

## University Council Meeting 2025-2026



### *Voting Members in Attendance:*

| Name                  | Email  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Shivasuryan Vummidi   | <a href="mailto:Shivasuryan.vummidi@downstate.edu">Shivasuryan.vummidi@downstate.edu</a> |
| Tobi Somorin          | <a href="mailto:Tobi.somorin@downstate.edu">Tobi.somorin@downstate.edu</a>               |
| Jasmine Yu            | <a href="mailto:Jasmine.Yu@downstate.edu">Jasmine.Yu@downstate.edu</a>                   |
| Isaac Vingan          | <a href="mailto:Isaac.vingan@downstate.edu">Isaac.vingan@downstate.edu</a>               |
| Onyekachi Okeke       | <a href="mailto:Onyekachi.okeke@downstate.edu">Onyekachi.okeke@downstate.edu</a>         |
| Lianlen Joy Distor    | LianlenJoy.Distor@downstate.edu  |
| Gelila Hawthorne      | <a href="mailto:Gelila.hawthorne@downstate.edu">Gelila.hawthorne@downstate.edu</a>       |
| Thomas Sanford        | Thomas.Sanford@downstate.edu   |
| Moyouri Bhattacharjee | Moyouri.Bhattacharjee@downstate.edu  |

### *Voting Members not in Attendance:*

| Name   | Email  |
|--|--|
| Hend Heikal (proxy: Shivasuryan Vummidi)           | <a href="mailto:Hend.heikal@downstate.edu">Hend.heikal@downstate.edu</a>   |
| Daniel Green (proxy: Tobi Somorin)                 | <a href="mailto:Daniel.green@downstate.edu">Daniel.green@downstate.edu</a> |
| Serina Abdul Satter (proxy: Moyouri Bhattacharjee) | Serina.AbdulSatter@downstate.edu   |

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

| Name           |  |
|----------------|--|
| Jeffrey Putman |  |

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## Agenda

- Call to Order at 6:13 pm by Tobi, seconded by Shiva
- **Budget Requests:**
  - Students for Justice in Palestine - Rehabilitation and Healing in Palestine Panel
    - ☐ \$300 for honorarium for Shaza Abu Dayah, requested by the speaker
    - ☐ Event: With psychiatrist Mansoor Malik and Palestinian counselor and writer Shaza Abu Dayah (zoom only), open to all members of the community. The focus will be on recovery post warfare and trauma-informed rehabilitative care. Tentatively scheduled for Nov 11th at noon
    - ☐ Honorariums are typically for in-person events (transportation)
    - ☐ Med council 2 years ago funded events for Pride club that went to LGBTQ+ pathway, they otherwise would have not funded that event. Current guidelines are case-by-case. Guidelines being revised, when they are published, include that honoraria for Zoom speakers will not be covered.
    - ☐ Vote to fund for \$300: 3 in favor, 5 opposed.
    - ☐ Vote to fund for \$150: 5 in favor, 6 opposed.
- **New Business**
  - Welcome Moyouri!!
    - Send out bios
  - Welcome Onyekachi!!
  - [Nomination for Student Representatives of Faculty and Staff Executive Committee and some of the standing committees](#)
    - Dr. Roman asked us to put in nominations for faculty committees.
    - He asked for nonvoting student members from UC, but we have no nonvoting members.
    - Standing Committee for Educational Policy and Curriculum does not require voting UC members.
    - Committee for Library Technology and Simulation Center do not require voting UC members.
    - No deadline currently but will seek clarification
    - Onye potentially
  - Schedule Espresso Your Thoughts Meeting
    - ☐ **Date:** TBD (Proposed: Tuesdays in late October) Push to November? (11am-1pm)
    - ☐ Nov 18<sup>th</sup>
      - ⌘ Tobi (barring any interviews), Isaac, Mayouri, Jasmine,
      - ⌘ Hend email: 11-1 morning coffee, table, Plan 5-6PM
      - ⌘ Gelila maybe 5PM
      - ⌘ Room Request
      - ⌘ Table, coffee, banner (maybe a new one)?
    - ☐ November 28th – Shiva (barring interviews)

- UC Instagram
  - ☐ Increase our presence
  - ☐ Meet your eboard
  - ☐ Jasmine (fall/winter), Onye (spring)
  - ☐ Maybe ask the paid student assistant for social media at SPH to help
- Voting:
  - ☐ Budget Requests
    - ⊄ SJP
      - ⊄ \$300 for honorarium for Shaza Abu Dayah, requested by the speaker.
      - ⊄ **Vote: Motion introduced by Isaac, seconded by Shiva. 2 in favor, 7 opposed.**
      - ⊄ **Vote: Motion to fund half (\$150), introduced by Tobi, seconded by Isaac, 4 in favor, 5 opposed.**
      - ⊄ **Action: will not fund.**

- **Old Business**

- New Suggestion Box? YES
  - [Suggestion Box Google Form](#)
  - ☐ Updating required – we need to make the new form on Qualtrics
  - ☐ We need to speak to Dr. Putman about access to Microsoft Forms
  - ☐ What activities would you like to see this fall/winter/spring/summer?
  - ☐ Facilities questions?
  - ☐ Send survey out and then discuss responses at next meeting in November
  - ☐ Be more specific with questions
- SAF Follow Up
  - ☐ Feedback
    - ⊄ Library
      - ⊄ Whiteboards
      - ⊄ Extending med library hours or unlocking carrels for students to have more study spaces
    - ⊄ More common time between schools
    - ⊄ Student Center
      - ⊄ Extending gym hours
      - ⊄ SCGB
      - ⊄ We should email SCGB about extending gym hours
      - ⊄ Issue keeping current hours staffed due to recent decreases in federal Work-Study funds; we need to get Student Assistant funding. Potentially extend by half-hour (9PM)
    - ⊄ New shuttle app
      - ⊄ Being tested, will be rolled out shortly

- ⊄ Better shuttle hours
    - ⊄ Need data of usage
    - ⊄ Can look into with UPD
  - Mental Health Days
    - Last update: Being written by an executive committee resolution by SUNY SA executive board; when it passed, it was brought up with the trustee meeting but there is low likelihood that SUNY can mandate them.
    - Few options: Tobi met with Dr. Vivek Murthy and Dr. Jerome Adams (both surgeons-general), both were interested in this idea.
  - Hosting SUNY SA executive board 2/28
    - Meeting Objectives?
  - UC Guidelines for funding
    - Update guidelines to standardize how clubs are funded across all councils
      - ⊄ Treasurers will meet before October UC meeting
      - ⊄ Updates?
      - ⊄ Shiva to email, push to November.
    - Accepted med council budget in interim

## ● Advisor Updates

- Invitations Sent for Administrators
  - Any update on availability?
    - ⊄ Sending the invitations
    - ⊄ Working on getting people set up for the rest of the year. We will have 1 or more admin at each meeting
- Phone directory project
  - Harder than anticipated
- **Kudos and Concerns Implementation**
  - Any updates?
    - ⊄ Product identified, 2026 implementation
    - ⊄ Waiting for procurement, spring earliest
- **ENGAGE Platform**
  - Updates?
  - Uploaded every student in ENGAGE (test), next step is to upload all advisors/faculty. Remove 2 groups
  - Club pages will go live in December so people can access. Clubs have a month to update their pages and make it engaging for students.
- Thanksgiving Dinner (need to push it, sold \$122)
  - Social media, classes “the best \$5 you can spend”

- New Spring Fling Plan
  - Advertised it will be semi-formal, boat cruise
  - Thurs March 26
    - ✎ Try to put request in
  - Tickets will go on sale Jan
- Patagonia sale – starting next week for all Downstate schools; info emailed to all council presidents. Everything approved by Patagonia

- **Program Updates**

- COM: Summatives prep meeting 10/15/2025, COM 2026 graduation date is in flux. Students had issues with the AOA selection process and wanted transparency, especially with research years. Awaiting updates for snacks and water during shelf exams, seems unlikely. Bathroom breaks were changed from 1 hour into the exam into 2 hour. Gateway 5 OSCE was given in Unit 5 now and the students in COM 2028 wished that they were warned earlier. KCHC clearance continues to be an issue. The wrong NBME was ordered for the students with accommodations – students had to wait for their exam while others were speaking during the exam. Exams were switched to Brightspace and the students are having issues with lack of features (highlighting, flagging). Students wanted more clarification on Gateway 2 grading processes and wanted more transparency. Issues with parking right now due to limited lot space.
- CON: December graduation; white coat ceremony for new classes next week. Elections for NSC coming.
- SOHP:
  - New Events in the Works
    - ✎ We're excited to share that planning is underway for several upcoming SOHP events. Goal is as before to integrate SOHP within the different programs and SOHP with other schools in Downstate.
  - Joint Instagram Page Launch
    - ✎ We're currently working on launching a joint Instagram page for SOHP to strengthen our online presence and better connect with our community. More information to come once the page goes live!
  - October 7th Breakfast – A Great Success
    - ✎ A big thank you to everyone who attended and supported the SOHP Breakfast on October 7th! The event was a great success and a fantastic opportunity for students and faculty to connect
  - Will get an advisor in a month
- SPH: Opportunities to do research are mostly done by GS students but SPH students weren't informed. They want to know if GS can get the word out to SPH earlier so they can engage in research slams and other events.

- GS: survey regarding qualification exams, new molecular and new micro directors. Oct. Joint event for catering for grad stat
- SUNY SA: GBM November, SUNY SA will come in February.
- College Council: None, Ellen Watson is scheduling
- [Follow-Up: What do you want from UC this year?](#)
- **Open Floor**
  - N/A

#### **Food Preferences**

**\*\*\*Allergic to nuts – Eric\*\*\***

**No Beef – Moyouri/Adam**

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Thomas at 8:08. Seconded by Jasmine**

**Minutes officially submitted on 11/10/2025 by Hend Heikal**

*Hend Heikal*

**Hend Heikal**

**UC Secretary 2025-2026**