

University Council Meeting 2024-2025

Thursday, March 20th, 2025

6pm

Student Center Reading Room - Virtual

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86278157552?pwd=UDeewuyXnsCtLqd8Jq67MmFB5Wd3ar.1>

Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

Name	Email
Dan Green	daniel.green@downstate.edu
Jasmine Yu	jasmine.yu@downstate.edu
Kelsha Sanchez	Kelsha.Sanchez@downstate.edu
Shivasuryan Vummidi	Shivasuryan.Vummidi@downstate.edu
Isaac Vingan	isaac.vingan@downstate.edu
Joya Ahmad	joya.ahmad@downstate.edu
Kunika Chahal	kunika.chahal@downstate.edu
Nour Elshabassy	Nour.Elshabassy@downstate.edu
Elana Cohen	Elana.Cohen@downstate.edu
Thomas Sanford	thomas.sanford@downstate.edu

Voting Members not in Attendance:

Madhavi Jere	Proxy: Kunika Chahal
Dhruvi Patel	Proxy: Nour Elshabassy

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Tobi Somorin	
Jeffrey Putman	
Schuyler Hooke	
Adam Burgman	
Breanna Watson	

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order at 6:02 pm by Isaac**

2. Budget Requests

- a. MSA- Requests funding for Eid Banquet on April 21st. Requesting \$500.
 - i. Motion to fund in full the \$500 for their Eid banquet raised by Isaac. Seconded by Shiva. Passed unanimously. **Transfer \$500 to MSA from 40-70418-016-30001 MULTICULTURAL/DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING**
- b. SIGN - Request funding for Alzheimer's walk and movie night at \$313
 - i. Motion to approve \$103 in funding from Programs and Projects for their second event. Seconded by Kunika. Passed unanimously. **Allocate \$103 to SIGN from Programs & Projects.**
- c. DOSA- Requests for three events: (1) Chai and snacks mixer - \$100. (2) Holi- \$200, (3) movie night - \$100. This club still has \$300 in their budget. UC can offer \$100.
 - i. Motion to fund \$100 raised by Isaac. Seconded by Shiva. Passed unanimously.
 - ii. **Allocate \$100 to DOSA from Programs & Projects.**

3. New Business

- a. MCF Tuesday, April 1st
 - i. Jobs
 1. Recruiting Students/Clubs: Madhavi
 2. Recruiting Entertainment:
 3. Setup - General: Shiva + Dan
 4. Setup - Decorations: Kelsha
 5. Takedown: Shiva + Thomas
 6. Serving food: Shiva + Kelsha
 - ii. How are things going
 1. Making progress on entertainment: Music group interested in performing and requires a keyboard and mic which we are able to provide through Adam.
 2. 11 tables for food including Guyanese, LMSA, Greek culture, Bangladesh, SJP, haitian creole and more. Four of these groups have completed requirements to get food payments ahead of time while the other groups will be reimbursed after the event.
- b. New constitution Review
 - i. Biggest changes: updates to the election process to reflect current practices:
 1. electronic elections, council vote, one rep from each school except COM (2 students from different years).
 2. Nursing representative is elected during nursing council elections in October..
 - ii. Updated draft has been shared with council members for their review. Look out for emails from Isaac regarding this document.

4. Old business

- a. Espresso-your-thoughts date?
 - i. Tabled until the Fall
- b. Reschedule May meeting May 5th, 12th, 14th, 15th not 8th, worst case scenario 1st-
 - i. stand by for a poll from Isaac
- c. Lavender Graduation is 5/7/2025 (UC and pride club joint contribution)
- d. Week of April 1st - SCGB, UC elections (referendum vote to keep activity fee).
- e. Student stakeholders group has been developed
 - i. Two town halls have happened with the community advisory board since the last meeting. Isaac, Joya, Madhavi spoke at the meeting at Medgar Evers. Isaac and Thomas spoke at the most recent meeting last week (at Downstate).

- ii. Updates: they are pushing the April 1st deadline, there will likely be 1-2 more town halls before the new deadline.
 - iii. They were very impressed by the students who spoke. Students have workshopped their speeches ahead of time and there is a groupme for these students- contact Joya Ahmad if you would like to join the groupme
- f. Academic Advising and Accommodations Concerns
 - i. Big push for professional content tutors. We will continue this push.
 - ii. Since Mr. Cromie stepped in there have been positive comments from students about the improvement in the accommodations process. They noted that things are more streamlined with specific deadlines and good communication.
- g. Instagram revitalization
 - i. Bios have been posted! We hope to have content from our upcoming multicultural fair.
- h. Kudos and Concerns implementation for other programs
 - i. Plan to develop a new system for the college of medicine that is protected behind a firewall. When this system is rolled out it will be implemented across all programs.
- i. Placards for the water fountain
 - i. Finalized and being sent to Schuyler for printing
- j. Health Insurance
 - i. The bid is out. Waiting for these to come back and then a committee can vote on them. We are expecting at least two bids to come back.
- k. Discounted MTA services
 - i. No updates. Can revisit in the Fall

5. Advisor Updates

- a. Orientation Fees - one time fee for new incoming students. This is pending approval by Dr. Riley.
 - i. Would UC still like to contribute to water bottles or shirts for every student? - Motion by Isaac to contribute funding. Seconded by Dan. Passed unanimously
 - ii. Student Center used to cover the cost of orientation. With the new fee this will free up a large part of the budget that can be used for clubs.
- b. Club Budget Process re-organized
 - i. E-boards have all looked at this and signed off on it
 - ii. Starting June 1st every club will only have funding from one council.
- c. Anthology - Engage - SCGB will be paying the yearly cost for this program that will allow students to navigate the club listservs and replace the current email system.
- d. April 23rd annual budget meeting, possibly last year joint with MC & SCGB - last joint meeting!
- e. Spring Fling Ticket Sales
 - i. Event still is not sold out despite many changes this year based on student feedback
 - ii. 95% of the sales were college of medicine
 - iii. This may need to become a med council event moving forward
- f. Student Center Repairs
 - i. Starting this summer!!- Should last for ~15 months
 - 1. Isolated closures of different parts of the building during the repairs but the student center will remain open. Adam and Schuyler should have a schedule of repairs by the next meeting.
 - ii. Schuyler and Adam are meeting with the companies
- g. Invitations for Administrators for the rest of the year

- i. Request from Advisors to restart this in August/September and set a schedule for the academic year with the UC board over the summer
- h. Earth Day April Tuesday 22nd
 - i. Please let Isaac know if you can volunteer to staff the table
 - 1. 11am to 1pm
- i. Blood drive April 28th-29th
 - i. Increasing neighborhood outreach- signs will be posted at the delis and pizza places to encourage donors
- j. Middle states update
 - i. Waiting for the final schedule from the site visit team for when they want to meet.

6. Program Updates

- a. COM: COM2025 Match Day!! For MED council there has been ongoing discourse with admin about changes in assessments and lack of student support that has ended in stalemates. Morale is low. Inadequate numbers of elective spots in certain residencies like OBGYN and anesthesia. Chair letter is now no longer guaranteed for OBGYN. Many changes and students feel like support is lacking, COM 2027 currently in dedicated
- b. CON: Prepping for graduation
- c. SOHP: No March meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for April. Elections for the E-board are scheduled at that time.
- d. SPH: Planning for national public health week and working with admin and faculty to plan a mixer open to the campus.
- e. GS: Annual research day was yesterday and went well. People are preparing to defend dissertations
- f. SUNY SA: SA meeting is at the end of April. Tom's tenure is ending this Spring.
- g. College Council: No updates at this time

7. Open Floor

- a. N/A

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by at 7:26pm. Seconded by Joya

Minutes officially submitted on 04/07/2025



Kelsha Sanchez

UC Secretary 2024-2025