

**University Council Meeting 2024-2025**

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025

6pm

Student Center Reading Room

## Attendance

***Voting Members in Attendance:***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
Joya Ahmad	joya.ahmad@downstate.edu
Nour Elshabassy	nour.elshabassy@downstate.edu
Dan Green	daniel.green@downstate.edu
Jasmine Yu	jasmine.yu@downstate.edu
Elana Cohen	elana.cohen@downstate.edu
Shivasuryan Vummidi	Shivasuryan.Vummidi@downstate.edu
Isaac Vingan	isaac.vingan@downstate.edu
Madhavi Jere	madhavi.jere@downstate.edu

***Voting Members not in Attendance:***

Kelsha Sanchez	Proxy: Shivasuryan Vummidi
Kunika Chalal	Proxy: Madhavi Jere
Dhruti Patel	Proxy: Nour Elshabassy
Thomas Sanford	Proxy: Dan Green

***Non-voting Members in Attendance:***

Sabah Islam	
Nadia Celestin	
Jeffrey Putman	
Schuyler Hooke	

## Agenda

### 1. Call to Order at 6:07 pm by Joya

### 2. Budget Requests

- a. Have not heard from haitian creole club about last meeting's budget request
  - i. Send a second follow up
- b. AMWA
  - i. General Body Meeting For Event Planning/Upcoming Elections
  - ii. Lenny's Order: \$250.00 (will update to 260)
    1. Lenny's Pizza: Cheese Pizza (5 boxes \$18.00 each)-\$90.00. BBQ Cheese Pizza (2 boxes \$27.00 each)-\$54.00. Buffalo Chicken Pizza (2 boxes \$27.00 each)-\$54.00. Gluten Free Individual Pizza (1 box-\$16.00)-\$16.00. Mixed Veggie Pizza No Cheese ( 1 box \$24.00)-\$24.00 (Total before delivery fee \$238)
    2. AMWA needs to resubmit form to \$260 (Introduced by Isaac, Seconded by Shiva) - **approved unanimously**  
**Transfer \$260 to AMWA from 40-70418-016-30001 MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING**
- c. SJP - Sabah Islam in attendance (event descriptions on the drive)
  - i. Black and Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity - end of Feb
    1. \$40 - drinks (seltzer)
    2. \$100 - speaker honorarium (speaker already contacted)
      - a. Ms. Claire *Last Name*
    3. Introduced by Isaac, Seconded by Shiva - **approved unanimously**  
**Transfer \$140 to SJP from 40-70418-016-30001 MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING**
  - ii. Palestinian Feminist Organizing - tentative 3/21
    1. \$160 - food
    2. \$100 - speaker honorarium
    3. SJP should resubmit this request when their speaker honorarium is completely approved.
  - iii. The Interconnected Struggles for Palestinian Liberation and Climate Justice - 4/22
    1. \$133 - food and drink
    2. \$100 - speaker honorarium
    3. SJP should resubmit this request when their speaker honorarium is completely approved.
  - iv. Puerto Rico, Palestine and US Intervention - beginning of May
    1. \$157.5 - food
    2. \$100 - speaker honorarium
    3. SJP should resubmit this request when their speaker honorarium is completely approved.

### 3. New Business

- a. Middle States Update - group will visit in the first week of April, may meet with different groups of students (4/7-4/9). Students who have been appointed to the committees will meet with the commission to go over the report with them. Reports will be made public to Downstate students and staff. 7-8 people to address areas of the university will conduct a review and make a final report.
  - i. the review official has not yet been assigned to our campus
  - ii. they will review our submission, identify errors with our submission, give us an opportunity to revise, the middle states commission will review the final report, and then give us a judgement

- iii. in the past middle states has most cited the use of outcomes assessments to guide future practices
- b. CCMP- would like to connect with members of our community
  - i. Where can they table? (They want to work with Downstate and see if they can table with us) → pass out postcards and mail out postcards to representatives to avoid closing down hospitals
    - 1. Interested in the fight to save Downstate
    - 2. Looking for clinicians to volunteer
    - 3. interested in connecting with downstate community to join the fight for downstate
  - ii. They make a publication called Vital Signs and focus on advocacy
  - iii. Tabling requires official downstate affiliation, and there might be restrictions on what can be said/distributed
    - 1. Dr. Putman will get clearer information on what is allowed
    - 2. most likely FSA
  - iv. can be invited by a student group for an event that is open to the campus students and faculty
- c. UC would like to oversee the development of a “Student Stake Holders” committee of appointed and volunteer members to coordinate future town hall student efforts
  - i. Yes UC can oversee a student commission
    - 1. Coordination wont be done via email, but email can be sent to join a groupme- coordinate there
    - 2. The focus will be on making recommendations and coordinating students to attend town halls and speak
    - 3. We should consider holding a student only town hall to solicit ideas (or a survey or something)
      - a. invite Senator Myree and Cunningham
  - ii. We should try reaching out to the commission to request that the hold focus groups for stakeholder subcommunities <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-appointees-suny-downstate-community-advisory-board>
    - 1. reachout to Dr. George, The Chancellor, and Senator Myree
  - iii. Ask deans and faculty for data on school-by-school attendance at UHD
- d. Spring Fling **Thursday April 3rd**, same place, same price, cash bar
  - i. Med-Council is contributing and additional \$7k to keep the prices low
    - 1. Prices went up due to inflation and moving it from a Monday to a Thursday
    - 2. No open bar as students requests, cash bar with a drink ticket option
      - a. \$60 students (no drinks)
      - b. \$90 students (3 drink tickets)
      - c. \$160 guests (no drink tickets)
      - d. \$190 guests (3 drink tickets)
  - ii. **Motion to move 2k from P&P to winter-spring events (Introduced by Isaac, Seconded by Shiva) - approved unanimously**
- e. We need to move MCF now, proposal for Tuesday, April 1st
  - i. Proposal for this date was confirmed by members in attendance
  - ii. People will begin thinking about roles they want to serve for the event

#### 4. Old business

- a. Library hours have been extended to 11pm. Printing availability/capability has been expanded.
- b. Academic Advising and Accommodations Concerns
  - i. Campus-wide survey. Kunika is working on this and can provide an update at our next meeting.

- ii. Tabled for next meeting
- c. Invitations for the rest of the year:
  - i. Alicia and Nick were great for those who couldn't make it to the last meeting. I encourage you to check the minutes from last month
  - ii. **Last meeting:** Seth Langley, Ombudsman, Student Health Leadership, Head of Public Safety (for clarification on enforcement of guest pass policy)
  - iii. Proposals for:
    - 1. Union reps? UUP and PEF
      - a. Shift to student advocacy
    - 2. Library leadership - Violet Price
    - 3. All of academic advising
    - 4. FM&D - James Minto
    - 5. Counseling - Dr. Deutscher
  - iv. Send an email to ALL to **INVITE** to UC meeting to build relationships
    - 1. pick a meeting date that works best for you
- d. Instagram revitalization
- e. Opt in for Email List Serves - work in progress, letter will go to students
  - i. We can use listservs individually, clubs cannot.
  - ii. Email will be sent to detail contact info for clubs.
  - iii. UC *can* remind the campus to use the events calendar
  - iv. ameliorate problems in recruitment with 2nd activities fair
  - v. use a software to organize student organization communication
- f. Kudos and Concerns implementation for other programs
  - i. still in the works, some concerns about they way K&C works for the med school before they distribute to other schools
  - ii. system currently isn't set up for emergencies. might not need to be, but this should still be accounted for
  - iii. potentially using the same software platform used for compliance complaints
- g. Constitution review group
  - i. Necessary changes to add: Update to campus wide voting process (number of positions, eboard), College council as an appointed role (default to eboard), SUNY SA liaison as an appointed role (default VP), Appointed role of social media chair (default secretary)
- h. Placards for the water fountain

## PROBLEM? CALL US!

Call FM&D: 718-270-1212

Tell them where you are  
and your issue

"I'm at water fountain station XXX on the  
4<sup>th</sup> floor; the filter needs to be replaced"

Tell them you are a student, and  
you **do not** want a call back

Our friends at FM&D will take care of the rest



This message was  
brought to you by the  
Downstate University  
Council

Station #:



- i.
- ii. Isaac, Shiva, Madhavi will help print, laminate, label and distribute

- i. Health Insurance - student health advisory committee
  - i. Starting now in 2025 we have received the usage statistics. We can now use this information to start the bidding process
  - ii. When bidding process begins, committee will convene to review the bids
- j. Discounted MTA services - no updates
  - i. As congestion pricing is underway, we can give it two months before we proceed with negotiating with them for OMNY cards.

## 5. Program Updates

- a. COM: There is frustration among the student body regarding the school's recent policy to implement CBSE before dedicated that needs to be passed with a certain score before you sit for step 1. This is because of the low pass rates in COM 2026. Failing CBSE attempts will cause an automatic failure for Gateway 2. Students feel that this is meant to scare them to study earlier. Elana: Med Council covered study resources for everyone.
- b. CON: They just started classes. No other updates.
- c. SOHP: Most of the students just started classes and SOHP council's first meeting is next week.
- d. SPH: Our monthly meetings will resume from the first week of February and our budget was approved. We have added some new events but overall, everything is good. Because the mandatory SAF is coming up, Adam is working to make sure that SPH is included in programming with the SAF. They'll do a virtual bingo/trivia night co-sponsored with SPH council.
- e. GS: No updates.
- f. SUNY SA: Per Thomas: increasing activity funds, not increasing tuition. Thomas tries to get the resolution that passed on Downstate's agenda and suggested that they send people to the meeting in February.
- g. College Council: N/A

## 6. Open Floor

- a. N/A

## 7. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn by Isaac at 744pm. Seconded by Dan**

**Minutes officially submitted on 02/25/2025**



**Kelsha Sanchez**

**UC Secretary 2024-2025**