

USG

Fall Meeting 1

10/16/2023

I. Call to Order

- 6:02 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
 - Aminah Ahmed (unexcused)
 - Anthony Cruz (excused)
 - Diya Sharma (unexcused)
 - Jacob Maduakolam (excused)
 - Jiya Patel (excused)
 - Kartikeya Dixit (excused)
 - Marnee Ostoa (excused)
 - Nina Fonseca (excused)
 - Saba Ali (unexcused)
 - Sedje Tinfang (excused)
 - Yaksh Patel (unexcused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Approved

V. Public Comment

- None, next order of business

VI. Guest Speakers

- Dr. Scoulas
 - UIC library, data collection presentation regarding library space usage
 - Since 2016 every other year this survey has been conducted on library needs and how to implement those comments to make improvements
 - Conducted Feb. 15-March 17, excluded graduate student surveys so we can relate to undergraduate experience
 - Survey categories
 - Library visits, space satisfaction, library impact on course work, library resources and services
 - Questions/Comments
 - Dir. Heybeli: The first floor is too cold
 - Rep. Rothenbaum: It is too hard to find a seat and table to study at
 - Rep. Kannan: We need more seating on the first floor and I like the free pads and tampons
 - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: I think it is difficult to find a space to sit because of the lack of outlets so students have to move to a spot where they can plug their devices in
 - Rep. Omar: On the 4th floor and some 3rd-floor outlets don't work so then I have to move to different floor
 - Dr. Scoulas: Go to library website on chat with librarian feature and report the broken outlet with location, do not wait!
 - Rep. Klimek: I would like to see more single seating on the first and second floor. Maybe even just having a table divider would help students feel comfortable sharing a table

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- Rep. Rothenbaum: Downstairs in the entrance area, there are the chairs with the tables attached to them which are for individuals and that is very convenient so it would be nice to add that to more floors
- Dr. Scoulas: Jan 15th another survey will come out and after you complete it, you will get a different survey which results in a compensation

VII. Old Business

- None, moving on

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2023-F5-1000 UIC Homecoming Tailgate Activities and USG's Participation
 - Rep. Santana: How much have we spent in past years?
 - VP Fernandes: We spent \$5000 last year and wanted to do more this year to have more games. We also have to get the tent ourselves this year and are not sure about the price of that but we wanted to cover all fees and any unspent funds will be returned to budget
 - Rep. Santana: Have we done a satisfaction survey? How soon does returning the funds occur?
 - VP Fernandes: We have not done a satisfaction survey
 - Treasurer Caballes: Funds are immediately returned to the budget as they are simply never withdrawn unless the cost dictates using them
 - Rep. Klimek: We were thinking about potentially buying the tent instead of renting it as it might be cheaper
 - Pres. Almendras: I agree that it can be used for publicity's sake and other events. We also need to invest in some new signage. It will take some more time to find a vendor for a branded tent so for now we can rent a tent now
 - Treasurer Caballes: We will look into buying a tent in the future but for now we will rent a tent using an approved vendor because this is time sensitive
 - Pres. Almendras: Executive orders resolution
 - Favored, Passed
- Resolution 2023-F5-1001 "Trick or Treat!" Halloween Giveaway
 - Treasurer Caballes: I motion to amend the allocation from '\$500' to '\$550'
 - Favored, passed
 - Dir. Heybeli: We are increasing this cost in order to order 240 spooky themed stress ball
 - Speaker Zhou: I motion to amend this resolution to include in parentheses '240 stress balls'
 - Favored, passed
 - Pres. Almendras: Executive orders resolution
 - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2023-F5-2000 Supporting the Adoption of the Okanagan Charter at UIC
 - VP Fernandes: I met with Dr. Raphael and discussed the benefits for students. A lot of universities around the US are adopting this and he wanted USG to be in support of this. The PDF is below for this document and I suggest reading it.
 - Rep. Manasvi: The charter looks interesting, I was wondering if the other universities that adopted this charter, did they change policies?
 - VP Fernandes: This adoption is relatively new across universities but I will look into it

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- Rep. Sands: What specific actions are being taken for the needs of marginalized students to be met? Wellness does not always include students who do not have monetary access to everything
 - VP Fernandes: This charter is committed to any student, I can ask about specifics and get back to you
- Rep. Kannan: Can you please briefly explain the benefits
 - VP Fernandes: When any policy gets made at the university you have to defend how that policy upholds student health and wellbeing
- Pres. Almendras: During the faculty strikes, they were trying to promote mental health resources on campus and I think this is reaffirming those efforts
- Rep. Santana: If we have further questions should we speak to you?
 - VP Fernandes: Yes, email me and I will refer your questions to Dr. Raphael
- Rep. Narang: Is Dr. Raphael part of UIC or outside?
 - VP Fernandes: He is from UIC and he is Assistant VC for Student Health and Wellness and is the Executive Director of the Counseling Center
 - Pres. Almendras: He is also President of the American College Health Association so he is an expert in this field
- Resolution 2023-F5-3002 Civic Engagement English Course Campaign
 - Pres. Almendras: There is a typo, can we motion to amend that?
 - Rep. Flores: I motion to amend the ‘of’ to read ‘or’ in the 4th whereas clause
 - Favored, passed
 - Rep. Klimek: Would this be something done during election years or periodically?
 - Rep. Flores: We will work on it this semester and start it next semester and then this would be great to use for next fall’s presidential election

IX. Items for Discussion

- None, moving on

X. Ex Officio Reports

a. Report of the Advisor

- i. Fred McCall filling in (Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement and Interim Dean of Students)
 - 1. State of the University is tomorrow, everyone is invited to attend at 4 PM in the Dorin Forum

b. Report of the Student Trustee

- Attended LAC and SSC meetings
- Working on Metra student discount
- Students for Justice in Palestine alleged complaint against the University
 - Not speaking on behalf of UIC or any UIC entity, I am speaking as myself
 - SJP filed a complaint with Office for Civil Rights under Federal Department of Education
 - Do not know what OCR is doing with this complaint
 - Conducting their own internal investigation and will then decided to serve with a lawsuit or not; this has not happened yet and UIC is not under litigation
 - As Trustee, we are not adjudicators of this case there are experts that handle this
- Questions/Comments
 - Rep. Sands: Is this related to the study abroad trips?
 - Student Trustee Haq: Yes
- View full report for more details

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- Report filed

XI. Officer Reports

a. Report of the President

- i. Starting Oct. 2nd, the library will be open 24 hours Monday- Thursday!
- ii. Met with LAS Dean Freeman with Vice President Fernandes and Director Asad
- iii. Met with Robert Spivey, a staffer on healthcare from Sen. Durbin's office with Director Ramakrishnan and Rep. Sands
- iv. Met with Joy Vergara, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement, with Chief of Staff Basta, SMBOT Haq, Treasurer Caballes, and Rep. Dasgupta.
- v. OER Meeting with Sandy and Director Asad (10/18)
- vi. Will begin conducting meetings with RSO leaders to reestablish connections and update them on USG work
- vii. Question: Rep. Santana: How are we supporting the library since it is short staffed?
 1. Pres. Almendras: They have increased hours for staff and hired more security. One way USG will be aiding in this is our honor code that students will keep spaces clean and such. For future support, we will continue supporting keeping library open at this capacity
- viii. View full report for more details
- ix. Report filed

b. Report of the Vice-President

- i. USG Commissions applications open and due 10/24/23 11:59 PM
- ii. Had meeting with Dean of College of LAS Freeman with President Matthew and Director Asa
- iii. Communicating with Dean Ballard-Thrower with what can be done to support librarians in Chicago
- iv. Friday, November 10th - UIC Homecoming – 5pm to 7pm
- v. Director Tejal and Speaker of the House Michelle and I met to discuss how to coordinate and plan USG's presence at the Homecoming Tailgate
- vi. Attended E-Board meeting Friday
- vii. Met with Dr. Raphael D. Florestal-Kevelier
- viii. Question: Rep. Kannan: Is any relevant past experience required for the Commissioner?
 1. VP Fernandes: No, just demonstrate experience that shows your passion and interest in the commission and any experience you have that relates.
 2. Rep. Naraung: Who will be selecting the commissioners?
 - a. VP Fernandes: I appoint who the commissioners will be but I will work with other board members to decide
 - b. Pres. Almendras: The interview process will be with VP Fernandes and the committee director of the commission and the applicant that is chosen will then be voted on by the committee
- ix. View full report for more details
- x. Report filed

c. Report of the Treasurer

- i. Helped plan the logistics for the Homecoming Tailgate with Vice President Fernandes
- ii. Attended the E-Board Social this past Friday
- iii. Introduced myself to Diana Jones, the main point of contact from the Dean of Students Office
- iv. Met with Director Heybeli and helped organize the plans for a Halloween giveaway

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- v. Held the first Treasury Committee Meeting on Wednesday
 - 1. Deputy Treasurer: Michael Klimek
- vi. View full report for more details
- vii. Report filed

- d. Report of the Speaker
 - i. USG Box gets updated after each meeting
 - ii. Representative 1-on-1 Meetings sign up sheet has been sent out, please fill out
 - iii. USG Orientation Make-Ups
 - iv. Working on onboarding Interim Speaker Manasvi
 - v. Representative development workshop will be in November, please fill out availability form
 - vi. View full report for more details
 - vii. Report filed

- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
 - i. Held check-in with Director of Legislative Affairs Aparna
 - ii. Held check-in with Director of Public Affairs Zaina
 - iii. Held check-in with Director of Diversity and Inclusion Dilay
 - iv. Met with Treasurer Matthew Caballes
 - v. Attended a meeting with Trustee Mohammed, President Matthew Almendras, Treasurer Matthew Caballes, Representative Meghna, and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement Joy Vergara, discussed concerns of student organizations and student fees
 - vi. Held weekly Executive Board meeting
 - vii. View full report for more details
 - viii. Report filed

- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
 - i. Met with Diversity and Inclusion Committee members 1-1, get to know them and their goals better.
 - ii. Planned the Halloween giveaway
 - iii. Had Monday and Friday committee meetings
 - iv. Met with the Diversity and Inclusion members on the weekend for resolution work-shop
 - v. Chief of Staff checking with Quinn Basta.
 - vi. Attended executive board meeting
 - vii. Communicating with Cultural Centers
 - viii. View full report for more details
 - ix. Report filed

- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
 - i. Attended CORE Meeting
 - ii. 2nd Committee Meeting! LAC meets 6PM-7PM on Wednesdays in the USG Office
 - iii. Met with Senator Durbin's DC Health Policy Staffer with Representative Grace Sands and President Almendras
 - iv. Check-in with Chief of Staff Quinn
 - v. Meeting with Representative Santana and SMBOT/SLCE Nick Hart
 - vi. Attended weekly Executive Board meeting
 - vii. Deputy Chair: Maddy Lopez
 - viii. View full report for more details
 - ix. Report filed

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h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair

- i. Instagram Member Spotlight will be posted every Monday and Friday. Additionally, we will also be doing birthday posts now so please make sure to fill out the IG/website Representative Google Form if you haven't already. I'm more than happy to send it to you again.
- ii. USG website's "Meet Our Members" section has been updated thanks to our amazing Web Administrator, Mauricio!
- iii. PAC meeting Monday 5-6 PM
- iv. Met with Chief of Staff Basta and discussed merchandise for the semester and a new upcoming initiative for a USG camera
- v. Attended executive board meeting
- vi. View full report for more details
- vii. Report filed

i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair

- i. Met with Dean Freeman of the College of LAS to discuss various initiatives that USG and the SSC wants to implement with President Matthew and Vice President Michael last Monday
- ii. Set up a meeting with the Head of Assessment and Scholarly Communications of the UIC Library, Sandy De Groote
- iii. Meet with the Assistant Director of Career Development and Internships to plan our first career workshop
- iv. SSC met last Thursday
- v. View full report for more details
- vi. Report filed

j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair

- i. I was pleased to get invited by Jomar, Directing manager to attend the LatinX Heritage Month Teaching Kitchen event organized by dining services. Thanks to Campus Life Rep. Syeda for your participation.
- ii. Vice President Michael and I met with IFC (Interfraternity Council) president Brian and CPC(collegiate Panhellenic Council) President Allie to discuss about Homecoming tailgate
- iii. Attended the executive board meeting and social
- iv. Met with representatives of the campus life committee Abdulmajid, Ashley, Diya , Isaiah, and Syeda to discuss weekly goals for Campus Life. Each member was assigned a campus life role
- v. Met one-on-one with each representative. I appreciated their enthusiasm for USG and campus life.
- vi. Deputy Chair: Isaiah Irlbacker
- vii. View full report for more details
- viii. Report filed

XII. Announcements

- Pres. Almendras: Who has been to the office? I invite everyone to hang out there and study! I am planning to do a study group session this week and I will put the details in the GroupMe it will probably be in the library
- Treasurer Caballels: Come to the tailgate!

XIII. Adjournment

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- Motioned, seconded, accepted
 - Adjourned at 7:36 PM