

University Council Meeting 2024-2025

Thursday, December 12th, 2024

6pm

Student Center Reading Room

Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

Name	Email
Isaac Vingan	Isaac.Vingan@downstate.edu
Kelsha Sanchez	kelsha.sanchez@downstate.edu
Dan Green	daniel.green@downstate.edu
Thomas Sanford	thomas.sanford@downstate.edu
Madhavi Jere	madhavi.jere@downstate.edu
Dhruti Patel	dhruti.patel@downstate.edu
Karina Muniz	karina.muniz@downstate.edu

Voting Members not in Attendance:

Joya Ahmad (Proxy: Isaac Vingan)	joya.ahmed@downstate.edu
Nour Elshabassy (Proxy:	nour.elshabassy@downstate.edu
Shivasryan Vummidi (Proxy: Kelsha Sanchez)	Shivasryan.Vummidi@downstate.edu
Kunika Chalal (Proxy: Dan Green)	Kunika.Chalal@downstate.edu
Elana Cohen (Proxy: Madhavi Jere)	elana.cohen@downstate.edu

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Schuyler Hooke	
Alicia Goodrich	
Nicholas Cromie	

Agenda

1. Call to Order at 6:19 pm

2. Introductions:

- a. Alicia Goodrich- Born and raised in central Brooklyn and passionate about the community. Was part of the Vital Brooklyn Initiative. Currently working to increase exposure of Downstate Health Sciences University in the community. Consideration of adding a recruitment table for the college at the yearly Health Fair to boost awareness and encourage enrollment from persons in the community. Happy to work with students in this regard and to hear other ideas. Current advocate to keep University Hospital open and actively meeting with legislators (returned from Washington last week).
 - i. Brainstorming:
 1. How can we share research with the community?
 2. Open education nights at different community organizations?
 - ii. Will meet in the future to flush out some of these ideas
- b. Nicholas Cromie- New Director of Accommodations. There is currently a 30 day window of when you apply for accommodations and when it's guaranteed. Though some students have received approvals in as little as one week. Hoping to streamline the application process for incoming students. If a student is applying for accommodations for USMLE exams and has additional questions they can reach out to Dr. Cromie directly. His office is located in the Student Affairs office (ground floor by the ATM).
 - i. Mr. Cromie spent ~ 2 years as a member of OSAS. The University Council emphasized its dedication to expand access to tutoring for all students.
 - ii. Shared complaints from students: one on one tutors are scarce, tutoring often comes after a student has failed- "reactive tutoring". Over the last year there was increased push by OSAS to expand these services. Plan to invite Dr. Langley for further discussions.

3. Budget Requests

a. Haitian Creole Club

	Black Rice							
	Vegetarian							
	Legume							
	Stewed							
	Turkey							
	Table			Haitian Hot		Haian		
	decoration			Chocolate		Cultural		
	Haitian			Haitian		Party at		
	costume		Chokola	patties		Rogers	Haitian	
Multicultural		\$250	night		\$100	Garden	Food from	
fair						Kompa	local	
						Monday	restaurant	\$300

Tabled for next meeting pending additional information from the Haitian Creole club.

4. New Business

- a. Middle States Update- tabled for next meeting
- b. Nursing rep- - farewell to our current rep! We look forward to welcoming Jasmine Yu.

5. Old business

- a. Coffee House- successful! We went through all of our extra snacks and coffee. A variety of students from across the different schools were present. Nursing was heavily represented! Many concerns were shared which will be distributed to the appropriate councils.

i. Suggestion box ideas:

Coffeehouse Concerns

- COM/ Med council:
 - Schedule not condensed enough, coming every day
 - No study abroad program for 4th years, it used to be allowed.
 - Don't make peer wellness a week before exams - possibly com issue
- Misc:
 - Not enough work study jobs on campus, approved for work study but cant work
- Forward to Res Life council:
 - Dorm hot water not hot enough, really cold in dorm • Carpets cleaned in dorms
 - Plumbing issues in dorms, sinks clogged
- Cafeteria/ food/ drink adjacent:
 - Cafeteria coffee not that great
 - Kosher options available in cafeteria
 - espresso machine for cafeteria, lattes
 - Cans vs bottles in vending machine, canned sparkling water instead of sodas
 - people taking up one large table, people can't find place to eat
 - Spaces to eat and study/ charge devices
- Building:
 - Temperature regulation/ more consistent maintenance
- Ultrasound program:
 - student activities are either too late or on days they have clinicals- not available Fri/tue
- Student center governing board:
 - alcohol wipe dispenser in the weight room

b. Academic Advising and Accommodations Concerns

- i. Campus-wide survey. Kunika is working on this and can provide an update at our next meeting.

c. Invitations for the rest of the year:

- i. Seth Langley, Ombudsman, Student Health Leadership, Head of Public Safety (for clarification on enforcement of guest pass policy)

d. 395 Entrance is now open til 11pm (M-F)

- i. The Council is asking to extend library hours. This is currently limited by lack of manpower and funding. We will continue to work with library staff on this.

e. Instagram revitalization

- i. Plan to start posting 'intro to the UC board members' and to share our page in the meeting blast to gain more traffic.

f. Opt in for Email List Serves

- i. May consider email blasts with the list of student clubs to ensure reach of smaller clubs. This transition is planned for January.

g. New Budget Submission process

- i. A new form has been developed. Plan to expand the questionnaire to ensure that clubs include both a name and a description for events. We will continue to encourage clubs to be as descriptive as possible with their application to ensure a smooth process.

- h. Kudos and Concerns implementation for other programs- pending further updates from Dr. Putman
- i. Updates on successful addressing of student concerns – biannual email updates
- j. Constitution review group- no new updates.
- k. Placards for the water fountain- tabled until next meeting
- l. Health Insurance - student health advisory committee - Tabled until the return of Dr. Putman
- m. Discounted MTA services - no updates

6. Program Updates

- a. COM: Updated constitution voting currently on going
- b. CON: 2024 cohort is graduating next week. The new cohort held their first event today.
- c. SOHP: no available updates
- d. SPH: winter party coming up and the Dean plans to make an appearance
- e. GS: winter social yesterday.
- f. SUNY SA: Tom and Erica working to approve student unions for graduate students and to increase stipends. Looking for input from current graduate students. Current students can reach out to Tom directly at thomas.sanford@downstate.edu or they can contact their program representative.
- g. College Council: No available updates

7. Open Floor

- a. N/A

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Isaac at 8:02pm. Seconded by Thomas Sanford

Minutes officially submitted by on 12/26/2024 by Kelsha Sanchez- Secretary



Kelsha Sanchez- UC Secretary 2024-2025