

University Council Meeting 2024-2025

Thursday, September 26th, 2024

6pm

Student Center Reading Room

Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

| Name | Email |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Kelsha Sanchez | kelsha.sanchez@downstate.edu |
| Daniel Green | daniel.green@downstate.edu |
| Karina Muniz | karina.muniz@downstate.edu |
| Nour Elshabassy | nour.elshabassy@downstate.edu |
| Dhruti Patel | dhruti.patel@downstate.edu |
| Elana Cohen | elana.cohen@downstate.edu |
| Joya Ahmad | joya.ahmad@downstate.edu |

Voting Members not in Attendance:

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| [Shivasuryan Vummidi] (proxy: [Kelsha Sanchez]) | Shivasryan.Vummidi@downstate.edu |
| [Thomas Sanford] (proxy: [Daniel Green]) | Thomas.Sanford@downstate.edu |
| [Isaac Vingan] (proxy: [Joya Ahmed]) | Isaac.Vingan@downstate.edu |
| [Kunika Chahal] (proxy: [Elana Cohen]) | Kunika.Chalal@downstate.edu |

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Jeffrey Putman | |
| Adam Burgman | |
| Schuyler Hooke | |
| Rachel Chang | |

Agenda

1. Call to Order at 6:10pm

2. Budget Requests

- a. AWS - Annual mentorship dinner in November. Cafe 101 cost around \$25-\$30 per person. Last year charged \$1800 for 60 people, but this actually fed 75 people. Expecting to have ~115 participants. Will order for ~80 people this time total ~\$2000. AWS is requesting \$500 from University Council to assist with costs for this event. **Motion to approve funding of \$500 with the following stipulation: 25% of seating must be reserved for non-med students until 12:01 am on November 1st.**

Passed unanimously. Pending response from AWS executive board.

3. New Business

- a. Updates from Dr. Putman regarding Kudos and Concerns implementation for other programs
 - i. The Deans of the other colleges are in support of this but they have to work on implementation.
- b. Updates on successful addressing of student concerns - from both UC (semesterly) and admin (annually)
 - i. UC Minutes on website: backlog of uploading/difficult to find
 1. We are considering biannual email updates for the campus to provide additional clarity.
Example: via a newsletter.
- c. Constitution review group
 - i. Daniel indicates that the group has begun speaking but there are no current updates to share.
- d. Suggestion Box - needs to be updated on the website/Instagram and link needs to be confirmed
 - i. Qualtrics form will be used to replace the existing google forms. Joya will create the new link with the University Council email serving as the owner.
 - ii. The Instagram page needs to be updated and Dhruti has volunteered to oversee that account.
 - iii. Concerns about new clubs being formed - this process is currently under review and no new clubs are starting until the new club formation protocols are in place. (Before end of calendar year.)
 - iv. HSEB doors open longer hours - University Police issue, Adam will reach out.
 - v. Exam conflicts with religious holidays/events
 1. Seems to be an issue primarily with Medicine. This will be passed on to MED Council.
 - vi. Issues going to SCGB:
 1. Gym A/C
 - a. Unfortunately, we are not able to address this due to the way the building was designed
 2. More hours for gym availability
 - vii. Peer wellness for other colleges - UC E-board will send this to the other council presidents
 1. Council reps will survey their programs to see if all programs could benefit from the peer wellness sessions similar to those that are taking place in the Medicine program
 2. Further discussions will take place with councils to determine whether students want peer mentorship programs
 - viii. Commencement Tams
 1. Our contract with the last gown provider has ended and we are now looking at new, increased cost. Specifically, there has been a dramatic increase in the cost of tams for the doctoral students. The cost of the gown has also gone up, however, the tam went up 50% so we would like to gauge whether students want to get the mortarboard hat instead so that we can keep overall cost manageable. UC can send out a survey to gather feedback from students regarding this matter.
 - ix. Travel Abroad
 1. This ended around 2020
 2. Students can travel abroad for medical experiences on their personal time but the school is not currently giving credit for this since there is a liability if the college agrees to give credit. Unfortunately, there were past incidents where students were injured on these trips and in the interest of student safety, the college is not prepared at this time to endorse trips of this nature.

4. Old business

- a. Need to submit September meeting minutes- Shiva is working on this.

- b. Constitution Update Committee - This committee is formed with the goal of rewriting some of the language in the Constitution. Dan, Kunika, and Nour agreed to help Isaac. They have been asked to please add Adam & Joya to email chain.
- c. Placards for the water fountain - Dhruti will like to be added to this group
- d. Updates from Dean Putman:
 - i. Library updates
 - 1. Designers are meeting with student focus groups and gathering data.
 - ii. Tutoring - availability, weekend hours, professional referrals?
 - 1. There has been an increase in the number of student tutors
 - 2. The university is currently not able to hire a private tutoring company due to lack of funding.
- e. Staff/employee emails being sent to students - are people still receiving these?
 - i. Yes, students are still receiving these emails. We are still working on getting these filtered out but there has been little progress
- f. Block party and activities fair were amazing! Shout out to Karina for volunteering at both!
- g. Work-Study:
 - i. There were significant numbers of students who accepted work-study and didn't actually get jobs, so that money was rescinded and redistributed. New system is that you get \$100 initially with the rest of your money only released when you actually sign up for a job.
 - ii. Five new students have already been hired at the Student Center alone!
- h. Thanksgiving Dinner 11/18, sales start 10/7 (tiered prices - \$5 for the first 2 1/2 weeks, \$10 following 2 weeks, \$15 last week, \$20 at the door. Students 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, and need to promote it.
- i. Coffee House Event - between Oct-Jan
 - i. We will decide on Slack, taking different schedules into planning.
 - ii. Nursing only on campus Monday/Wednesday/**Thursday**
 - iii. SOHP 2nd years only on campus on Fridays
- j. New Budget Submission process
 - i. Tabled till next meeting.
- k. Health Insurance - updates?
 - i. We will appoint a student health advisory committee to revise this. The College Council can appoint 2 students to help with bidding out the policies (starts November).
- l. Accommodations Person - updates?
 - i. This person is starting October 1st. They are hoping to bring some new updates to the accommodations process such as a modified digital platform.
- m. 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. Acknowledged that MTA is a fiscal crisis due to postponement of Congestion Pricing.

5. Program Updates

- a. COM: COM 2025/2026 Difficulty getting remote access for Health Bridge. It has been confirmed that students should get access. Dr. Putman is looking into this.
- b. CON: Currently working on planning two events and an NCLEX study review.
- c. SOHP: Successful welcome breakfast. Students are requesting extended library hours—Dr. Putman is working on this. The Annex also has limited hours that Dr. Putman is looking into.

- d. SPH: Students are still asking for the return of the book store. Yesterday was the welcome back social mixer which was a success and well attended. Students asked for more events like this.
- e. GS: No updates available
- f. SUNY SA: Representatives are signed up for the fall meeting. No update on the student mental health day initiative.

6. Open Floor

- a. Rachel Chang HI representative: requesting information about how to access to funding from UC
 - i. Advised to first go through SOHP council.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Elana at 7:48pm. Seconded by Joya.

Minutes officially submitted by



Kelsha Sanchez, Secretary on 10/10/2024.