Alumni Association (fundraiser for > \$5400) and we raised over \$7,000. We're spending only \$3,000
 - ii. No longer under our purview.
- i. Bookstore - moving virtual in the near future, physical location is being given to Cafe 101, Student Center is reclaiming the relaxation room, AA is paying for white coats
- j. Metrocards - talks are in progress, no further updates at this time as we transition to OMNY from Metrocards. Interest in giving students access to discounted MetroCards. MTA is badly hit by postponement of Congestion Pricing, so it will be tough to get them to concede.

5. Program Updates

- a. COM: Graduation date is tentatively decided. MC wants to consider interlibrary loan for medical supplies (ophthalmoscope), wanted to know if other schools wanted to participate to make supplies more accessible to everyone.
 - i. For students that failed Step 1 and 2, there is a lack of support among them. Per Dr. Putman, those students get free Kaplan courses. These students want specific tutoring.
- b. CON: Getting re-accredited, new program updates; maybe a psych DNP program will start. Orientation went well, all is in person.
- c. SOHP: Jacket order, council meeting is on 9/6 and the welcome breakfast is 9/13. At the SOHP meeting, will bring updates for next meeting (suggestions for improvement)
- d. SPH: Miscommunication situation, students got advisors later than in the ideal window, there were students included on an email chain that included more students than necessary. There is a lack of faculty-student communication - there is a 1-2 page document to shortcut general information and will release it in a few weeks. People are excited about classes offering online options as well. Professors use it at their own discretion/democratic process.
- e. GS: No updates as of yet. Orientation went well - there are 5 MBS, 5 MCB, 3 MD/PhD → class of 13.
- f. SUNY SA: A meeting in 1.5 weeks (civic action), nobody from downstate is attending.

6. Adjournment

- a. **Isaac motioned to adjourn at 8pm. Seconded by Thomas Sanford. Meeting ended at 8:02pm.**

Minutes officially submitted by Shivasuryan Vummidi, Treasurer on 10/4/2024.

