

University Council Meeting 2024-2025

Thursday, February 20th, 2025

6pm

Student Center Reading Room

Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

Name	Email
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
Thomas Sanford	Thomas.Sanford@downstate.edu
Dhruti Patel	Druti.patel@downstate.edu

Voting Members not in Attendance:

Joya Ahmad	Proxy: Shivasuryan Vummidi
Elana Cohen	Proxy: Madhavi Jere
Kelsha Sanchez	Proxy: Isaac Vingan
Kunika Chalal	Proxy Thomas Sanford

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Zachary David	
May Takahashi	
Adam Burgman	
Jeffrey S Putman	

Agenda

1. Call to Order at 6:06 pm by Isaac

2. Budget Requests

- a. SJP
 - i. Transnational Feminisms in a Time of Genocide
 - ii. Join Students for Justice in Palestine and Students for Choice, along with a guest speaker, for an evening of learning and discussion on how the experiences of feminists and activists in Palestine and Iraq can be used as a framework to re-envision emancipation, equality, and social justice around the world.
 - 1. Speaker, but no honorarium.
 - iii. Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
 - iv. Time: 5:30-6:30
 - v. Location: Lecture Hall 1A
 - vi. \$160 for 20 heroes, \$40 for soda + \$20 (delivery tip)?
 - vii. **Motion to approve the use of \$220 for Students for Justice in Palestine from 40-70418-016-30001 MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING. Passed unanimously.**
- b. Global Health Conference
 - i. Emory Global Health Competition Registration Fee
 - 1. \$1150
 - ii. Student Travel Fees - Emory Global Health Competition
 - 1. Roundtrip Flights/person: $\$250 \times 5 = \1250
 - 2. Ubers to and from New York airport: $\$50 \times 2 \times 5 = \500
 - 3. Total: \$1750
 - 4. Update: On Friday I submitted a Budget Request for a for the Global Health Club to send students to the Global Health Competition at Emory University. We have gained funding for the registration fee, and part of the travel, by other means. So, I would like to update our request to be for the **\$575**. We have 5 people attending, so this follows the UC guidelines of \$75/person + \$200 matched to other funding.
 - iii. consider making this a budget line for future years because we've funded it every year and its always about the same amount (\$1000)
 - iv. **Motion to approve use of funds for students attending Global Health Conference at \$575 . Motion passed unanimously. Use of \$575 for Global Health Club from 40-70418-016-30001 MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING.**
- c. LGIM - withdrew

3. New Business

- a. MCF now Tuesday, April 1st
 - i. Recruiting Students/Clubs: Madhavi
 - ii. Recruiting Entertainment:
 - iii. Setup - General: Shiva + Dan
 - iv. Setup - Decorations: Kelsha
 - v. Takedown: Shiva + Thomas
 - vi. Serving food: Shiva + Kelsha
 - vii. Grand poobah dedoink of this and that
- b. Espresso-your-thoughts part 17
 - i. Poll to go into the chat for dates
 - ii. Possible for T2C

- c. Reschedule May meeting May 5th, 12th, 14th, 15th not 8th, worst case scenario 1st
 - i. Madhavi is setting up a poll in slac
- d. April 23rd annual budget meeting is adding SCGB but still UC and MC. Orientation fee covers meals/other minor expenses, so we can make the orientation fee larger for medical students and smaller for other schools.
 - i. For Shiva: look at what clubs have spent what amounts of money and see how we can proceed with funding.
 - ii. Not split funding with SCGB but splitting/assigning clubs into different councils
- e. Earth Day April Tuesday 22nd
 - i. What give away do we want to contribute?
 - ii. Adam will come up with 5 and we will pick 1
- f. Blood drive April 28th-29th
- g. Lavender Graduation 5/7/2025 (UC and pride club joint contribution)
- h. Week of April 1st - SCGB, UC elections (referendum vote to keep activity fee).

4. Old business

- a. Spring Fling Ticket Sales - sold 175 so far
 - i. tickets on sale:
 - ii. Ticket sales exclusively med sold so far, need to promote more to other schools
 - iii. 100 remaining
- b. Student stakeholders group has been developed
 - i. coordinating in chats, booking spaces at public hearing NEXT WEEK
 - ii. writing statements
 - iii. meeting Cunningham right before the public hearing
- c. Dr. Putman what's the word on if CCMP can table at downstate?
 - i. Dr. Putman is still waiting on word from his contacts who he sent the pamphlet to
- d. Middle states update:
 - i. Coming April 7, 8, 9
 - ii. Finalizing schedule now what group of students and administrators would they like to meet with
 - iii. Middle states themselves has not appointed who they will be sending to us until last week
 - iv. Our report is submitted
- e. 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
 - iii. Accommodations are getting subjectively better with Nick Cromie in the student affairs office
 - iv. A new electronic system to submit for accommodations is almost finalized
 - v. Med school is reporting higher volume and lower output from academic advising
- f. Invitations for the rest of the year:
 - i. Dr. Putman has our list of invites and will bulk send them on our behalf
- g. Instagram revitalization
 - i. Send in your bios and pictures!
- h. Kudos and Concerns implementation for other programs
 - i. Legal has been a little busy to deal with this right now
- i. Constitution review group
 - i. We're working on it, we will post it in the chat in the next 2 weeks for review so that we can agree on it at the next meeting and have it put to a campus vote in April.
- j. Placards for the water fountain

- i. Isaac sent them to Schuyler to print just now
- k. Health Insurance - return for possible updates when bidding process begins
 - i. Final bid document is waiting final approval so they can start the bid process in March
- l. Discounted MTA services - return for possible updated in march

5. Program Updates

- a. COM: MS4s: March 21st Match Day, MS3s: VSLO slow. MS2s is in dedicated for Step 1. Apparently 1/3 of students who scored poorly in Gateway 2 were strongly encouraged to meet with a staff member in Academic Affairs. CBSE pass score was a 44.
- b. CON: Postponed the first meeting until next Monday.
- c. SOHP: SOHP Research Day May 8th. Advertised spring fling. OT has their national conference that day, so they're unable to come.
- d. SPH: Planning a town hall with the dean to promote spring fling.
- e. GS: March 19th Annual Research Day. Budget was frozen without word from FSA office. No notice was given - UC was funding all the grad school events, GS will eventually pay UC back. Madhavi will follow up.
- f. SUNY SA: Spring '25 meeting April 25th. Thomas or Dan running for Graduate rep.
- g. College Council: If contacted by individuals identifying themselves as federal employees, contact UPD and direct that individual to them. Federal grant review and
 - i. How to respond to NYPD/state/federal/ICE officials: Ensure that we forward them to UPD (or call them @ 2626)
 - ii. Federal grant funding freezing: Appears that anything DEI-related (including grants at Downstate) were told to restart/remove DEI-related terms. This can affect enrollment. There is an injunction against some of the grant freezes.
 - iii. Federal bill to cut Medicaid payments → will significantly hamper the ability to better Downstate/any institution that gets Medicaid/Medicare. Reassurance that we are a state institution → state government still fully supports Downstate (unless AG or Gov. Hochul states otherwise)
 - iv. Things are still **very dynamic**. We can't put out announcements as fast as we can.
 - v. On Friday, DOE sent schools a 4-page letter that referenced SFFA v. Harvard and mentioned that we can't have DEI as a checkbox. DOE mentioned that DEI applies to everything (clubs and orgs/pathways/scholarships). They cited BLM and Lavender commencements as activities that need to stop (we have 2 weeks to stop). If they don't stop, they'll investigate and potentially bar schools from receiving any federal financial aid.

6. Open Floor

- a. N/A

7. Adjournment

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

Minutes officially submitted on 03/09/2025 by Kelsha Sanchez



Kelsha Sanchez

UC Secretary 2024-2025