

USG  
Spring Meeting 2  
02/05/2024

I. Call to Order

- 6:02 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
  - Zaina Alramahi (excused absence)
  - Asa Asad (excused absence)
  - Aminah Ahmed (unexcused absence)
  - Diya Sharma (unexcused absence)
  - Grace Satterfield (excused absence)
  - Jacob Maduakolam (excused absence)
  - Michael Klimek (excused absence)
  - Moiz Zafar Shakir (excused absence)
  - Nina Fonseca (excused absence)
  - Saba Ali (excused absence)
  - Sajal Shukla (excused absence)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Approved

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Guest Speakers

- None

VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2024-S1-1009 USG Social Advocacy Fair
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S1-3004 USG Tabling Program
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S1-3005 USG HSI Survey
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S1-3006 USG Civic Engagement Tabling Program
  - SOH Zhou motions to add a semicolon and then after the whereas
    - Seconded, passed
  - Favored, passed

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2024-S2-1011 MHC Journal Giveaway
  - Commissioner Proгри motions to add President Almendras as a Co-Sponsor
    - Seconded, passed
  - President Almendras: Should we add a buffer in allocation like \$450 to account for shipping or other costs?
    - Commissioner Proгри: Yes
    - President Almendras: I motion to amend the resolution to allocate \$450 instead of \$400

- Seconded, passed
  - President Almendras uses an executive order to vote on this resolution tonight
  - Representative Thumu: It may be a good idea to include a QR code or link to mental health resources as well along with the pamphlet
    - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S2-1012 Snapshot Success: Headshots and Resume Extravaganza
  - President Almendras: I like the name!
  - Treasurer Caballes: Who is taking the headshots?
    - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Career Services is hiring the campus photographer
  - Commissioner Dinh: Do students register before the event so they wait for their turn to take a headshot?
    - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: The ticket schedule is to see how many students want a headshot and to fit as many in as possible
    - Rep. Thumu: It might be good to put a limit on how many students can get a headshot
- Resolution 2024-S2-1013 USG Hygiene Giveaway
  - Commissioner Dinh: Where are you purchasing these items from?
    - Treasurer Caballes: Amazon
  - President Almendras: I think it would be a good idea to have one of the tabling events from the other resolutions to host that table as the giveaway since we've established that we will table every other week
- Resolution 2024-S2-1014 USG School Supplies Giveaway
  - SOH Zhou: We had a lot of these items to start off this giveaway last semester. Do we have any left?
    - Treasurer Caballes: There are only pens left
  - COS Basta: Do you intend to give away all of the school supplies or save some for next year?
    - Treasurer Caballes: Give away during a set time period but we will play by ear
  - Representative Thumu: Can we have pencils or pens with the USG logo on them?
    - Treasurer Caballes: That would take too long but we have USG tote bags to give out
  - SOH Zhou motions to amend the resolution to say First Reading: February 5, 2024
  - Second Reading/Voting: February 12, 2024
    - Seconded, passed
- Resolution 2024-S2-3007 Establishing the USG Career Leadership Council Student Advisory Board
  - President Almendras: The goal is to promote career readiness among students. This advisory board hopefully brings fresh ideas to the career council. Some ideas include career fairs for students and events to be career-ready
  - COS Basta: Director Asa wants to establish this through the SSC for the years to come so we may need to establish this in our governing documents in the weeks to come
  - Rep. Thumu: Will USG continue to oversee the application process of the advisory board for years to come?
    - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Yes, director of SSC and director of the career council. Want director to be in charge of apps because USG members can apply so to be the most fair it would not include other USG members overseeing the apps
  - President Almendras uses an executive order to vote on this tonight
    - Favored, passed

IX. Items for Discussion

- Rep point system

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- SOH Zhou: This is in the governing documents but we did not do this last semester. We are bringing it back this semester. It is a way to recognize reps for the work they do. The points don't affect status. There is a set of criteria to get points. You can volunteer at events, hold office hours, attend UIC events, hold initiative meetings, host your own events, etc which have points assigned to them so we can measure rep engagement. There are no deficit points so nothing can harm your status. Reps with the most points will give an acceptance speech at the gala and have a plaque or other award. We will solidify this and put it into effect this week so we wanted to see your thoughts on the criteria or confusion on the system
  - Rep. Mata: Because this is a reintroduction of the point system, what were the faults beforehand?
    - SOH Zhou: The faults were inflating points for some because some committees do more resolutions than others so we took out points that relate to sponsoring or co-sponsoring resolutions. The award at the end has been a gift card to the book store so we have looked into something more meaningful so which is the speech at the gala to talk about their passions and initiatives but I am open to other avenues of recognition

#### X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor
  - i. Application for EPC extended to next Monday!
  - ii. Report filed
  
- b. Report of the Student Trustee
  - i. None
  - ii. Report filed

#### XI. Officer Reports

- a. Report of the President
  - i. Met with Joey Volpe, Director of Academic Advising, and Dr. Aisha El-Amin, Executive Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Belonging, to discuss academic advising and medical accommodations.
  - ii. Met with Provost Colley, Dean Ballard-Thrower, and Sandy to discuss OER. The key takeaway is that the incentive program we secured \$20,000 for will have two tiers, as opposed to three and an OER committee will be established.
  - iii. Met with Nehemiah, Director of Student Transitions and Engagement & Commuter Student Advocacy, to discuss reserve funds- CLC's sleeping pod initiative and Treasury's Private Meeting Rooms to be placed in the Commuter Center. We also followed up on our student fee work.
  - iv. Met with the UIS and UIUC Student Body Presidents to provide and receive updates on what our respective student governments are up to. We have discussed working together on lobbying as it is a common ground we can all work on together. UIS and UIUC Student Body Presidents are excited to work with us on our lobbying efforts
  - v. First meeting with students of the Ignite Center (remodeling parts of SCE) was conducted last Wednesday, 1/31. I recommended a space with more rooms for student organizations, more general seating, larger social areas, prioritizing outlet access, and designing rooms so that they encourage students to stay on campus/ be inspired.
  - vi. Met with business student organization leaders to discuss the Finance Reception, an event being led by Chief of Staff Basta
  - vii. Met with Paul Irvine, Chair of External Affairs at the MIT Undergraduate Association to discuss a potential collaboration to lobby for unpaid internships. We have agreed to look

- into their university proposals and collaborate with their coalition to lobby the state and federal government. I will also connect the coalition with my other university student government connections
- viii. I was able to catch up with the UofI System OGR at the Women's Basketball Game on Sunday and discussed how we are seeking to lobby for specific bills in the IL GA. They are excited to hear our ideas and partner with us.
  - ix. Next week we will have some items for discussions following up about the town hall and my statement from Instagram
    - 1. Promoting charities and philanthropy in Gaza
    - 2. Campus unity
    - 3. And more to be discussed in the items for discussion next week
  - x. Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Is the MIT coalition advocating for more internships in Boston or everywhere?
    - 1. President Almendras: I will send a policy memo to everyone in the email chain. It is on all levels so university promotion of internships and working with programs we have and a state level to talk to our state legislators and then the largest which is with the federal government. We will have a coalition meeting
      - a. Rep. Mata: Have you thought about the local level in Chicago?
        - i. President Almendras: I can reach out to my connections in the city council to see if someone would be interested in city internships and that is a good point because many city internships are unpaid
  - xi. Report filed
- b. Report of the Vice-President
- i. Chancellor's Athletic Advisory Council
    - 1. Thank you and congrats to Representative Ashley for joining!
  - ii. Dining Services
    - 1. Campus Dining Provider Evaluation meeting with UIC administration and stakeholders on Tuesday
    - 2. Gave feedback on SCE redesigns, dining hall plans, and meal swipe donation programs
  - iii. Meeting Monday with Associate Chancellor Bills-Windt Title IX coordinator about how we can work towards shortening the process of cases
    - 1. Student workers who are mandated reporters
    - 2. Students who are pregnant and/or dealing with pregnancy procedures and appointments
  - iv. Setting up a meeting with Dr. McCall to talk about medical leaves of absence and exemption forms
  - v. Meeting with Provost Colley on Tuesday
    - 1. Will discuss USG initiatives for the semester
  - vi. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
- i. Finalized the planning for the Hygiene and School Supplies Giveaways with my committee
    - 1. Thank you guys for the help!
    - 2. Will most likely have giveaways on a Tuesday or Thursday
      - a. Please stop by if you are free!

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- ii. Assisted the Student Success Committee with the spending allocation for the “Snapshot Success: Headshots and Resume Extravaganza” event
  - iii. Met with Secretary Pettineo and Deputy Treasurer Klimek to discuss the details and logistics for the USG Gala
    - 1. Will continue to finalize plans as the semester moves forward
  - iv. Talked with Director Ramakrishnan and Heybeli about their Reserve Fund plans and have opened up discussions with DOS about them
  - v. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
- i. Attended MHC and PAC meetings
  - ii. Deputy Chair Task Force meeting
  - iii. Representative Points System
  - iv. USG Office Hours
    - 1. Allows students to come to USG directly with thoughts and concerns
    - 2. Each member must hold a minimum of 1 hour cumulatively per semester
      - a. In-person in the USG Office is preferable
      - b. Zoom is acceptable if you cannot make it to campus
      - c. Tell your classmates/peers!
      - d. Will work with PAC to advertise these on the website/Instagram
      - e. Sign up sheet to come
  - v. Met with Interim Speaker Manasvi
  - vi. Report filed
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
- i. Last week’s Chief of Staff Check-ins:
    - 1. CLC Director Tejal, SSC Director Asa, and PAC Director Zaina
  - ii. This week’s Chief of Staff Check-ins:
    - 1. DIC Director Dilay, Treasurer Matthew Caballes, and LAC Director Aparna
  - iii. Attended last week’s LAC Committee meeting
    - 1. I intend to attend all committee meetings within the next few weeks
  - iv. Attended the Office of the Dean of Students external review lunch session with Student Government last Wednesday
    - 1. Shared my perspective on the Dean of Students’ advising of USG as a 3rd year member of the organization
  - v. Attended an Ignite session regarding the redevelopment of the Student Center East building
    - 1. Provided my insight as a student to architects exploring the possibilities of redevelopment
  - vi. Attended a meeting with an MIT student advocate seeking to collaborate in advocating to compensate unpaid internships with President Matthew, Director Asa, and members of the SMBOT Office
  - vii. Attended the Student Engagement Director’s meeting last Tuesday
    - 1. Setting up a follow-up meeting between President Matthew Almendras, Director Tejal, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Engagement Joy Vergara, Interim Director of the Center for Student Involvement Allen Womble, and myself
  - viii. Deputy Chief of Staff application
    - 1. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSdk7bwulamefogOWp8o\\_4SEcK10xsgjE7eA8p6IJKVpwX2ETA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLSdk7bwulamefogOWp8o_4SEcK10xsgjE7eA8p6IJKVpwX2ETA/viewform?usp=sf_link)
    - 2. The Deputy COS will serve as the assistant to the COS for the spring semester.

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3. The role may entail meeting with student leaders, consulting the COS on the perspective of representatives across all committees, and tackling an initiative of the choosing of the COS
- ix. Applications close this Wednesday at 11:59 pm
- x. Interviews will be conducted this and next week
- xi. The Deputy COS will be announced at the 4th GBM
- xii. Finance reception
  1. UIC Business College has really good opportunities for education and internship but lacks networking opportunities. I am working to create a networking event for financing students through the College of Business
  2. Treasurer Caballes: Do you plan on having food?
    - a. COS Basta: Yes, but not dinner just appetizers
- xiii. Rep. Mata: I may not be able to attend an IGNITE session so I would advocate for satellite offices for LARES or Chance because they are so far from the student center
  1. COS Basta: We lack private meeting rooms and those rooms are always booked I think they should consider this and I think your idea is great and you should attend a meeting if you can
  2. President Almendras: I am reaching out this week to coordinate another session with the architecture office. I think they are wanting to move many of those offices here
- xiv. Report filed
- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
  - i. Attending Equity & Inclusion in Engineering Program's "Transfer Student Welcome Dinner"
    1. Talking with EIEP and WIEP's Directors and Staff about our Spring collaboration plans!
  - ii. Discussing with the Engineering Career Center about international students' internship issues and how to improve finding job process for international students
  - iii. Attending the Lunch with Deans for the UIC Dean of Students external review;
    1. Discussing Cultural Center locations and how to improve student life at UIC Campus!
  - iv. Visiting Asian American Students in Alliance (AASIA)'s meeting;
    1. Discussing with student leaders of the organization about "DIC meets with Cultural Organizations" for the issues they face and brainstorming meetings, and Diversity & Inclusion at UIC!
  - v. Communicating with Cultural Centers and starting meetings for the Spring Semester Plans!
  - vii. Report filed
- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
  - i. LAC Meetings: 5 PM-6 PM on Mondays
    1. We have had 3 meetings so far!
    2. Quoting reserve fund ideas, planning the Social Advocacy Fair and Civic
  - ii. Engagement Ideas!
  - iii. Current Ideas:
    1. A shelter and bench over the bus stops that currently do not have one (7/60 stops going east and west off 900W Harrison and 157 going west at 900W Taylor)
    2. Headshot booth in the library or SCE for students
    3. Scholarship fund for students who need money for their class materials (ie: homework subscriptions or books)

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- iv. Meetings
    1. Attending Constituent Conversations through GRC (met four representatives so far!)
    2. DOS External Review Student Lunch
  - v. New Initiatives and Updates
    1. Student Bill of Rights: Planning on introducing a resolution next week
    2. HSI Survey: Working with LARES and Mitzi Ramos to add a few questions to the survey and distribute it next week
    3. USG Tabling: Discussing with Zaina the next steps and planning for the tabling
  - vi. Report filed
- h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
- i. Met with Chief of Staff Basta for a Director check-in. We discussed:
    1. Tabling initiative with LAC. PAC will be bringing media equipment to interview students.
    2. Live streaming GBMS on Instagram.
    3. More social media engagement with other clubs. Posting/promoting other organizations' flyers and events.
    4. Implementing a USG calendar on the website. USG "office hours" and events will appear here. Web Administrator Mauricio will be putting this up soon.
    5. Idea for a social media focus group.
    6. End of the year Giveaway using leftover merch- 100th subscriber on Youtube or Instagram.
  - ii. PAC met last Monday and had a work day:
    1. Got familiar with the camera equipment and how to use it.
    2. A sign-up sheet for using media equipment will be made because we don't want to lose or damage any of the equipment.
    3. Working on the February newsletter. Encourage your friends to sign up. The link to subscribe to the newsletter is in the Linktree of Insta bio.
    4. Gathering a list of organizations to reach out to and attend their events/ invite them to attend ours.
    5. Fundraising and collaboration with SJP ideas.
  - iii. Tabling event with LAC coming soon.
    1. Hoping to start this week.
    2. We will be making sign-up sheets for committee members from each committee to sign up if interested.
    3. PAC will be interviewing students about the UIC experience/ what can USG do to change their overall experience on campus.
  - iv. Deputy Dhanushri, President Matthew, and Web Administrator Mauricio got together to film a TikTok.
  - v. Will be promoting our GBM's on Instagram for students to attend and voice their concerns if needed. Making sure the student body is aware of the times we meet.
  - vi. Looking for a committee for a social media focus group on how we can improve our social media and student body presence- reach out if interested.
  - vii. Merchandise will be coming soon!
  - viii. Member Spotlights are back!
    1. If you haven't filled out the Representative Info form last semester, please do so now: ( <https://forms.gle/KmNJLH9t3bsEiby5> )
  - ix. Attended an E-board meeting last Tuesday.

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- x. Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Before handing out free supplies you could have people subscribe to the newsletter before they get the items
- xi. Report filed

i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair

- i. Student Success Office Hours
  - 1. Currently reworking available office hours but always reachable by email.
- ii. Met with Director Jean Riordan to discuss the Career Services Student Advisory Board and the Headshots event on Tuesday 1/30.
  - 1. Presented both resolutions today (Shout out to the SSC for their hard work on these amazing resolutions!)
  - 2. The headshots event is February 21st, 2024 from 2 - 4 PM, Location is the ARC Think Tank.
  - 3. Need help with covering the event.
  - 4. Half-an-hour shifts.
  - 5. A sign-up sheet will be sent to GroupMe.
- iii. SSC is working on a lot of initiatives this semester! I plan on giving continuous updates throughout the GBMs as the semester moves forward.
- iv. The is is most of the list:
  - 1. Career Readiness Events
    - a. Headshots / LinkedIn & Resume Review Workshop
    - b. Resolution was introduced today.
  - 2. Improving our Syllabi
    - a. Emailed the Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs to set up an introductory meeting.
    - b. Will be emailing the Chair of the UIC Faculty Senate Educational Policy Meeting as well.
  - 3. Establishing the Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Program in Psychology
    - a. Set up a meeting with President Almendras, Mental Health Commissioner Proгри, and Representative Thokkudubiyapu to begin preliminary research and develop our action plan.
  - 4. Developing a Tutor Development Program
    - a. Identified Honors Advisor Laura Kaczmarczyk who's working on a similar project.
    - b. Currently working on setting up a meeting.
  - 5. Establish the Career Services Council Student Advisory Board.
    - a. Resolution was proposed today.
  - 6. Continuing to advocate for OER
    - a. The USG OER Leadership Program
      - i. Held a subcommittee meeting on 2/1.
      - ii. Finalized the wording of the nomination form as well as the Call to Nomination announcement which everyone will get in their emails soon.
  - 7. Suhoor Space Advocacy
    - a. Emailed Charles Ferrel to talk about what's expected from Muslim students
- v. Thank you to everyone who's emailed me about joining SSC initiatives, I'll be arranging meetings soon.
- vi. I yield my time to Mental Health Commissioner Proгри for her report!
- vii. Report filed



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- j. Report of the Mental Health Commission
  - i. MHC Meetings //4 PM-5 PM on Thursdays
    - 1. We have had 2 meetings.
    - 2. Discussed our initiatives, ideas for the semester, and started working!
  - ii. Past Meetings
    - 1. Met with all Directors, and discussed plans for collaboration.
    - 2. Met with Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Director of the Counseling Center
      - a. Learned about what initiatives he was working on & possible collaborations.
    - 3. Met with Dr. Sheela Raja, Interim Executive Director of the Counseling Center
      - a. Discussed what is currently going on in the Counseling Center
      - b. Briefly mentioned the Healthy Minds Study that the CC is planning to send out to get a baseline of care that students need.
  - iii. Future Meetings
    - 1. Carol Peterson, Director of the Wellness Center // Wednesday, Feb 7th
    - 2. Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Director of Counseling Center // Wednesday, Feb 7th
    - 3. Natalia Lopez-Yanez, Director of Public Health Initiatives // Wednesday, Feb 7th
    - 4. Liz Rosario, Crisis Counselor at CC, leads a Peer Support Pilot Program there Initiatives
  - iv. Journaling Giveaway!
    - 1. Focus Groups to give feedback to the Counseling/Wellness Center
    - 2. Establishing an email service that goes out to students at random times that will include:
      - a. Motivational Quotes
      - b. Triage Survey
        - i. That will direct students to personalized care.
      - c. Self-Help Resources
  - v. Meeting with ISU's Mental Health Commission to discuss their plans for instituting
  - vi. Mental Health Days state-wide.
  - vii. Report filed
- k. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
  - i. Check-in with Chief of Staff, Quinn Basta:
    - 1. Discussed campus life initiatives for the semester.
    - 2. Covered the Powershare program.
    - 3. Emphasized support for student organizations.
    - 4. Explored ideas for connecting student leaders through events.
  - ii. One-on-one Meetings with Campus Life Representatives:
    - 1. Delegated tasks to each representative.
    - 2. Discussed ideas for the reserve fund.
    - 3. Initiated planning for the Student Connecting Leaders' event for this semester.
  - iii. Executive Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2024.
  - iv. Upcoming:
    - 1. Details for the Student Connecting Leaders' event will be released soon.
    - 2. Interested individuals are encouraged to express their interest in participating.
  - v. Report filed
- l. Report of the Campus Safety Commission
  - i. 1/29: Meeting with VCOAS Coronado, DoT Rocco Wlodarek, and Night Ride team discussing:
    - 1. Improving lighting conditions in the West Campus

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2. Night Ride operation hours extension
  3. Possible rideshare app collaboration
  4. Increasing the presence of security personnel
- ii. Finalized the Night Ride Satisfaction Survey with expert feedback but postponed to distribute since the new upgraded UIC Night Ride App will be released soon.
  - iii. Reached out to Chicago Recovery Alliance and established a collaboration to provide free NARCAN® naloxone nasal sprays to our UIC campus at the library and Wellness Center.
  - iv. Working together with the Office of Preparedness and Response in developing educational video content and family reunification and assistance center moulage (mock triage) exercises; promoting the Active Threat Preparedness program.
  - v. Planning to meet with DoCH Ellis to discuss campus safety concerns around dorms.
  - vi. Met with Mohammed on developing the survey to identify and improve campus housing.
  - vii. Joined e-board meeting on 1/30 discussing advanced campus safety action plans.
  - viii. Invite to join the Campus Safety Commission and do not hesitate to reach me at qdinh4@uic.edu or text me at (312) 459 - 9456.
  - ix. Report filed

#### XII. Announcements

- Rep. Thumu: APIDA month is in April and the planning committee for that is from 4:30-5:30 on Wednesday
- Rep. Rothenbaum: Phi Sigma Sigma will be selling flowers from 12-4 PM on the 12th, 13th, 14th
- Director Heybeli: There is a DIC event this Thursday
- Treasurer Caballes: Phi Kappa Psi is also selling flowers with mini stuffed bears and brownies
- Director Ramakrishnan: Light the Way will be selling flowers also
- Commissioner Progri: Active Minds will be selling tanghulu hard caramel dipped strawberries Tuesday on the quad from 10 to sell out

#### XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
  - Adjourned at 7:28 PM