

USG

Fall Meeting 4

10/09/2023

I. Call to Order

- 6:03 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
 - Mohammed Haq
 - Aminah Ahmed (unexcused)
 - Anthony Cruz (unexcused)
 - Jesse Ghoman (unexcused)
 - Madaline Lopez (excused)
 - Meghna Dasgupta (excused)
 - Syeda Amena (unexcused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- No changes, stands as approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- No changes, stands as approved

V. Public Comment

- Ski Club
 - President Karim Hummos
 - 300 new members this semester alone, going to Snow Bird, Utah this year
 - Speaking about club life: 34% of UIC students are part of a club, and the national average is 64%. This is a huge problem with over 80% of students being commuters, they leave to go home after class. UIC has the lowest retention rate of all UI schools
 - We can solve this retention problem through clubs—give students opportunities to explore hobbies and meet like-minded individuals. We will have better students who are more likely to graduate
 - Clubs at UIC are not given resources—clubs must jump through several hoops. An example was our club trying to get courts for volleyball in the Rec. After several emails, we were told they were closed with no reason for the rest of the semester
 - In August we were not invited to the involvement fair or the rec fest. We were also told that UIC does not have buses for us to use to get to Utah
 - UIC is a hostile environment for clubs
 - As a club leader, it is hard to run a club especially when UIC is against you at every turn. We want to empower clubs and leaders to set the stage for students
 - Contact: Karim Hummos - President of Ski & Snowboard Club - Khummm4@uic.edu

VI. Guest Speakers

- No guest speakers, moving on to next order of business

VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2023-F3-3000 USG Campus Safety Commission Reauthorization Act of 2023-24
 - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2023-F3-3001 USG Mental Health Commission Reauthorization Act of 2023-24
 - Favored, passed

VIII. New Business

- No new business, moving on to next order of business

IX. Items for Discussion

- Electronic Voting

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- Rep. Irlbacker: So this past week Pres. Almendras, COS Basta, Dir. Heybeli, and I attended the Chicago City Council meeting and saw how the council functions. They are not as organized as us and they have e-voting which expedites the voting process and ensures people are voting and counting exactly what they vote for. I think we should vote this way in the USG. It makes sure everyone is voting one way or another and it can show dissent and transparency
 - Rep. Patel: What program would we use to e-vote?
 - Rep. Irlbacker: I have no specific plan for that
 - Pres. Almendras: Everyone had their own iPad and went on a website. I think we can use a similar website. I can ask the City Clerk about what site that was
 - Rep. Thumu: We can create a Google form and attach that to the meeting packet already so either Michelle or someone else can open the form and close it when voting is done
 - Rep. Santana: Where would we have funding for this? Can we have this funding go to other initiatives?
 - Speaker Zhou: We would not be purchasing iPads for everyone but you would use your own phone or laptop instead. I think this is a great way to get individual counts to ensure everyone's vote is counted.
 - Rep. Klimek: This might add more privacy and might make it easier to vote the other way
 - Web Admin Suarez: Would this be anonymous or stored data?
 - Pres. Almendras: This would not be anonymous, I don't think there is anything wrong with it being public and students have the right to know what their reps are voting in favor of or not.
 - Speaker Zhou: We are not currently tallying your votes but your speaking out loud to vote is public so we would reflect the current process by keeping names public in e-voting as well
 - Pres. Almendras: Who thinks this would be a good idea? *people raised hands*

X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor
 - i. No report

b. Report of the Student Trustee

- a. No report

XI. Officer Reports

- a. Report of the President

- i. Response to Karem's public comment

- 1. I agree with what he said. We mentioned this last GBM and this has been at the top of our minds. I am meeting with the directors of student engagement this week and will discuss their budget and student concerns this week. If you have anything to add, I will tell Joy Vergara. We have made some strides to better student org support. At the beginning of this year, we were able to get up to \$5600 for catering which was previously \$200. In addition, regarding the service bus, that is something we are talking about with the directors. This has received some positive feedback about busing students in the Chicagoland area, but this will cost a lot of money so we need to figure out a budget for that. With conversations with university admin, I have been talking about student org support. It ultimately comes down to the budget to provide more support for students. If you hear any concerns from student orgs please let me know.

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- ii. Director Gupta, Chief of Staff Basta, and I met with Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services, John Coronado, Chief of Police Kevin Booker, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administrative Service Office of Preparedness & Response, David Ibrahim, and Clarence Bridges Executive Director of Facilities Management about campus safety
 - iii. Met with LAS Dean Freeman
 - iv. Please complete the Fall 2023 UIC Undergraduate Student Survey administered by Student Affairs
 - v. Questions:
 - 1. Rep. Thumu: For the quad event, will it be similar to the safety event earlier in the year?
 - a. Pres. Almendras: Yes in who is invited, but it will include activities and something memorable
 - vi. View full report for more details
 - vii. Report filed
- b. Report of the Vice-President
- i. Tabled at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) Involvement Fair with President Matthew
 - ii. Applications for commissioner of the Mental Health Commission (MHC) and Campus Safety Commission (CSC) will be released this week
 - iii. Attended the Banned Book Readout and Panel Discussion hosted by Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias and the UIC University Library
 - iv. Received info from CampusCare Gap Assessment Committee
 - v. Friday, November 10th - UIC Homecoming Tailgate & Men's Basketball Game vs. Loyola University Chicago
 - 1. Free food, USG will have a presence there!
 - 2. Parking lot 1B, across from the Credit Union
 - 3. Dir. Tejal and I will be leading that event
 - vi. Attended E-Board meeting Friday
 - vii. Met with LAS Dean Freeman and will meet with Dr. Raphael D. Florestal-Kevelier
 - viii. View full report for more details
 - ix. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
- i. Started placing orders for catering
 - ii. Confirmed that Treasury Committee meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30
 - iii. Attended the Student Fees Committee meeting this past Friday and listened to the proposals of CSI and COCL
 - iv. Discussed with Director Dilay about hosting a Halloween-themed event
 - v. View full report for more details
 - vi. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
- i. Everyone should have gotten a USG Box invitation today
 - 1. Important information from meetings there!
 - ii. Conducted Interim Speaker Applications
 - 1. Interim Speaker is Manasvi Thumu
 - iii. USG Exit Poll

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1. If you have an idea during a meeting or a thought that occurred after the meeting then please be encouraged to add that via the exit poll
 - iv. Representative 1-on-1 meetings continuing
 - v. Representative development workshop and USG social upcoming
 - vi. View full report for more details
 - vii. Report filed
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
- i. Attended the City Council meeting with President Matthew, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Dilay, and Representative Isaiah
 - ii. Met with President Matthew, Director of Campus Life Tejal, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Coronado, and Police Chief Booker
 - iii. Met with Director of Diversity and Inclusion Dilay to discuss meetings with Cultural Centers and upcoming opportunities for USG
 - iv. Coordinating with the Alumni Association by exploring potential collaborations with USG
 - v. View full report for more details
 - vi. Report filed
- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
- i. Had a meeting with the Arab American Cultural Center's Director Zaatari, discussing how USG can contribute to UIC's MENA students and our future collaborations
 - ii. Had our first committee meeting with DIC members last Friday and this Monday, getting to know each other more and sharing our excitement!
 - iii. Attended City Council Meeting in City Hall with President Matthew, Chief of Staff Quinn, and Representative Isaiah
 - iv. Visited Diversity Career Fair
 - v. Joined Equity and Inclusion in Engineering Program Alumni Power event
 - vi. Attended USG e-board meeting on Friday
 - vii. Worked with Director Zaina to promote ArabAMCC's events on USG social media
 - viii. Had separate meetings about our close future events with Chief of Staff Basta and President Almendras
 - ix. Met with Representative Alexis to support and listen to his ideas about Latino Cultural Center collaboration events
 - x. View full report for more details
 - xi. Report filed
- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
- i. Met with the Nick Hart (SLCE and Student Trustee's Office)
 1. Discussed Free Speech Policies at UIC
 - ii. Strategic Planning with President Matthew
 1. Created weekly goals for the LAC committee
 - iii. Met with First Year Writing Program Director Dr. Mark Bennett
 - iv. Met with all LAC representatives 1-1
 - v. Attended weekly E-Board meeting
 - vi. View full report for more details
 - vii. Report filed
- h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair

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- i. Sent out the USG calendar this morning. Directors and Representatives, feel free to add any upcoming/future events at your convenience to the calendar.
 - ii. Instagram Member Spotlight posts are back starting this week. We will be posting every Monday and Friday.
 - iii. We had our first PAC meeting of the semester last Thursday. PAC meetings will be every other Monday 5-6PM
 - iv. Met with President Matthew and discussed plans for USG outreach and initiatives.
 - v. View full report for more details
 - vi. Report filed
- i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
- i. Instagram takeover last Tuesday
 - ii. Met with the Assistant Director of Career Development and Internships to plan our first career workshop event last Tuesday
 - iii. Emailed the Director of Career Services to set up an introductory meeting.
 - iv. First SSC Meeting was Thursday!
 - v. Director Aparna, Representative Maddy, and I met with Dr. Bennett, the head of the First Year Writing Program to discuss increasing civic engagement.
 - vi. View full report for more details
 - vii. Report filed
- j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
- i. I met with Chief Booker and VC Coronado along with President Matthew.
 - ii. Held a meeting with USG President Matthew for strategic planning and to go through the weekly objectives of the campus life committee.
 - iii. Attended the USG executive board meeting
 - iv. Met with Abdulmajid, Ashley, and Isaiah, representatives for the campus life committee, to discuss safety issues and to explore ideas for a food drive fundraiser.
 - v. View full report for more details
 - vi. Report filed

XII. Announcements

- Pres. Almendras: VC Rob Dixon is inviting students and specifically USG leaders to play basketball at the Rec 4 PM this Wednesday!
- Pres. Almendras: I am looking for a rep to serve on the Associate Dean and Dean of Students Search Committee so email me or message me if you're interested
- Rep. Thumu: If you're interested in watching Super Bad, come to lecture center F 6 at 6PM on Thursday!
- Speaker Zhou: Grab catering!

XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
 - Adjourned at 6:49 PM