

## University Council Meeting 2025-2026



### *Voting Members in Attendance:*

Name	Email
Tobi Somorin	Tobi.Somorin@downstate.edu
Daniel Green	<a href="mailto:Daniel.green@downstate.edu">Daniel.green@downstate.edu</a>
Hend Heikal	Hend.heikal@downstate.edu
Serina Abdul Satter	<a href="mailto:Serina.AbdulSatter@downstate.edu">Serina.AbdulSatter@downstate.edu</a>
Thomas Sanford	<a href="mailto:Thomas.sanford@downstate.edu">Thomas.sanford@downstate.edu</a>
Isaac Vingan	Isaac.vingan@downstate.edu
Jasmine Yu	<a href="mailto:Jasmine.Yu@downstate.edu">Jasmine.Yu@downstate.edu</a>
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Lianlen Joy Distor	<a href="mailto:LianlenJoy.Distor@downstate.edu">LianlenJoy.Distor@downstate.edu</a>
Gelila Hawthorne	<a href="mailto:Gelila.Hawthorne@downstate.edu">Gelila.Hawthorne@downstate.edu</a>
Breanna Watson	<a href="mailto:Breanna.Watson@downstate.edu">Breanna.Watson@downstate.edu</a>
Onyekachi Okeke	Onyekachi.Okeke@downstate.edu

### *Voting Members not in Attendance:*

Name	Email
Shivasuryan Vummidi (Proxy: Tobi Somorin)	<a href="mailto:Shivasuryan.vummidi@downstate.edu">Shivasuryan.vummidi@downstate.edu</a>

### *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 24<sup>th</sup>
    - 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 26<sup>th</sup>)
  - ☐ 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