Meeting January 25th, 2021

I. Call to Order
6:08pm

II. Roll Call
Student Trustee Bravo absent
Chief of Staff Oommen absent
Representative Aranda-Ortiz absent
Representative Oyefeso absent
Representative Suresh absent
Representative Ruiz absent

Representative Vilvasigamani has excused absence
Representative Khan has excused absence

III. Reading and Approval of the Agenda
Approved

IV. Public Comment
No Public Comment

V. Guest Speakers
a. Rohith Erukulla, Saranya Menson, & Alex Boskov
Officers of Laugh at UIC
-Laughter Yoga, laughter and breathing exercises that improve health
-Request of $400.00 for Laughter Yoga event at UIC
-Event would be on March 10 at 7:30pm over zoom

b. Seamus McNamara
Young Democratic Socialists of America
-Request of $150 to afford registration fees of 5 members to attend the YDSA Winter Conference on February 26th-28th.
-Conference is online, includes workshops and seminars.

VI. Ex Officio Reports
a. Report of the Advisor
-Advisor congratulates all members of USG for their hard work.
-Advisor informs the body that 2021 Student Elections will open applications of February the 1st
-Please submit intent to run before submitting the application

b. Report of the Student Trustee
Absent
No report

VII. Officer Reports
a. Report of the President
-President is working on a proposal for Student Emergency Housing. USG would be purchasing campus housing units on a 2-3-year contract for students experiencing homelessness to use temporarily.
-President is working on a proposal for Behavioral Crisis Worker Unit. This would be a 24/7 crisis worker unit to provide services like mental health crisis counseling, de-escalation/harm reduction, medical care (suicide threats, drug overdose, intoxication calls), hospital transfers from Counseling center and trauma care for survivors of sexual assault.
-President worked with the Chancellor and the chief of police to remove race from public safety advisories.
-President worked on planning a town hall for student issues with the Student Survey Coalition to organize and build campaigns around all student issues. This would take place on 2/10/2021.
-President informs the body that the student survey got 1500 responses on an 80-question survey!
-President informs the body that along with representative Kayla, they presented on Ethnic Studies Gen Ed to the Academic Senate.
-President attended several meetings with the Good Trouble Coalition and Abolition @UIC on pushing for demands letter.
-President attended group meetings regarding the Bias response tool
-President met with Provost Poser to talk about: Student Mental Health Days, Grading Policy, GPA recalculation, Textbook price reduction/elimination, Decolonizing Syllabi and USG/Undergrad Honor Code Updates.

b. Report of the Vice-President
-Vice-president informs the body that the mental health survey was released. Please share it! Survey will be open for 2-3 weeks.
-Vice-president is in the process of working collecting data from various campus resources about their mental health support services, the goal is to create an interactive survey to be housed on the counseling center’s website. This survey will point student towards resources in campus.
-Vice-president is looking into campus care to see if we can expand coverage to other mental health services.
-Vice-president has been speaking to faculty senate about the implementation of a reading week.
-Vice-president has been working on setting up an event where we speak to Joe Hermes and invite the Board of Education. For any feedback, please reach out to the Vice-president.
-Vice-president has been working on writing a resolution regarding the Bonfire liaison. Will have it ready by next meeting.
-Vice-president has the following goals for this semester: Lobbying counseling center to hire crisis counselors, have a plan for focus groups in later semesters, implement menstrual hygiene vending machines and design an undocumented student resource center.

c. Report of the Treasurer
-Treasurer informs the body that the treasury Committee met with Seamus McNamara from the YDSA, Young Democratic Socialists of America. Asking to subsidize their upcoming winter conference.
-Treasurer is in contact with the UIC Library, waiting for their update to order the lockers for the library.
- Treasurer informs the body that Deputy Treasurer Mohammed Haq is in talks with the sustainability department to see how we can collaborate.

d. Report of the Speaker
-Speaker of the house welcomes back all members to a new semester!
-Speaker of the house thanks all members that attended the End of the Year Party.
-Speaker of the house informs the body that there are no meetings for the previous meeting as there were technical issues. However, we will be approving them at the next meeting along with the minutes for the current meeting.
-Speaker of the house reminds all members that they should make sure that they have access to Box.
-Speaker of the house reminds cabinet members to title officer reports as “SX”, where S stands for Spring and X is the number of the Meeting.
-Speaker of the house informs the body that Matthew will be holding meetings with the Committee Chairs to check-in.
-Speaker of the house informs the body that this semester she will be working with Matthew to teach him how to create Meeting Packets and he will lead a meeting sometime during the semester.
-Speaker of the house informs the body that Matthew encourages everyone to join the cause for the Textbook Affordability Campaign with Illinois PIRG.
-Speaker of the house reminds the body to please email the secretary and speaker of the house if you plan on being late/not attending the meeting.
-Speaker of the house reminds the body that if you arrive after Roll Call, please post a comment to tell us you arrived; we do not monitor who enters the room, so you might be considered absent if you miss Roll Call and do not let us know afterwards.
-Speaker of the house reminds the body that 3 unexcused absences OR 4 total absences result in automatic removal from USG. If you have 2 unexcused absences or 3 total absences, you will receive a notice from me.
-Speaker of the house reminds the cabinet members that Officer report are due Saturdays at 6 pm, please set an alarm or reminder to make sure you turn it in.

e. Report of the Chief of Staff
Absent
No report

f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
-Chairwoman Hammad is working on a Know Your Rights series with the Graduate Student Council.
-Chairwoman Hammad is organizing an upcoming event with CAN.
-Chairwoman Hammad met with Erin over break and is continuing to work on Title IX initiatives.
-Chairwoman Hammad informs the body that the new meeting time for DIC committee meetings will be Tuesdays at 6:00pm.
-Chairwoman Hammad met with the president to report on plans for this semester.
-Chairwoman Hammad is finalizing ideas for “Be Aware Campaign”.
-Chairwoman Hammad will be presenting a resolution next week regarding implementing the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) as a race category on all UIC’s documentations.
This resolution will be presented next week, Dr. Zaatari and Sarah Hassan from ArabAmCC will be present.

g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
Chairwoman El-Adawe has been working on sexual assault action items and has reached out to Title IX. She will be meeting with Title IX constituents this Wednesday at 3:00pm. If a member is interested in attending this meeting, please reach out to Chairwoman El-Adawe.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe informs the body that the Mental Health Coalition survey was released and encourages the body to complete it.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe hosted a Sexual Assault/Misconduct meeting and thanks all members that were able to attend.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe informs the body that during committee meetings, members will be working on: Lobby Days, SA coalition awareness, supporting local businesses and raising awareness for said businesses in the UIC community.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe informs the body that the event planned by representative Villagomez will be hosted online unless the university has new news on online and in-person events.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe informs the body that Michael will continue to work on the BB calendar.
- Chairwoman El-Adawe informs the body that Mathew will continue with the work on the new communications app.

h. Report of the Public Relations Committee Chair
Chairwoman Nadala welcomes all students back from Winter Break.
- Chairwoman updated the GBM times on the USG website and has updates the Youtube channel.
- Chairwoman has been working on purchasing merch for the 2020-2021 USG body.
- Chairwoman informs the body that the Public Relations Committee will be meeting weekly on Fridays at 4:00pm.

i. Report of the Student Affairs Committee Chair
Chairwoman has resigned.
No report

j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
Chairwoman informs the body that she will be sending out a poll with possible committee meeting times so that the members of the committee decide when to meet.
- Chairwoman informs the body that during committee meetings she will discuss some new and continuing initiatives for the semester.
- Chairwoman informs the body that the mental health survey is live, please respond if you haven’t already!

VIII. Old Business
No Old Business

IX. New Business
No New Business

X. Items for Discussion
a. Nomination for Student Affairs Committee Chair
President nominates Representative Tegha Obire
Representatives vote in favor
Tegha Obire has become the new Student Affairs Committee Chair

b. Lawsuit about invasive systems
Representative Crisman informs the body of a lawsuit regarding invasive systems, will be sending this information to the president.

c. Picture!
Chairwoman Nadala took a picture of the meeting.

XI. Announcements

-Representative Almendras encourages everyone to help on the campaign against unaffordable textbooks with Illinois PIRG.

Chairwoman El-Adawe reminds members interested in joining the SA meeting to reach out as soon as possible.

Secretary Guerrero shares a new platform similar to Zoom called Wonder.com

XII. Adjournment
7:46pm