

USG

Spring Meeting 3

2/12/2024

I. Call to Order

- 6:06 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
  - Quinn Basta (excused)
  - Tejal Gupta (excused)
  - Ahmad Omar (unexcused)
  - Alexis Mata (unexcused)
  - Anthony Cruz (unexcused)
  - Grace Satterfield (excused)
  - Jeremy Rivera (unexcused)
  - Madaline Lopez (unexcused)
  - Nathan Thokkudubiyapu (excused)
  - Sara Rothenbaum (excused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- President Almendras: motions to change the item for discussion from USG Secure Act to USG Secure Initiative
  - Seconded, approved
- President Almendras: motions to add USG reserve funds to items for discussion
  - Seconded, approved

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Guest Speakers

- None

VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2024-S2-1012 Snapshot Success: Headshots and Resume Extravaganza
  - Director Asad: We had a couple of ideas for how to host the event. Only 50 people can get their headshot for sure and then it's first come first serve. What idea do you all think is best– like a ticket system or something else?
    - Rep. Patel: I think first come first serve is best because as people see the event they will come. If you had an RSVP then some people wouldn't come or wouldn't know there was one
    - Rep. Thumu: I think that having a partial reservation for people stopping by to get their headshot would be good so maybe 25 people can RSVP so they can plan their schedule. You can advertise then that it's sold out online and is first come first serve from then on
    - Rep. Ali: I think that there was a specific way for students to sign up last year to reserve a spot
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S2-1013 USG Hygiene Giveaway
  - Treasurer Caballes: We have not decided on a sure date yet because we thought about pairing this with a USG tabling event to make it more inviting to come up to the table. Does anyone have any thoughts about that?

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- Rep. Thumu: Would the plan be to give all of the hygiene giveaway items on the first tabling or spread out?
  - Treasurer Caballes: I was imagining doing it at the same time so giving out all of the supplies while also having USG members on the sides who are tabling for discussion. Last time we did this with the same allocation we ran out in 30 minutes.
- Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S2-1014 USG School Supplies Giveaway
  - Treasurer Caballes: This would follow the same set of tabling while also doing the giveaways because they happen biweekly so we would just do it the next set
  - Favored, passed

#### VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2024-S3-3008 USG Civic Engagement Competition
  - Director Ramakrishnan: motions to amend the resolution to say “LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, a SMBOT member, Nick Hart, helped co-create the competition”
  - President Almendras executive orders this resolution to be voted on tonight
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S3-3009 Narcan Spray Distribution Program
  - Rep. Irlbacker: Do you have any statistics about how many students on campus struggle with opioid addiction?
    - Commissioner Dinh: No, I do not have specific statistics but I know that some people will need this
  - Rep. Patel: Will you have a flier or pamphlet about when to use it and how to?
    - Commissioner Dinh: Yes, I am working with the Chicago Recovery Alliance to distribute this and then we will post videos and pass out flyers
    - Director Ramakrishnan: It would be good to pass out flyers when you're handing it out with resources on how to use and recovery options
  - Rep. Thumu: I like distributing through the library and wellness center but we can also hand it out to students at our tabling events
    - Commissioner Dinh: I will consider it but I do not know how we will know what students need it
  - SOH Zhou: How will you know what students need it?
    - Commissioner Dinh: Universities might have unexpected overdose cases but I do not have the statistics of it so I want to be prepared for it
  - Rep. Thumu: It might be good to partner with the RAs so that they have Narcan on hand for the students in the dorms
    - Commissioner Dinh: The first step is the library and wellness center and if that works we will then distribute to the dorms and resident housing
  - Director Alramahi: I think this is a really good idea because I know a lot of Chicago public libraries already do this and I think this is a really good initiative
    - Commissioner Dinh: One reason I didn't partner with the Chicago public library was that it is always out of stock so that is not a reliable resource so I partnered with the Chicago Recovery Alliance because they have the capacity
  - Rep. Narang: Would students feel comfortable picking up a spray and walking away?
    - Commissioner Dinh: I will think about a more private distribution method but the wellness center is a safe space for people to pick things up
  - SOH Zhou: I think that it is important for the library and wellness center to advertise it and then distribution can be more discrete
  - Treasurer Caballes: I am confused about Narcan itself. Is it only for opioids?

- Commissioner Dinh: From researching it, it is for reversing opioid overdoses
  - Director Alramahi: You can use it for any overdose and even if the person is not overdosing it will not harm so it is always good to have it on you
  - SOH Zhou: I think it is good to have on hand because if someone overdoses they won't be able to administer it themselves so you never know what situation you will be in
- Resolution 2024-S6-1011 Connecting Student Leaders Event Act
  - SOH Zhou: Motions to amend the resolution code to be Resolution 2024-S3-1015
  - Rep. Thumu: Why are we holding this in the spring semester as well because this is usually once a year
    - President Almendras: The first year we did it, we did it in the fall and spring semesters but last year we only did it in the fall but it is supposed to be during both
  - Director Asad: Is it possible to change the venue to be more welcoming to other student leaders because some students didn't go because of that
    - Pres. Almendras: What would you recommend?
      - Director Asad: Maybe Fire House Art Studio but I am not sure right now or Pompeii

#### IX. Items for Discussion

- USG Secure Initiative
  - President Almendras: This is our response to what we have been hearing throughout GBMs, public comment, and town halls. This is our response to these student concerns. Secure stands for "Safety, Equity, Campus Unity, Rights, and Education." The name itself isn't as important as the content of the initiative. To start the conversation, what this is as stated in the introduction, this is simply a guided framework for how we will direct our response. These are things we are already doing but this is more symbolic because we can present this to students to show what we are doing such as law enforcement practices, religious discrimination, educating students on the values of free speech, and more. I will allow everyone to read this over before we discuss it.
  - Rep. Thumu: I think physical safety concerns in regards to lighting around campus and scanning icards at entrances of buildings are important and I think it would be good to mention this in the safety part of the initiative
    - Pres. Almendras: This is mainly about what concerns Palestinian and Jewish students have brought up in discussion so that is why we are addressing these things. In terms of physical safety, we will be doing that in the Campus Safety Commission so it might not be the most appropriate here because that might make it too broad while this is more focused
  - Treasurer Caballes: Has a student ever been arrested during class?
    - President Almendras: Yes, it did last semester. They are likely agreeing to this so we will see this happen
  - Rep. Maduakolam: Is this a statement?
    - Pres. Almendras: No, this is more just writing down what we are doing. We can probably release this as an update to my statement at the beginning of the semester
  - Rep. Shakir: How will police not be able to arrest students during class– will it be some legislation passed?
    - President Almendras: Yes, everything written here will become a resolution
    - Rep. Shakir: I see you wrote about the Chancellor's Status Committee on MENA Americans. Is this a general policy focused on this demographic or will we be applying this to other demographics of students?

- Pres. Almendras: There is a Chancellor's Status Committee on several groups of students but there isn't one for MENA students and we are advocating for the use of this category for identification so I think this would be inclusive to have this Chancellor's Status Committee
- Rep. Ahmed: I read that we want to investigate UI investments and I am wondering how do you plan to do that?
  - Pres. Almendras: The verbiage used was a little incorrect. I changed it to say explore instead. The Student Trustee can comment on this more. I don't want to speak on behalf of his office but we have been meeting with people on the system level to understand how investment works so that we can advocate for changes. Tuition or fees or others do not go into university investments but we are figuring out more. We are having these meetings and this is something more we will discuss
- Rep. Maduakolam: Is this a framework for how we should address any issue in USG?
  - Pres. Almendras: No, this is more for regarding these specific issues relating to discrimination and students feeling like their ideals are being accepted or not being respected
  - Rep. Maduakolam: So this is for a specific discrimination issue not for a general reason?
    - Pres. Almendras: This can be applied to other scenarios based on how we handled this
- Pres. Almendras: For the following GBMs, we will begin to introduce resolutions in regard to this initiative
- Reserve Funds
  - Treasurer Caballes: We will begin starting presentations for reserve funds next week. We have been referring ideas to the administration to see if these are possible but overall it seems we are in a good spot. In terms of presentations please keep them between 5-15 minutes and use a presentation tool so people have a better idea of what you are thinking. In terms of what to include: who benefits, where it would be, the cost, and how it benefits UIC students for years to come because this money has been collected over time so it needs to benefit students to come. February 19, 26, and March 4 are presentations and I will give updates to committees on who is giving the green light on these ideas and then directors will pass it down to their committees
  - Pres. Almendras: I think that since we are near the middle of the semester we should set a hard deadline on the final initiative idea for each committee by Feb. 19th and start presentations then

#### X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor
  - i. USG election information will come out next Monday
    - 1. The election is usually right after spring break but this year it will be two weeks after spring break
    - 2. April 8th will be the date of certifying elections
  - ii. Eric's last day is Thursday and Raul Fernandez is starting this week
  - iii. Report filed
- b. Report of the Student Trustee
  - i. None

#### XI. Officer Reports

- a. Report of the President

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- i. Vice President Fernandes and I met with Provost Colley and her COS, Alanna, to follow up on some key USG initiatives. Debriefed the Campus Safety Town Hall with her and our plan (SECURE Initiative) to follow up on issues that were brought up. We also followed up on the Ramadan accommodation email and general medical accommodations.
  - ii. Met with Laura Beltz from FIRE to discuss campus free speech codes, lobbying for SB2897, and organizing events educating students on free speech. They are eager to help us do all of the above and will provide us with recommendations to improve campus policies of free speech and expression.
  - iii. Week's Priority List:
    1. Complete Academic Advising Campaign Proposal Memo
    2. Complete 4+1 in Psychology Program Memo
    3. Finalize the USG SECURE Initiative
  - iv. Meetings
    1. Active Shooter Trainings in the Library: 1/13
    2. 4+1 in Psychology Program: 1/13
  - v. Report filed
- b. Report of the Vice-President
- i. Dining Services
    1. Campus Dining Provider Evaluation
      - a. The committee recommendation has been submitted and will now go for review by the Board of Trustees
  - ii. Meeting with MHC Commissioner Tereza
    1. Discussed the great initiatives MHC is pursuing this semester
    2. Talked about potential 24/7 mental health services
    3. Discussed Okanagan Charter, CampusCare, and medical leave of absence
      - a. Will have follow-up meetings to talk about how we can ensure students on medical leaves of absence retain their CampusCare
  - iii. CampusCare Gap Assessment Committee
    1. Communicating on the HealthyMinds survey and whether the CampusCare Gap Assessment Committee will conduct focus groups and surveys of our own to understand student medical problems
  - iv. Meeting with Provost Colley on Tuesday
    1. OER program
    2. Safety on campus
    3. Bachelor's Accelerated Masters Program in Psychology Proposal
    4. Academic advising
    5. Medical Accommodations
  - v. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
- i. Continuing to discuss with Executive Director Charles Farrell
    1. Discussed adding single-person rooms and potentially using the SCE basement as a public lounge for students
    2. Possibility of connecting the bowling alley to the lower level of the SCE
  - ii. Discussing with Vice Chancellor John Coronado about the Harrison Street bus stops
    1. Hope to add bus stop coverings/benches to the stops without them
    2. Will get back to me once he finds out if the city will allow this
  - iii. Discussed with the Chief of Basta about a possible Finance Reception

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1. Bounced ideas off each other on how we can make it possible and what the event would consist of
  - iv. Communicating with the UIC Library in hopes of securing a meeting
    1. Plan to discuss more Reserve Fund ideas
      - a. Adding sleeping pods, single-person rooms, and other smaller improvements to the library
  - v. Met with Secretary Pettineo to discuss more ideas about the USG Gala
    1. Will continue to do so as the semester progresses
  - vi. Met with Representatives Saba Ali and Ahmad Omar to discuss the details of the Iftar event
    1. Made comparisons to last year's event to see what we can improve upon or hope to do again
    2. Discussed catering, decorations, and expected attendance
  - vii. Began planning the logistics for a Spring Student Connecting Student Leaders event with Representative Ashley Huang
    1. Hope to have it at Hawkeyes near the beginning of March
  - viii. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
- i. Deputy Chair Task Force meeting
    1. Discussed SECURE Act, E-Voting, online discussion, and Representative benefits
    2. Trying out E-Voting this meeting! Let me know if you like or dislike it (email or exit form)
      - a. Allows us to have a record of how everyone is voting
      - b. Results published (in minutes?) to increase transparency with our constituents
    3. Meetings held weekly on Thursday from 10-11 am
      - a. Let me know if you would like to drop in!
  - ii. Representative Points System
    1. Officially in effect! Representatives will begin accumulating engagement points for active participation in USG activities, including (but not limited to):
      - a. Attending GBMs and USG events
      - b. Volunteering for and/or hosting USG events
      - c. Holding office hours
      - d. Reminder to fill out the form for Honorary Engagement Points!
      - e. Full details in the email
  - iii. USG Office Hours
    1. Each member must hold a minimum of 1 hour cumulatively per semester to remain in good standing
      - a. Put your time slot(s) in the USG Office Hours Google Calendar by the end of the week (Friday)
      - b. In-person in the USG Office is preferable—working on finding an in-person location that is accessible to all students
        - i. Zoom is acceptable if you cannot make it to campus
    2. Tell your classmates/peers!
    3. Will work with PAC to advertise these on the website/Instagram
    4. Would like for the schedule to be posted on the website/Instagram
  - iv. Upcoming: Representative 1-on-1's
    1. Sending out sign-up soon!

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- v. Rep. Huang: I think that having an “other” category on the e-voting forms would help for instances of executive orders or added resolutions
  - vi. Report filed
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
- i. \*\*Read by President Almendras
  - ii. Last week’s Chief of Staff Check-ins:
    - 1. DIC Director Dilay
  - iii. This week’s Chief of Staff Check-ins:
    - 1. Rescheduling: Treasurer Matthew Caballes, and LAC Director Aparna
    - 2. Regularly scheduled: CLC Director Tejal, PAC Director Zaina, and SSC Director Asa
  - iv. Attended last week’s Treasury Committee meeting with Representative Alexis Mata
    - 1. We presented details on the First Annual UIC Finance Reception
    - 2. Discussed the possibility of USG compensating tickets for students in need
  - v. Conducting Deputy Chief of Staff interviews this week
  - vi. Report filed
- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
- i. Meeting with Gender and Sexuality Center’s Directors Billy Huff, Moises Villada, and Yaz Dukan
    - 1. Planning our collaboration “Zine making Work-shop” on March 4!
    - 2. Follow-up meeting about protecting LGBTQ+ and TNBGE student rights at UIC, cultural center concerns and plans, and diversity & inclusion!
  - ii. Visiting Vietnamese Student Association’s first Spring Semester GBM
    - 1. Discussing with student leaders of the organization about "DIC meets with Cultural Organizations" for future collaborations and cultural fairs!
  - iii. Visiting Black Students in Business at UIC’s “Break Barriers: Build More Black Businesses” Panel
    - 1. USG support for an amazing Panel and discussing with student leaders about the "DIC meets with Cultural Organizations" for future collaborations!
  - iv. Meeting with President Matthew, Representative Yousuf, & Representative Isaiah
    - 1. Discussing UIC Student’s Safety, Equity, Campus Unity, Rights, and Education
  - v. Meeting with Treasurer Matthew Caballes
    - 1. Discussing Reserve Funds DIC initiatives and GSC collaboration catering calculations!
  - vi. Chief of Staff Checking with COS Basta
    - 1. Discussing DIC Spring plans, current reports, initiatives, events, and collaborations!
  - vii. Having DIC weekly meeting
    - 1. Brainstorming about new DIC ideas, Planning GSC’s collaboration, Reserve funds, cultural organizations, roles, and following our spring agenda!
  - viii. New Deputy Chair: Sajal!
  - ix. Report filed
- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
- i. LAC Meetings: 5 PM-6 PM on Mondays
    - 1. We have had 4 meetings so far!
    - 2. Discussing: Social Advocacy Fair, Civic Engagement Tabling, HSI Survey, and Reserve Funds

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- ii. Meetings
    - 1. 1-1 with Carlos
    - 2. Met with Matoy about Reserve Fund options
    - 3. Met with Mauricio about uploading the HSI Survey to the USG Website
    - 4. Discussed with Nick about the Civic Engagement Competition
    - 5. Attended the Civic Engagement Lunch Talk by IPCE!
      - a. Next one: March 6th, 12 PM-1 PM
        - i. Topic: “Utilizing Social Advocacy Research to Explore the Effects of Policing on Community Health” by Professor Alana Gunn
  - iii. New Initiatives and Updates
    - 1. Civic Engagement Tabling: Dates and sets and coordinating with SLCE on volunteers. Sign-up sheet coming out soon!
    - 2. Free Speech: Confirmed Chicago Statement language and resolution introduced soon
    - 3. HSI Survey: Should be up and running by the end of this week
    - 4. USG Tabling: Starting this week!
    - 5. Social Advocacy Fair: In the process of outreaching to 50+ organizations
    - 6. Bill Tracking: Still in progress and will be finalized this week
  - iv. Report filed
- h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
- i. Coordinated with Aparna for the LAC and PAC tabling event
    - 1. The first tabling will be this Wednesday, February 14th from 2 pm-4 pm.
    - 2. We want to have two members from each committee at the table. Please sign up if you can!
    - 3. PAC will have media equipment to interview students and record
  - ii. Had a PAC meeting today
    - 1. Discussed the reserve funds program and brainstormed possible ideas
    - 2. Collaboration ideas with other organizations
  - iii. Discussed public outreach for the Connecting Student Leaders event with Representative Ashley Huang.
  - iv. Report filed
- i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
- i. Student Success Office Hours
    - 1. For anyone to come: 12-1 PM every other week starting February 21st.
    - 2. Must email me to meet until the drop-in hours location has been set.
    - 3. Already in our Office Hours Google Calendar!
  - ii. Met with Paul Irvine, Chair of External Affairs at the MIT Undergraduate Association to discuss a potential collaboration to lobby for unpaid internships on Saturday, Feb 3rd.
  - iii. Representative Sara Rothenbaum and I met with Sean Boettcher, who is the Director of Recruitment and Enrollment Strategy of the UIC College of Nursing, and David Cruz, the Associate Director of Recruitment & Enrollment Strategy on Monday, Feb 5th.
    - 1. Our goal was to find more ways to connect students on East Campus to West Campus opportunities beyond a small concentrated number of events.
    - 2. We hope to survey students to figure out ways to improve student engagement there.
  - iv. In communication with Mike Stieff, Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs, and Dr. Christina Nicholas, Chair of the UIC Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Policy to set up a



- meeting to discuss syllabi policies like adding more contact info for available Peer Learning Assistants.
1. Representative Grace Sands and Director Aparna Ramakrishnan also mentioned that we should be getting our syllabi well before the semester starts, and I agree so I hope to bring that up as well.
  2. Scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, at 10 AM
- v. Emailed Laura Kaczmarczyk, Honors College Academic Advisor and Program Specialist, to set up a meeting to learn more about her goals for a Tutor Development Program in the Honors College.
1. Will be meeting Tuesday, February 20th at 11 AM.
- vi. Emailed the Director of the Writing Center and members of their course development team to learn more about what makes them so successful.
1. Will be meeting Thursday, February 15th at 2 PM.
- vii. Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Program in Psychology meets tomorrow at 4:15 PM.
- viii. Headshots Event
1. February 21st, 2024 from 2 - 4 PM, the location is the ARC Think Tank.
    - a. Need help with covering the event.
    - b. Half-an-hour shifts.
    - c. Need 1 E-Board member there, 3 reps per shift.
    - d. Sign Up Sheet linked here and in the GroupMe
      - i. Signs Up close Feb 19th at 8 PM.
  2. The space is SMALL and we will likely have a queue so I need the help to manage the space.
  3. Please add your phone number to the appropriate slot in the sheet for communication purposes.
- ix. USG OER Leadership Program
1. Wordings for the nomination form have been approved by the Dean of Libraries and Provost's Office!
  2. The current timeline has the announcement and nomination form set to open on Friday, February 16th.
- x. Emailed John Donners, former Chief of Staff and current member of the Student and Recent Alumni Engagement Committee of the UIC Alumni Board, to set up a meeting to establish a Graduate Schools Admissions Test Fund as well as expand alumni-student mentorship opportunities alongside Quinn Basta, current Chief of Staff.
- xi. Emailed the group of reps interested in developing the URE website as well as those interested in improving syllabi and those interested in establishing connections with 100-level freshman-oriented classes to set up a meeting.
- xii. The Student Success Committee meets on Mondays from 5-6 PM in the CSI Lounge.
1. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- xiii. Report filed
- j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
- i. \*\*Read by Representative Irlbacker
  - ii. Sleeping pod initiative
    1. Discussed the implementation and benefits of pod sleeping.
    2. Highlighted how it will enhance the final students' experience on campus.
  - iii. Connecting Student Leaders Event:
    1. Announcement of the upcoming event in the next General Body Meeting (GBM).
    2. interested individuals can participate and contribute.
  - iv. Check-In with Chief of Staff (Basta):

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1. Reviewed the Powershare program and its feedback.
2. Addressed concerns raised by various organizations.
3. Discussed the management of reserve funds.
- v. Office Hours Schedule:
  1. Held office hours last Friday, providing an opportunity for engagement.
  2. Regular office hours are scheduled for Wednesdays at 4 PM.
  3. Encouraged individuals to join to learn about the Campus Life Committee.
  4. Conducted via Zoom for accessibility.
- vi. Campus Life Meetings:
  1. It occurs every Monday at 2 PM.
  2. Open invitation for interested individuals to join and participate.
  3. Currently, our initiatives focus on improving outdoor campus seating, addressing dormitory issues, organizing a food drive, and enhancing connections with organizations.
- vii. Upcoming Meetings:
  1. Scheduled meeting with SAAC president and Chief of Staff, Quinn Basta, next week.
  2. Agenda: Discussion on supporting athletic teams on campus.
  3. Aimed at enhancing athletic programs and support systems on campus.
- viii. Report filed
- k. Campus Safety Commission
  - i. 2/9: Meeting with Self-Defense and Assault Awareness (SDAA) President to explore:
    1. Possible collaboration in Self-defense lessons or Guest Speakers with UIC Police
    2. Distributing drink spiking prevention Nightcaps to their workshop, campaign, and training sessions
  - ii. 2/14: Meeting with Director of Campus Housing - Keith Ellis to discuss:
    1. Student and campus safety around resident halls, especially at night
      - a. Lighting, security personnel, surveillance cameras, and any recent safety audits or assessments.
    2. Finalizing campus housing improvement survey and distribution plan
  - iii. 2/15: Meeting with Chief Kevin Booker to address recent student arrest:
    1. Clarify misinformation around this case with many controversial opinions
    2. Improving understanding between UIC police and groups with State law or law enforcement procedures.
      - a. Having a conversation with the arrested student beforehand
  - iv. Active Shooter Drill at Daley: Coordinating a needs assessment discussion with the Dean
  - v. Active Threat Preparedness: Working with PAC to promote the Office of Preparedness and Response-aware and prepared portal
  - vi. Report filed

## XII. Announcements

- Rep. Thumu: The Sweetheart Expo is tomorrow and the Film Society has movie watching Thursday night with pancakes
- Commissioner Progri: Active Minds will be selling tanghulu from 10 AM to sellout
- Director Asad: Light the Way will be selling flowers and teddy bears and Red Shoes Review has a writing event
- Pres. Almendras: Pooch Smooch Booth– Ambasadog Bob has retired but the new ambasadog will be at the library 10-11 AM
- Director Heybeli: Leaf is selling cookies and flowers

## XIII. Adjournment

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- Motioned, seconded, accepted
  - Adjourned at 7:37 PM