

University Council Meeting 2025-2026



Voting Members in Attendance:

Name	Email
Tobi Somorin	Tobi.Somorin@downstate.edu
Daniel Green	Daniel.green@downstate.edu
Hend Heikal	Hend.heikal@downstate.edu
Serina Abdul Satter	Serina.AbdulSatter@downstate.edu
Thomas Sanford	Thomas.sanford@downstate.edu
Isaac Vingan	Isaac.vingan@downstate.edu
Jasmine Yu	Jasmine.Yu@downstate.edu
Moyouri Bhattacharjee	Moyouri.Bhattacharjee@downstate.edu
Lianlen Joy Distor	LianlenJoy.Distor@downstate.edu
Gelila Hawthorne	Gelila.Hawthorne@downstate.edu
Breanna Watson	Breanna.Watson@downstate.edu
Onyekachi Okeke	Onyekachi.Okeke@downstate.edu

Voting Members not in Attendance:

Name	Email
Shivasuryan Vummidi (Proxy: Tobi Somorin)	Shivasuryan.vummidi@downstate.edu

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Name	
Adam Burgman	

Agenda

- Call to Order at 6:06 pm by Tobi, seconded by Isaac
- **Budget Requests & Voting: (6:05-6:15)**
 - **None**
- **New Business (6:15-6:35)**
 - SUNY SA Updates from Thomas and Moyouri
 - Very functional, 10 resolutions all passed
 - Student activity fee to \$350
 - SUNY Downstate General Council Updates from Dan
 - Dr. Riley spent time discussing changes about federal gov. DEI
 - Taking advice from SUNY council
 - Loan cap for med students, not enough to pay for medical school for most students across the country
 - Medicaid rollback concerns (2027) will have to renew every 6 months
 - UC Merch (maroon)
 - Espresso Your Thoughts Updates
 - Huge thank you to Jasmine, Moyouri, and Onye!
 - ✉ Nursing: students want better communication, organization, and empathy for missing exams due to personal reasons
 - ☛ Advisors not very helpful
 - ✉ SOHP: not enough donor bodies to dissect during the summer, new curriculum adjustment issues
 - ✉ COM: cleaner study spaces, food during exams, osce prep, more formal ID help services
 - ✉ SPH: Need for more targeted community efforts amongst students as majority is virtual, more thorough Orientation to point students to resources available to them.
- Multi-Cultural Fair
 - Tentative Date: Tuesday, March 24th
 - Phab hall
 - December discuss groups
 - ✉ Sign up next meeting
- **Old Business (6:35-6:55PM)**
 - Halloween Extravaganza: Thank you to Moyouri!
 - Maintenance

- Thanksgiving Din Din
 - Great turnout!
- Website Bio Update
- Nomination for Student Representatives Update
- UC Instagram Update
 - AB Birthday Post
 - Espresso Your Thoughts
 - Meet The Members - Hend
 - ✉ Send Jasmine, Onye, and myself
 - 3-5 photos of yourself
 - Hometown:
 - Program/Year:
 - What you want to be when you grow up:
 - Favorite NYC Activity:
 - Favorite Movie or Book:
 - Unpopular Opinion/Hot Take (if you have any)
- New Suggestion Box (who has the form?)
 - [Suggestion Box Google Form](#)
 - Remake the form
- Hosting SUNY SA executive board 2/28
 - Meeting Objectives to bring up to the board?
 - ✉ Problems Brooklyn grad students face
- UC Guidelines for funding
 - Will update at next meeting
 - 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.
 - ✉ Between Dec-Jan guidelines to be discussed
 - ✉ Jan council wide vote on the guidelines before they are approved and guidelines will be effective in February

● Advisor Updates (7PM-7:20)

- Invitations Sent for Administrators
 - Invitations have been sent out as of yesterday
 - Dr. Deutscher/Evelyn interested in coming as a guest (next?)
 - ✉ Remind Putnam
- **Kudos and Concerns Implementation**
 - No change from last time**

- Procurement is finished; IT implementation is next. Early spring**
 - Will be expanded to include all other schools**
- **ENGAGE Platform**
 - Live now
 - Campus wide announcement in January
 - Only people with a downstate.edu will have access to the website
 - No more sign in sheets. All clubs will have a QR code.
 - Push for spring
- **New Spring Fling Plan (March 26th)**
 - Boat cruise
 - Official name Downstate Sails into Spring
 - Contract not signed yet. Thursday March 26 from 6:30-10PM
 - \$60 per student including open bar
 - Guests \$110
 - Med council: \$10K UC \$4K
 - SCGB is planning on holding a new event in the spring
 - ✗ Event TBD
- **Graduation Updates**
 - Live nation has pulled out of running the amphitheater in Coney Island
 - Owner working on running a whole team to run graduation
 - New vendor/new contract which is why we do not have a date
 - ✗ Graduation fees remain the same
 - New date by next meeting
 - Actual date will be released once it is signed
- **Renovation**
 - Amb surg (union pushed for a provision)
 - No movement on the other building
 - Garage down for spring
 - New contractor starting soon

- **Program Updates (7:20-7:45)**

- **COM:**
 - Graduation
 - Spring fling
 - Concerns regard KCH clearance for rotations/bedside
 - MS1/MS2 scheduling concerns
- **CON:**
 - White coat ceremony that passed

- New council transition
- SOHP:
 - Scheduling issues – last minute cancellation of classes
 - Religious holidays accommodation concerns
 - ∉ Academic calendar no longer acknowledges religious holidays
 - ∉ However, students are absolutely excused from class on their religious holiday
 - ∉ Reminder to send the email regarding holidays
 - SOHP Instagram created by students
 - Multicultural fair interest
- SPH:
 - Classrooms clean up signs? Facilities
 - Revamped Instagram page
 - Hired student success coordinator
 - Student information session for the first time
- GS:
 - Deans forum happening on Monday
- SUNY SA:
 - Very functional, 10 resolutions all passed
 - Student activity fee to \$350
- College Council:
 - Dr. Riley spent time discussing changes about federal gov. DEI
 - Taking advice from SUNY council
 - Loan cap for med students, not enough to pay for medical school for most students across the country
 - Medicaid rollback concerns (2027) will have to renew every 6 months

- [Follow-Up: What do you want from UC this year?](#) (7:45-7:55)

- **Open Floor**

- **N/A**

Motion to adjourn by Dan at 7:55pm seconded by Tobi

Minutes officially submitted on 11/23 by Hend Heikal

Hend Heikal

Hend Heikal

UC Secretary 2025-2026