

USG

Spring Meeting 4

2/19/2024

I. Call to Order

- 6:04 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
  - Aminah Ahmed (unexcused)
  - Dhanushri Devi Kannan (excused)
  - Isaiah Irlbacker (excused)
  - Kartikeya Dixit (excused)
  - Madaline Lopez (excused)
  - Michael Klimek (excused)
  - Sajal Shukla (excused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Commissioner Dinh motions to table Resolution 2024-S3-3009
  - Favored, passed

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Guest Speakers

- None

VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2024-S3-1015
  - Rep. Huang: CLC was discussing the venue of this event. Last time we had it at Vintage and some people might not feel comfortable with that so Pompeii is another option. Pompeii would not be as social as a place so we were wondering if you had thoughts about which place is better
  - Rep. Narang: I think we should still do it at Vintage because I saw a lot of student leaders with great feedback about the event and everyone was representing an org but were still able to interact and felt comfortable.
  - Rep. Thumu: I think Hawkeyes and Vintage are great venues. We have already hosted this event at a bar and that made some students too uncomfortable to attend. I think we can try out Pompeii and the social aspect and how things are organized would help student interactions
  - Rep. Fonseca: Have you looked into the cost difference between the two?
    - Rep. Huang: I think there would be no difference but we didn't look
  - Rep. Patel: Maybe you can contact people that attended last semester and see if the venue was a problem
  - Rep. Ramakrishnan: I think that because students were uncomfortable with the venue that we can do another venue and arrange the room and events to be more social. I don't think it would hurt to do a different vibe this time
  - Commissioner Proгри: I think that if you look into Pompeii that high cocktail tables would help conversation
  - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Have you looked into other venues other than Vintage, Hawkeyes, and Pompeii that are closer?

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- Rep. Satterfield: I think a good way to see what people think would be a poll even on Instagram for others to decide
- COS Basta: You want to have this event on March 5th so that doesn't allow much time to do a survey. Even when we switched the venue a few days before the last event, it was still a great success. We have a short time frame and are voting on it today and if we want to shop around, the price may go up
- President Almendras motions to add to the second let it further be resolved after the zipcode to include "or another venue location determined by the CLC"
  - Favored, approved
- Secretary Pettineo: I think it's important to include student leaders who have been shut out from this event each semester. A different venue atmosphere would be fun
- Rep. Thumu: We were able to book Pompeii quickly for our social and it was pretty affordable
- Rep. Ghoman: Giordano's might be a solid option as well
- Favored, passed

### VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2024-S4-1016 "Let's Make Zines!" Collaboration with Gender and Sexuality Center
- Resolution 2024-S4-3010 MHC Instagram Account
  - Rep. Thumu: I know that there was previously an MHC Instagram. Do you know who was running that? It might be confusing to have two
    - Commissioner Proгри: I am looking into finding out who is in charge of that or deleting it
      - President Almendras: I think that the person that might have the login in is previous Vice President
- Resolution 2024-S3-3011 USG Chicago Statement
  - Director Ramakrishnan motions to amend the title to say "USG Endorsement of the Chicago Statement"
    - Seconded, favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S4-3013 Narcan Spray Distribution Program
  - Secretary Pettineo: I have the reservation until 3 PM do you want it until then?
    - Commissioner Dinh: Yes, I will make a motion to change that
  - Commissioner Dinh motions to amend the resolution to say "3 PM" instead of "2 PM"
    - Seconded, favored, passed
  - Treasurer Caballes motions to change "\$208" to "\$275" so we can have room for additional costs
    - Seconded, favored, passed
  - SOH Zhou motions to remove the allocation for the room costs because we have a bulk allocation of how much we can spend on room reservations
    - Seconded, favored, passed
  - Commissioner Dinh: On the second page of the resolution is an outline of the event

### IX. Items for Discussion

- Director Ramakrishnan: The notes of student concerns from our tabling are in a bowl in the office and common themes are:
  - Safety, food at the dining hall, and the escalator in SCE being broken
  - Let's plan for next week
    - Tuesday 2-3:30 PM
      - 3 people available
    - Thursday 2-3:30 PM
      - Many people so we will go with this!

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- Director Alramahi: What do you think about doing this every other week or every month?
  - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: I think it is better to do it every other week to increase our visibility and have the opportunity to talk with students and hear their concerns
- Rep. Fonseca: I would love to help out so I think every other week is a good idea

#### X. Ex Officio Reports

##### a. Report of the Advisor

###### i. Raul Fernandez

1. The new Assistant Dean of Students, came from the University of Chicago, and look forward to working with you all!

###### ii. The USG election is live as of 6 PM today and you can apply on Connection

1. The election website is updated

###### iii. I will be mailing you all for an opportunity to be an actor in a police project

###### iv. Report filed

##### b. Report of the Student Trustee

###### i. None

#### XI. Officer Reports

##### a. Report of the President

###### i. I am in discussion with FIRE representatives to bring a speaker on campus and potentially a virtual guest speaker for our GBMs.

1. Student body presentation will be about free speech

2. USG speaker will focus on how student governments can support free speech on campus

###### ii. Met with Dean of Libraries, Rhea Ballard-Thrower, VC Coronado, UIC Chief of Police Kevin Booker, Assistant Vice Chancellor David Ibrahim, and University Library leadership to discuss safety in the library.

1. Big takeaways are that UIC Police will assess the space to establish a safety protocol and staff will be trained on active threat situations.

###### iii. Student Trustee Haq, Rep. Saba Ali, and I met with the Muslim Chaplain to discuss how we can better support Muslim and Palestinian students. The Chaplain is willing to collaborate with us on the SECURE Initiative.

###### iv. Met with Dean Ballard-Thrower and Library Leadership to discuss reserve fund investments in the library, quick OER follow-ups, and future collaborations. They liked our ideas on the sleeping pods and private meeting rooms, however, they have questions they want us to answer and provide back. It may be a possibility to have sleeping pods in the West Campus Library.

###### v. USG Faculty OER Leadership Award Program Subcommittee: An announcement will be coming out for Call for Nominations for the award! Nominations will be accepted until March 27th at midnight.

###### vi. SECURE Initiative: The deliverables in the SECURE Initiative are coming to fruition! I am working on these resolutions with DIC Director Heybeli, Rep. Ali, Rep. Yousuf, and Rep. Irlbacker.

###### vii. Upcoming meetings

1. OGR Meeting: Wed. 2/21

2. Meeting with VC Dixon this week (TBD as of writing this report)

3. Chancellor Meeting in the works

###### viii. Report filed

- b. Report of the Vice-President
  - i. Communicating with Christopher Sayre from the Registrar Office
    - 1. Discussing UIC policy on leaves of absences and medical leaves of absences as they relate to student well-being and health
    - 2. Will find out how often this option is being used by students and other avenues on how to support students looking to take a leave of absence
      - a. What services are still offered to students when they are on their leave of absence
  - ii. Dining Services
    - 1. Communicating with Charles Farrell on how to disseminate information regarding Suhoor meals being available to students
  - iii. Continuing to communicate with Campus Care Gap Assessment Committee on the Healthy Minds Survey
  - iv. Researching Campus Care statues on healthcare policy retention during a leave of absence
  - v. Meeting with VC Rob Dixon and President Matthew this Tuesday to discuss initiatives within student government where collaboration can be made
  - vi. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
  - i. Discussed with President Almendras to extend the presentation days for the Reserve Fund presentations
    - 1. Allow more time for planning and conducting research on the ideas
    - 2. Began constructing the Treasury Committee presentations with my committee members
  - ii. Met with Rhea Ballard Thrower, Jennifer Jackson, Linda A Naru (Library administration)
    - 1. Discussed the single person rooms
    - 2. Sleeping pods
    - 3. Possible future library investments
  - iii. Tabled for the "USG Tabling Program"
    - 1. Got to hear some student concerns and what students want to see improved about UIC
    - 2. Obtained numerous free red bulls
  - iv. Ordered the catering for the Snapshot Success: Headshots and Resume Extravaganza
    - 1. Hope to see everyone attend!
  - v. Placed the orders for the MHC Journal Giveaway and Hygiene Giveaway
    - 1. Both orders are scheduled to get here on time for their events
  - vi. Assisted Director Heybeli in planning the logistics for an event in collaboration with the Gender and Sexuality Center
    - 1. Plan to order fruit bowls, desserts, and refreshments
  - vii. Discussing the Fire Safety Logistics for the single person zoom rooms
    - 1. Will relate information back to the appropriate parties
  - viii. Started planning for the Annual State of the Student Dinner
    - 1. With President Almendras and Secretary Pettineo
    - 2. Will hopefully host it during the week of March 11th
  - ix. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
  - i. Deputy Chair Task Force meeting

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1. Discussed thoughts on E-Voting trial, USG social activities, GBM discussions, initiative progress and USG efficacy
2. Continuing the E-Voting trial this meeting! Let me know if you think of any improvements (email or exit poll)
  - a. Increased transparency for constituents
  - b. Able to make sure everyone's vote is counted
  - c. Meetings held weekly on Thursday from 10-11 am
- ii. Representative 1-on-1's
  1. Sign-up genius going out Monday evening
  2. In-person preferable, Zoom option available to those who cannot make it to campus
- iii. Working on updating USG records
- iv. Discussing USG Social w/ Interim Speaker Manasvi
  1. More frequent, smaller scale/casual socials
- v. 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 LAC Director Aparna
  - ii. This week's Chief of Staff Check-ins:
    1. Treasurer Matthew Caballes, PAC Director Zaina, and DIC Director Dilay
  - iii. The Deputy Chief of Staff for the S2024 semester will be Alexis Mata!
  - iv. Report filed
- f. Report of the Secretary
  - i. Committee meetings so far
    1. Discussed venue options, catering costs, number of attendees
  - ii. Met with the Museum of Contemporary Art with Treasurer Caballes and emailed several others to understand their cost breakdowns
    1. Many are out of budget so working to find the best venue and catering service
  - iii. Current plans
    1. Discussing catering and rental costs for the Anita Dee 2 (a yacht)
    2. Discussing catering and venue costs at the Lincoln Park Zoo
  - iv. If you have any ideas or want to join the committee, please contact me at [apetti4@uic.edu](mailto:apetti4@uic.edu)
  - v. Report filed
- g. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
  - i. Meeting with Associate Director of Community Standards Carlos Mata;
    1. Discussing Diversity and Inclusion at UIC, DIC Spring agenda and fall initiatives, committee and the meetings,
    2. Special thanks to sharing his experience of being Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director at Student Government during college and his support!
  - ii. Meeting with Director of Campus Life Tejal;
    1. Discussing Connecting Student Leader's event collaborations and how to increase cultural organization's attendance!
  - iii. Having DIC weekly meeting;
    1. Collaboration discussions, taking steps for increasing cultural organization engagements and following our spring agenda!
  - iv. Finalizing details and writing resolution for GSC Zine Making Collaboration;
    1. GSC Zine Making Collaboration is designed to be on Monday, March 4 at noon with respectful professor Dr. Loretta LeMaster and Dr. Greg S. Hummel!
    2. Highly encouraging everyone to attend GSC events and learn more about Zines!
  - v. Meeting with Treasurer Matthew Caballes;

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1. Discussing GSC collaboration catering order!
- vi. Having meetings for SECURE acts; with Representative Isaiah & President Matthew;
  1. Discussing UIC Student's Safety, Equity, Campus Unity, Rights, and Education
- vii. Visiting Cultural Organization meetings for "DIC meets with Cultural Organizations" to increase cultural engagement, and cultural fair!
- viii. Report filed
  
- h. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
  - i. LAC Meetings: 5PM-6PM on Mondays
    1. We have had 4 meetings so far!
    2. Finalizing Reserve Fun Ideas
    3. Civic Engagement Tabling Starting Soon!
    4. Social Advocacy Fair Planning
  - ii. Meetings + Events
    1. Met with Rae Joyce
      - a. Discussed Civic Engagement Competition and Tabling
    2. Met with Joy Vergara
      - a. Discussed implementation of the Chicago Statement
    3. COS Check-in
      - a. Discussed initiatives and planning for the upcoming semester
    4. USG Tabling on Wednesday went super well! We had over 50 responses
      - a. Common themes: Safety on-campus, machines at the Rec are broken and the Rec staff are slow to fix them, cost of tuition and books, and dining hall food.
  - iii. New Initiatives and Updates
    1. HSI Survey: Will be on the website by the end of this week!
    2. Social Advocacy Fair: All emails have been sent to those on the invite list.
    3. Civic Engagement Competition: The form has been released for orgs and greek life to sign up. Please encourage your orgs and friends to!
    4. Civic Engagement Tabling: Will start soon.
    5. Lobby Day: April 12th. Please mark your calendars. More information to follow in the coming weeks.
  - iv. Report filed
  
- i. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
  - i. NOTE: Headshots will be taken Monday, March 4th before the GBM in ARC at 4pm-6pm. Each member will have a singular headshot and each committee will get a group picture. See dresscode in email
  - ii. List of organizations to reach out to
    1. If there are any organizations you want USG to collaborate with or invite to our events. List them in the google sheet down below.
      - a. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11O3cV1jLMG2263Qs1641theI Tj79ss4k\\_qnY4rbedrA/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11O3cV1jLMG2263Qs1641theI Tj79ss4k_qnY4rbedrA/edit?usp=sharing)
  - iii. PAC met last week and today
    1. Reserve Funds Program
    2. Organizing Merchandise orders
    3. Planning headshot event
  - iv. E-board meeting
  - v. Merch is coming in next week so PAC will be distributing very soon

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- vi. Hosted first labeling event alongside Director Aparna. Thank you to Treasurer Matoy, rep Ashley, rep Christina, rep Manasvi, and rep Michael for helping out.
- vii. Stoles will be ordered soon.
- viii. Report filed

j. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair

i. Headshots Event

- 1. February 21st, 2024 from 2 - 4 PM, Location is the ARC Think Tank.
  - a. Need help with covering the event - half hour shifts.
  - b. Need 1 E-Board member there and at least 2 other people per shift.
  - c. Sign Up Sheet linked here and found in the GroupMe
  - d. Signs Up close tonight at 8PM.
  - e. [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yfWWjTB8\\_UMOUFyxefS0H43nNpGI3NgEkyecePIcksc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yfWWjTB8_UMOUFyxefS0H43nNpGI3NgEkyecePIcksc/edit?usp=sharing)
- 2. The space is SMALL and we will likely have a queue so I really need the help to manage the space.
- 3. Please add your phone number in the appropriate slot in the sheet for communication purposes.

ii. Met with Director Jean Riordan to discuss the Career Leadership Council Student Advisory Board this morning and to discuss Wednesday's event.

iii. Met with the Director of the Writing Center, Dr. Vainis Aleksa, and members of their team to learn more about what makes them so successful.

- 1. Learned a lot about their approaches to creating welcoming environments and found a couple things that they'd like improvement to work on and potential collaborative events that could be brought back.
  - a. Biggest concern is that Fall sees the Writing Center be overcrowded while Spring is underused.

iv. USG OER Leadership Program

- 1. The announcement and nomination form set to open today, everyone should have gotten those emails!
  - a. Please support your professors in the work they do - if they qualify, they should be nominated!
- 2. Faculty members who are eligible demonstrate exemplary usage of open-access materials in their own classrooms and are leaders in using and advocating for open course material. Examples of such use include but are not limited to: using open textbooks, using/incorporating free educational resources/materials in courses, and creating open educational materials.
  - a. This is the first step in making textbooks and homework platforms free for all students, so engagement in this is crucial.
    - i. Form to Submit Nominations  
[https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ey2yAmB6X9ksW9M](https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ey2yAmB6X9ksW9M)
    - ii. Learn more at:  
<https://usg.uic.edu/resources/usg-faculty-oer-leadership-award-program>
- 3. The subcommittee will meet again in March.

v. Bachelor's Accelerated Master's Program in Psychology met last week

- 1. Program scope consists of establishing a 4 + 1 program where students can get their bachelor's degree in Psychology as well as their master's degree quickly in the efforts of getting more qualified mental health care specialists in the field

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- versus having students get a bachelor's and a doctorate (4 + 5 years) that currently focuses more on establishing research.
- 2. Meets again tomorrow at 5PM.
- vi. Meeting with Laura Kaczmarczyk, Honors College Academic Advisor and Program Specialist to learn more about her goals for a Tutor Development Program in the Honors College is scheduled for tomorrow Tuesday, February 20th at 11AM.
- vii. Meeting with Mike Stieff and Dr. Christina Nicholas to discuss syllabi policies is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, at 10AM.
- viii. Emailed the Director of the Math and Science Learning Center to meet with them and members of their team to learn about what makes them so successful.
- ix. Emailed John Donners, former Chief of Staff and current member of the Student and Recent Alumni Engagement Committee of the UIC Alumni Board, in order 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.
  - 1. Meeting is tentatively scheduled for this Friday at 5PM.
- x. The Student Success Committee meets Mondays from 5-6PM in the CSI Lounge.
  - 1. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- k. Report of the Mental Health Commission
  - i. Past Meetings
    - 1. Natalia Lopez-Yanez, Director of Public Health Initiatives
      - a. Discussed the contents of the Healthy Minds Study and talked about adding some customization questions.
    - 2. Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Director of the Counseling Center
      - a. Discussed when the Counseling Center Executive Director is going to be permanently filled – Goal is to have someone by the summer, they are currently pulling a search committee together.
      - b. Discussed the joint website that he is working to create for all campus resources.
        - i. Anticipates ~1 year for its finalization.
      - c. Supported our Instagram Idea
      - d. Discussed last year's strike and how the money is being put to use.
        - i. Salaries to counseling center staff, Support of the social work trainee program, funding consultation of university resources by the American college health association, funding the HMS
      - e. Talked about the Applied Psych Peer Program
        - i. Thinks it would be better housed in the Wellness Center
  - ii. Carol Peterson, Director of the Wellness Center
    - 1. Discussed her Flames Flourish Program
      - a. Will be partnering with MHC to push out these resources to students.
    - 2. Discussed Food Drive and hosting it again this semester.
      - a. Super supportive.
  - iii. Liz Rosario, Social Worker in the Counseling Center
    - 1. Learned about the Social Work Peer Counseling Program and its progress.
    - 2. Discussed how the Applied Psych Peer Program and this one can work together.
  - iv. Representative Ashley and Director Tejal
    - 1. Discussed Food Drive; working out the details!
  - v. Future Meetings
    - 1. Carol Peterson, Director of the Wellness Center
    - 2. Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Director of Counseling Center
    - 3. Dr. Raja, Interim Executive Director of Counseling Center



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- vi. Initiatives
    - 1. Journaling Giveaway!
      - a. Got pushed to the 28th.
    - 2. Focus Groups to give feedback to Counseling/Wellness Centers
      - a. Partnering with Dr. Raja, Raphael, and Carol on this.
    - 3. Establishing an Instagram in place of our initial email service idea.
      - a. Would be easier to implement than an email, and more well-received by students.
    - 4. Possible Collab with Representative La Shawn Ford
      - a. Discussed maybe introducing legislation to better Mental health resources on campuses in IL.
    - 5. Finalizing details for the food drive, resolution next week!
    - 6. Collaborating with Art orgs to chalk the quad before we return from Spring Break.
      - a. Also asking about using their art to decorate the academic buildings on campus!
    - 7. Mental Health Panel
      - a. First Week of April
  - vii. Report filed
- l. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
    - i. Food Drive Initiative:
      - 1. Met with Tereza and representative Ashley.
      - 2. Discussed incentives and promotion strategies.
      - 3. Explored logistics to raise awareness about food insecurity.
    - ii. Campus Life Committee Meeting:
      - 1. Discussed sleeping pods and student connecting event initiatives.
      - 2. Planned focus groups to address organization concerns.
    - iii. Safety Measures:
      - 1. Met with Veronica to address safety concerns.
      - 2. Initiating anonymous safety surveys in dorms.
      - 3. Brainstormed additional safety initiatives.
    - iv. Collaboration Efforts:
      - 1. Met with Director Dilay to collaborate on the Connecting Leaders event.
      - 2. Planning involvement of cultural student orgs.
    - v. Check-In with Chief of Staff (Basta):
      - 1. Reviewed Powershare program and feedback.
      - 2. Addressed concerns from various organizations.
      - 3. Discussed reserve fund management.
    - vi. Office Hours Schedule:
      - 1. Regular office hours: Wednesdays at 4 PM.
      - 2. Open invitation to discuss campus life initiatives.
    - vii. Upcoming Meetings:
      - 1. Scheduled meeting with SAAC president and Chief of Staff, Quinn Basta, this Friday.
        - a. Agenda: Enhancing support for athletic teams on campus.
    - viii. For questions or ideas, email [tgupta25@uic.edu](mailto:tgupta25@uic.edu). Thank you for your dedication to campus life.
    - ix. Report filed
  - m. Report of the Campus Safety Commission

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- i. Meeting with Director of Campus Housing - Keith Ellis:
  1. He agreed to distribute the campus housing and campus safety improvement survey to RAs and then floor group chat
  2. Explained domino effects between residential halls operation system and solving the problems as soon as they can.
- ii. 2/15: Meeting with Chief Booker, Kevin Booker to address recent student arrest:
  1. Upcoming meetings with Palestine and Israel students through video analysis and finding common ground.
  2. Going through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to clarify the arrested case on the detail level.
  3. Rechecking the process student groups working with UIC Police in the past with SDAA president and Chief Booker
- iii. Active Shooter Drill at Daley: Approved after discussion meeting with VC Coronado, Dean RBT, AVC Office of Preparedness and Response and UIC Police.
- iv. Reached out to Campus Advocacy Network and Women's Leadership and Resource Center for to discuss domestic violence and possible collaboration initiatives
- v. Narcan Distribution Program:
  1. Finalizing setting and logistics for both distribution program and training session
    - a. Working with multiple on-campus locations to have on-hand supply periodically.
    - b. Possibilities to have occasional training sessions for students who missed it to avoid misunderstanding and misuse.
- vi. Working with PAC for promoting OPR, CRA resources and raising awareness among students on opioid prevention and active threat preparedness.
- vii. Do not hesitate to reach me at qdinh4@uic.edu or text me at (312) 459 - 9456.
- viii. Report filed

## XII. Announcements

- Rep. Thumu: HMHF, AJK, PSA, Al Bayan to host Dawwali Night and there will be a dinner. It will be on March 5th and tickets are currently \$15 but prices will go up. UIC Radio is doing an event on Friday for 24 hours
- Director Asad: UIC's Prelaw Society has a blanket making event this Friday in SCE Room 603 and it is a \$10 fee

## XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
  - Adjourned at 7:24 PM