

USG

Fall Meeting 6

10/23/2023

I. Call to Order

- 6:00 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
  - Zaina Alramahi (excused)
  - Ashley Huang (excused)
  - Dhanushri Devi Kannan (unexcused)
  - Marnee Ostoa (excused)
  - Nathan Thokkudubiyapu (excused)
  - Saba Ali (unexcused)
  - Yaksh Patel (unexcused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Secretary Pettineo motions to amend the minutes for the header to say “Fall Meeting 5” and for Student Trustee Haq’s report to say “I do not speak for UIC, the University of Illinois System, nor the University of Illinois System's Board of Trustees”
  - Seconded, favored

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Approved

V. Public Comment

- None, next order of business

VI. Guest Speakers

- Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost of Student Affairs Rob Dixon
  - Rex Tolliver was in this role previously
  - Before receiving this position, oversaw enrollment management, worked closely with student fairs, and worked as the registrar for almost 20 years. That role evolved to be a larger operation and this new role allowed working more in-depth with DOS and others.
  - Updates
    - Impressed with the energy and efforts of Mohammed Haq
      - Metra benefits: Metra went to Ventra so they are more open to working with us to identify students who opted into the U-Pass
      - Working on student discounts for students who have the U-Pass
    - Student Center East and Student Unions
      - The general fee increased to support the student experience
      - Ignite Center inspiration
        - Following along the same path that brought Arc into place
        - Arc had been completed and then the pandemic hit and things stalled and the University changed direction for emergency management
        - Attention turned back: costs were higher and interest rates higher
          - Engaging with the same people who gave ideas for the Ignite Center
          - Survey of utilities for where construction can occur
          - Investing in a complete engineering study of this building for how spaces can be repurposed to allow for more student spaces in the Tower and the tollway space

- has moved out so also reimagining how that can be readjusted for student use
  - Want to do this by May
  - Will have student focus groups for review and input of plans
- There has been a request for purchase with a dining partner
  - The current is Chartwells but the contract has ended
  - Put out the RFP that opened on Oct. 1st
  - Multiple vendors are interested and there are lots of competitive bids
  - Bids will be returned at the end of November
  - USG members are on the committee
    - Concerns about swipe donations and implementing that
    - Dietary concerns and Halal options
- Wednesday at 4 o'clock basketball in the rec!
- Questions:
  - Rep. Sands: Are there any plans to update the elevators in the main building?
    - VC Dixon: Like the ones going up to the student organizations offices? Yes, those need to be updated. We have talked about making those student organization offices more prevalent and that activity more evident and accessible to students. I have been in those elevators and I know what you mean
  - Dir. Heybeli: Do USG members play basketball well?
    - VC Dixon: Some were better than others but everyone scored
  - Pres. Almendras: As VC of Student Affairs, what do you do?
    - VC Dixon: The role has been expanded slightly as I am both the VC and Vice Provost
      - Oversight of DOS, student engagement, housing, dining, student unions, and student affairs functions including student success departments and advising development which is a small group that seeks to create centralized tools for advising and training for advisors
      - I also work to help the current acting registrar

## VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2023-F5-2000 Supporting the Adoption of the Okanagan Charter at UIC
  - VP Fernandes: Based on the questions from last week, these were the responses:
    - Example Institutions that have adopted the Okanagan Charter for Health Promoting Colleges and Universities
  - 1. University of British Columbia - <https://wellbeing.ubc.ca/framework>
  - 2. Peer Institutions
    - i. [University of Alabama](#)
  - 3. Aspirant Institutions
    - i. [UC Irvine](#)
  - 4. Schools in Illinois
    - i. [Northern Illinois University](#)
- Well-being of Minority Students
  - The Okanagan Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges prioritizes a systems and settings-based approach, emphasizes deep

collaboration and community/stakeholder engagement, and advances a salutogenic approach to enhancing well-being. To this end, as with many health issues, there is an emphasis on examining health disparities that disproportionately impact historically and persistently marginalized student communities and working to influence the socio-contextual determinants of health that often drive these disparities. Additionally, there is an emphasis on ensuring that the voices and experiences of historically and persistently marginalized people are included in the strategy development and implementation process to honor the knowledge and lived experiences of those communities in our resulting strategy to advance health and well-being. An example strategy: When conducting population-level needs assessments, we will partner with historically and persistently marginalized communities to ensure that we are asking questions that are relevant and able to illuminate the socio-contextual factors that are related to the health outcomes of interest. Once data is collected we will disaggregate the data to understand where disparities may lie. We will explore how the socio-contextual factors may contribute to those disparities and work with impacted communities to co-create strategies to mitigate those disparities.

- Favored, passed
- Resolution 2023-F5-3002 Civic Engagement English Course Campaign
  - Favored, passed

#### VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2023-F6-1002 Connecting Student Leaders Event Act
  - Treasurer Caballes: Did you attend last year? What is it like?
  - Rep. Irlbacker: A bunch of leaders from various student organizations get together and talk about what that means to them and discuss and collaborate on potential ideas and plans for events for the students. It's a low-stakes and casual event
  - Rep. Narang: How many organizations will you invite?
    - Rep. Irlbacker: The invite will go out to all registered organizations but we can accept 2 from each organization until we are full
  - VP Fernandes: Did it fill last year?
    - I don't know the exact number but it was well-attended
  - Rep. Narang: How do you know who to invite? Can only the President come?
    - Rep. Irlbacker: It is on a first come first serve basis. The board would be invited but they can have another member attend in their place as well
  - Dir. Heybeli: What about USG members?
    - Rep. Irlbacker: Directors and committee members came last year and can again
  - Rep. Dasgupta: When will the RSVP be sent out?
    - Rep. Irlbacker: As soon as it gets approved
  - COS Basta: Have you reached out to Hawkeyes?
    - Treasurer Caballes: Yes, I have communicated with them about the expected number of attendees and the allocation so everything is ready to go
  - Rep. Narang: Because the event is not at UIC, if any misconduct happens will USG be accountable?
    - Rep. Irlbacker: I don't have specifics but I think that everyone will behave

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- Pres. Almendras: This is one of our signature events coming out of the pandemic. This will be on Thursday and Friday is the tailgate so this is a time to advertise that but also get to know each other and hear updates from leaders
- Rep. Thumu: What time is it at?
  - Rep. Irlbacker: It is from 6-8 PM and check-in starts at 5:15 PM
- Pres. Almendras executive orders resolution
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2023-F6-1003 USG Coffee, Cocoa, Cookies, and Careers Event
  - Pres. Almendras: This has been another signature USG event where students are exposed to career and professional services on campus. Each career department represents a cookie and we might have them also represent coffee and cocoa.
- Resolution 2023-F6-3003 Support of Creating and Adopting Open Educational Resources
  - Rep. Flores: Can someone explain the Open Textbook Faculty Incentive Program?
    - Pres. Almendras: It initially had a funding of \$20,000. There were 3 tiers whether it be creating your own open access textbook or using one, it incentives using or creating free textbooks for students

#### IX. Items for Discussion

- Reserve Funds
  - Treasurer Caballes: Attached to the email chain is a document that explains the details of the reserve funds
    - The reserve funds have accumulated over a certain number of years from the student government in which they have not spent their whole budget. We have around \$300,000 in our possession and want to break that down into 4 years of \$75,000 each to spend in a fair and responsible way
    - Each committee will come up with an idea that adheres to the enumerated requirements and will then be voted on using the 3, 2, 1 ranking system
    - These ideas should benefit students for multiple years to come
  - Questions:
    - Rep. Thumu: Can you work with reps outside of your committee to come up with an idea?
      - Treasurer Caballes: We would like ideas to stay within a committee for organizational purposes
    - Dir. Heybeli: If committees cannot vote for their own ideas then smaller committees would get more votes so how would that be fair?
      - Treasurer Caballes: I see what you mean. This is just to make it more of a team effort to vote on other ideas
    - Rep. Fonseca: Would one idea use the entire \$75,000 or would several projects share?
      - Treasurer Caballes: If one idea uses all of the budget and gets the most votes then we would do only that project. If several ideas have high votes and do not use all of the budget then we can do multiple projects and divide the budget among them
    - Rep. Narang: Are we allowed to abstain?
      - Treasurer Caballes: I would like to see everyone vote
    - Rep. Thumu: I know that there are funding restrictions and that there was an idea last year to create more outlets. Would that fall under infrastructure? What can we fund and what can we not?

- Treasurer Caballes: All funding approval is subject to the DOS. As you are brainstorming, come to me and I will talk with the DOS to make sure it is okay
- Pres. Almendras: I have been meeting with the VC of Axillary Services and they have been open to seating and outlet infrastructure. In looking at the funding guidelines it says USG funds cannot go towards things with funding already but I have pushed the limits to be a bit more lenient on that so please refer to the Treasury Committee as you brainstorm
- Treasurer Caballes: In terms of timeline this is not a rushed process. We would like ideas to be generated throughout the semester and at the end of this semester or the beginning of next semester we will discuss the ideas and then have a resolution ready by the middle of the spring semester

#### X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor
  - i. No report
  
- b. Report of the Student Trustee
  - i. Thank you to Rob and his ardent support of student government and his staying after his report to listen to updates shows his dedication. Matthew Rothenbaum works in my office and I am here to introduce him today. Matt serves as the Proxy Representative Associate

#### XI. Officer Reports

- a. Report of the President
  - i. Starting Oct. 2nd, the library will be open 24 hours Monday- Thursday!
  - ii. Director Asad, Rep. Somik, and I met with Sandy De Groot to discuss OER. The big takeaway is that the USG OER Faculty Awards Program subcommittee will start soon (please email me if you would like to be a part of this subcommittee)
  - iii. Director Ramakrishnan, Rep. Flores, and I met with Kaylee Mulgrew, Legislative Assistant in Sen. Durbin's office to introduce our priorities on OER, food insecurity, and mental health
  - iv. Wrote a statement stating our support for students who may be affected by conflicts overseas and violence caused by hate with Rep. Saba, Rep. Yousuf, and Director Heybeli
  - v. Attended the State of the University- was able to network with university administrators and advance student interests
  - vi. I have started conducting meetings with RSO leaders to reestablish connections and update them on USG work
  - vii. View full report for details
  - viii. Report filled
  
- b. Report of the Vice-President
  - i. USG Commissioner applications are due tonight
  - ii. Attended Shared-Governance Board Meeting Monday
  - iii. Friday, November 10th - UIC Homecoming – 5 pm to 7 pm
  - iv. Attended E-Board meeting Friday
  - v. Spoke with Dr. Raphael D. Florestal-Kevelier about your questions about adopting the Okanagan Charter
  - vi. President Matthew and I have a meeting with Provost Colley on Tuesday
  - vii. President Matthew, Student Trustee Mohammed, and I will be attending and participating in the Faculty Awards Ceremony & Reception this Wednesday
  - viii. View full report for details

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- ix. Report filled
  
- c. Report of the Treasurer
  - i. Finalized the details for the tent rental with the Dean of Students
  - ii. Met with Director Gupta and discussed the “Connecting Student Leaders Event”
  - iii. Met with Director Asad for the “USG Coffee, Cocoa, Cookies, and Careers Event”
  - iv. Officially assigned committee roles within the Treasury
  - v. Talked to Director Alramahi about purchasing a camera to record our General Body Meetings
  - vi. View full report for details
  - vii. Report filled
  
- d. Report of the Speaker
  - i. Continuing to meet with Representatives individually
  - ii. USG Halloween Social: Tuesday, Oct. 31st, 4-6 PM Inner Circle
  - iii. Attended an SSC meeting—thanks for having me!
  - iv. Working with Interim Speaker Manasvi and Representatives Nathan, Sajal, and Dhanushri to plan the USG Social
  - v. Continuing to onboard Interim Speaker Manasvi
  - vi. View full report for details
  - vii. Report filled
  
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
  - i. Held check-in with Director of Campus Life Tejal
  - ii. Held check-in with Director of Student Success Asa
  - iii. With the complications associated with the timeline required to secure room reservations for our events, I am working with Treasurer Matthew Caballes and Speaker of the House Michelle to find a solution
    - 1. Book your room ahead of time because we can always cancel the reservation
  - iv. I will be sitting in on various committee meetings as availability permits
  - v. Held weekly Executive Board meeting
  - vi. View full report for details
  - vii. Report filled
  
- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
  - i. Co-sponsoring for "How to Make a Brave Space: When Survivors Take the Mic" with Nikki Patin for promotion of the event and attendance made by the Woman’s Leadership and Resource Center
  - ii. Communicating with the Assistant Director of Advocacy Services in the WLRC's Campus Advocacy Network, Kelly Maginot
  - iii. Working with the Director of Public Affairs Zaina to use USG social media
  - iv. The "How to Make a Brave Space: When Survivors Take the Mic" with Nikki Patin event will be on Tuesday, October 24, at the WLRC (with Zoom option), highly recommended to attend!
  - v. Having meetings and working on the resolution & the USG Letter on Community Safety and Tragic Events with President Almendras, Representative Saba, and Representative Yousuf
  - vi. Attended the USG E-Board Meeting on Friday, October 20.
  - vii. Having Monday and Friday Meetings with Diversity and Inclusion members.
  - viii. Diversity & Inclusion Internal Positions decided

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- ix. Deputy Chair: Jordan Pablo
- x. View full report for details
- xi. Report filled
  
- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
  - i. Meeting with Senator Durbin's Education Staffer (DC)
  - ii. 3rd LAC Meeting
  - iii. Met with FSL and CSI directors earlier today (Monday, Oct 26th!)
  - iv. View full report for details
  - v. Report filled
  
- h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
  - i. Read by Web Administrator Suarez
  - ii. Merch designs are finalized!
    - 1. Fill out the form in order to get merch!
  - iii. I met with web administrator Mauricio to discuss USG camera options to purchase
  - iv. PAC started working on the USG November newsletter which will be released Nov 1st.
  - v. Attended the weekly e-board meeting.
  - vi. View full report for details
  - vii. Report filled
  
- i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
  - i. Met with Treasurer Matthew Caballes to discuss funding a career workshop event
  - ii. Met with the Head of Assessment and Scholarly Communications of the UIC Library, Sandy De Groote alongside President Matthew Almendras and Representative Christina Somik
  - iii. Met with the Assistant Director of Career Development and Internships to plan our first career workshop called Coffee, Cocoa, Cookies, and Careers
  - iv. Sat in on a LAC meeting
  - v. SSC met last Thursday
  - vi. Deputy Chair: Nina Fonseca
  - vii. View full report for details
  - viii. Report filled
  
- j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
  - i. Met with Catherine Stoutner (Director of Partnership Development) to talk about the power share program
  - ii. I met with the treasurer, Matthew Caballes, to talk about the connecting student leaders event's meal options and budget
  - iii. I spoke with the RHA president, Fabeily, about creating connections inside the on-campus housing and establishing a centralized structure where students can voice their housing concerns
  - iv. I met with Carol Petersen, senior director of UIC Health Education and Wellness, to discuss food drive ideas and how we may work together to make this semester's food drive successful
  - v. Met one-on-one with Quinn Basta, the chief of staff, to review the campus committee's updates and progress
  - vi. I attended the USG executive board meeting on 20 October, 2023
  - vii. Had a campus life committee meeting with the representatives Abdulmajid, Ashley, and Isaiah

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- viii. Attended the Taft Hall Renovation Information and Q+A seminar
- ix. View full report for details
- x. Report filled

#### XII. Announcements

- Pres. Almendras: Tomorrow from 2-5 PM I will be in the library to do homework so I invite everyone to come do homework with me then so if you are free, come out!
- Rep. Dasgupta: Thurs Oct 26 at 6 PM is the DJ Battle in East Terrace!
- Rep. Thumu: The film club is having a film talk at 6 PM on Thursday in Lecture F6 to watch Train to Busan and on Friday at 6 PM is a Horror Keke Ball with the GSC
- VP Fernandes: There is a study abroad to Tokyo this summer so if anyone is interested just reply to that email and there is an upcoming info session next week
- SOH Zhou: Clear your schedules from 4-6 PM on Halloween and the best committee costumes will get a prize!

#### XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
  - Adjourned at 7:19 PM