

USG

Spring Meeting 8

3/25/2024

I. Call to Order

- 6:07 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
 - Abdulmajid Yousuf (unexcused)
 - Alexis Mata (unexcused)
 - Anthony Cruz (excused)
 - Jeremy Rivera (excused)
 - Madaline Lopez (unexcused)
 - Meghna Dasgupta (excused)
 - Moiz Zafar Shakir (excused)

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-S7-1021 UIC Cultural Fair
 - Secretary Pettineo motions to amend the Resolution to say “in the Quad” instead of “location TBD” and instead of the “3rd week of April” to say “April 18th, 2024, from 1:30-4:30 PM”
 - Director Heybeli: The food we will be giving out will be from UIC Catering, Jimmy Johns, Giordanno’s, Yummy Thai, Chilangos, Baba Pita
 - Rep. Kannan: Can you include the specific foods you are getting as well as the ingredients for people with allergies?
 - Director Heybeli: Yes
 - Rep. Narang: How many people are you accommodating
 - Director Heybeli: Because this will be in the quad, we will be targeting as many people as possible, and it will be open to all students
- Resolution 2024-S7-1022 USG Food Truck Day
 - Treasurer Caballes motions to amend the Resolution to say April 16th from 11AM-4PM on April 16th instead of the early weeks of April and to remove all of the vendors except Chicago Food Truck Hub and replace with Micha Catering and A Sweets Girls Cupcake Food Truck
 - President Almendras: Why has Wild Fries been removed?
 - Treasurer Caballes: When I asked for a quote and their certifications, they were not very willing, and Trucking Delicious never responded and does not have permits to sell in Chicago. I talked to Micha Catering and they only sell boba (\$1000). A Sweets Girl would be 300 cupcakes with beverages for 4 hours (\$2800). The Chicago Food Truck Hub quote is not yet ready but we are deciding what we want to get from them and then will get a quote (taco truck has halal and vegetarian options which we will definitely have) as well as either mediterranean

or American food. We are also thinking about renting out furniture for people to seat

- Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Students like free food so they will come out so if businesses run out of food early then what happens? How do we ensure it is there for the full time and students get something?
- Treas. Caballes: Goal 300-400 students and first come first serve
- Director Ramakrishnan: Lobby day is April 16th. Can we move the day?
 - Treas. Caballes: No, unfortunately, this worked best
- Rep. Patel: If you want it to last 11-4, you could ask the vendors to come at different times to space it out so it doesn't run out all at once
- Rep Thumu: You could also do a ticket system and give students one or 2 so the students can grab all 4 options
 - Treas. Caballes: This would also force students to talk to USG
- Rep. Klimek: About staggering the times, one concern is that not all trucks have dietary restriction options
- Commissioner Proгри: Another concern about staggering is that the line would be really long for the food truck
- SOH Zhou: I think the ticket system is a great idea and everyone can help out with that
- Rep. Kannan: Are we doing a spring thing like we did in fall?
 - SOH Zhou: Yes
- Pres. Almendras: When does lobby day end?
 - Director Ramakrishnan: After 4 pm
- Resolution 2024-S7-5005 USG Brochures and Promotional Material
 - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Will this be ready for the food truck day?
 - Dir. Alramahi: No probably not
 - Com. Proгри: Can we get those printed by staples?
 - Dir. Alramahi: I can look into that
 - Pres. Almendras: CDS takes about 2 weeks but I can talk to someone from it to get it sooner
- Resolution 2024-S7-5006 USG Commissioner Realignment and Appropriations
 - Rep. Narang: What was the last event done by the Campus Safety Commission? How did it go?
 - Commissioner Dinh: The event is on April 10th so it is coming up and the Narcan spray will be handed out that same day. The training session will also occur then and I spoke to the Dean of the Library and Director of Campus Housing and they said yes to having Narcan on hand at those locations
 - Rep. Maduakolam: Why do they get money for being a commissioner?
 - President Almendras: Commissioners get paid because they are technically part of the board and that is something we will fine tune about where they stand in the hierarchy. But they get paid, because their work is very important to what USG does

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2024-S8-5008 Canva Pro Funding

IX. Items for Discussion

- Spring USG Social
 - SOH Zhou: Manasvi is planning more casual USG socials, but what was brought up during one-on-ones was that some people cannot make the Gala at the end of the year so

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we discussed the possibility of having a full-body social at the end of the year. Would you like us to use USG funds or no funds to have a social at the end of the semester? It is important to celebrate our work with everyone present

- Rep. Irlbacker: I was part of some of these discussions, and I think it would be best to have a larger group meeting and to network
- Rep. Klimek: I think it depends on how much money we have left over at the end of the semester if we can use funds or not
- Treas. Caballes: What if we go bowling?
- Pres. Almendras: I am very supportive of having an end-of-the-year social. That reminds me that someone from the Cubs marketing team reached out about us going to a game so we could center something around that on April 23rd
- SOH Zhou: I think we should stick to the Monday time because everyone is available then
- Treas. Caballes: We can see how much we spend on the last resolutions so we hopefully have funds for a social
- Rep. Thumu: For the smaller socials, I will be holding it from 5-6 PM on Thursday and I will be sending the location details in the GroupMe and email. I was thinking of doing a study session at Living Water Tea House because they have internet and nice tables for us to work at for finals preparations

X. Ex Officio Reports

a. Report of the Advisor

- i. Email for DOS search for Community Standards, and we are looking for USG members to join us from 12-12:50 PM on those days
- ii. USG elections are next week, and UIC Connection has the event and voter form already created
- iii. There have been some concerns about if the internet crashes, and if it does, a paper ballot will be made available
- iv. Rep. Thumu: I am not sure if EPC coordinates the RHA elections
 1. Carlos: No, we do not
- v. Report filed

b. Report of the Student Trustee

- i. No report

XI. Officer Reports

a. Report of the President

- i. Vice President Fernandes and I met with Chancellor Miranda and discussed the Chancellor's Status Committee on MENA Americans, Student Organization Support, and other general student/UIC issues. Big news: Chancellor Miranda will be creating two Chancellor Status Committees for Arab/Palestinian students and for Jewish students! We also shared concerns RSOs face at UIC and she will help us address these concerns!
- ii. Meeting with ERC: We discussed our bill tracker and the continued relationship between USG and ERC/SAC. They love our bill tracker and the idea that USG will, incrementally, be more involved in legislation that we have common interests in. It was agreed to do more meetings and briefings on higher education legislation potentially
- iii. U of I System Lobby Day in DC: I participated in the U of I System Lobby Day in DC with the Student Body Presidents of UIUC and UIS over Spring Break. It was a pleasure meeting them and working with them to lobby the Illinois delegation to get the U of I

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System research funding and increase student financial aid. Greatly grateful to ERC and SAC for organizing another successful DC Lobby Day!

- iv. Wellness Days: It is 100% confirmed- wellness days in the Fall semester will be implemented next Fall 2024!
- v. The Dean of Students is looking for assistance as we will be conducting on-campus interviews for the Associate Director of Community Standards. We are looking for members of USG to participate in the interview process with the candidates during these times:
 1. Wednesday, March 27th, 2024: From 12-12:50, Location TBA
 2. Thursday, March 28th, 2024: From 12-12:50, Location TBA
 3. Friday, March 29th, 2024: From 12-12:50, Location TBA
 4. Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024: From 12-12:50, Location TBA
- vi. Meetings & Events:
 1. VC of Student Affairs & CSI: TBD
- vii. Representative Syeda had an idea of how to engage UIC Police with Palestinian students
 1. Rep. Amena: My initiative was to host a charity that involves raising funds for Children in Palestine, which would be a collaboration with UIC Police and this would create a safe space for students to interact with the police.
 2. Pres. Almendras: This follows up on promoting charities and philanthropies that provide aid to Palestine from our initiative earlier this semester. We thought about doing a pie in the face, a dunk tank, etc That would be a fundraiser for PCRf, and then they can pie the police officer, and then officers have the chance to talk to students on a more personal level. Does anyone have thoughts or ideas? Pieing in the face is a no due to violence
 - a. Rep. Irlbacker: I am very supportive of this, but my question is will any USG funds be directly going toward this charity?
 - i. Pres. Almendras: No, the funding guidelines do not let us do that. I will look into if we can use funds for decorations or something for the event
 - ii. Rep. Thumu: I think the dunk tank is a good idea if the officers are willing to do it because I know there are some stipulations of touching police officers so this is safer for police officers and fun
 - iii. Rep. Maduakolam: What if there is protesting or retaliation?
 1. Pres. Almendras: We will try to coordinate that with relevant stakeholders, and I think that since this is for a charity, that should help and be an opportunity for open dialogue
 - iv. Rep. Narang: What do you think of paintball guns?
 1. Pres. Almendras: No, that is too harsh
 - v. Rep. Maduakolam: Why do we have to do this with officers?
 1. Pres. Almendras: Some students have negative perceptions of the UIC PD so we want to have an event where students can feel comfortable with the people who are supposed to protect us. I think we should do this before the semester ends
 - viii. Report filed
 - b. Report of the Vice-President
 - i. State of Student on 3/12

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1. Great event to present what student government has been accomplishing recently to all of the community, administration, and campus partners present
 - ii. President Matthew and I had a meeting with Chancellor Miranda on 3/12
 1. Discussed issues student groups are facing on campus
 2. Resources available to students
 3. Higher Learning Commission evaluation
 - iii. Communicated with Office of the Provost about logistics for the student wellness day that will be implemented for Fall 2024
 1. Applies to all undergraduates and graduates except those at the College of Medicine
 - iv. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
 - i. Discussed with Representatives Saba and Ahmad about Iftar
 1. In the process of submitting the exemption forms and food orders for the event
 - ii. Discussed with Director Dilay Heybeli on the Cultural Fair Day
 - iii. Set up meetings with administration from the SCE, Library, and Rec Center
 1. Will discuss the finalized reserve funds results in these upcoming weeks
 - iv. Reached out to numerous food truck vendors for our Food Truck Day
 1. Have confirmed the date with A.Sweets Girl Cupcake Truck and Mycha Catering
 2. Still discussing details with other food trucks
 - v. Began setting up the Homecoming Tailgate Award Dinner with Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity
 1. Plan to have it at Hawkeye's Bar & Grill
 - vi. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
 - i. Attended State of the Students event
 1. Proud of all the work we've done as USG, great speech from President Matthew!
 - ii. Deputy Chair Task Force meeting
 1. Discussed past GBM's business, initiative/committee progress, USG Social
 2. Meetings held weekly on Thursday from 10-11 am
 - iii. Representative 1-on-1's
 1. Thank you to everyone who I've spoken to thus far!
 2. This is the last week for meetings—please sign up for a slot via the SignUpGenius that was sent out; these are mandatory and will be counted as an unexcused absence if not completed
 3. In-person preferable, Zoom option available to those who cannot make it to campus
 - iv. Met with Interim Speaker Manasvi
 1. Great job to Manasvi for leading the last meeting and making the packet!
 2. USG Social
 - a. General poll for availability sent out by Manasvi
 - i. Discussing with deputies on array of mini social events
 - b. Full body social at the end of the year?
 - v. Internal Elections – Treasurer and Speaker
 1. Second to last GBM will be our internal elections for the positions of Treasurer and Speaker!
 - vi. Process:
 1. Nomination: Individuals must be nominated to be considered

- a. Any USG member can nominate someone—you can even nominate yourself!
 - b. Nominees must accept or decline the nomination
 2. Speech
 - a. Those who accept the nomination must give a short speech (no longer than 2 minutes) on why they should be elected for the position
 3. Discussion
 - a. Once speeches are done, nominated members will exit the room while everyone else participates in a discussion
 4. Voting
 - a. There will be an anonymous vote; once votes are counted, the nominated members may return to the room and results will be announced
- vii. Report filed
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
 - i. Last week's Chief of Staff Check-ins:
 1. PAC Director Zaina and SSC Director Asa
 - ii. This week's Chief of Staff Check-ins:
 1. CLC Director Tejal, Treasurer Matthew Caballes, DIC Director Dilay, LAC Director Aparna
 - iii. Continued developing the framework for committee transition documents
 1. To be finalized by GBM 9
 - iv. Report filed
- f. Report of the Secretary
 - i. Reminder: Gala is May 13th 6-9 PM Lincoln Park Zoo
 1. We will have a shuttle bus from SCE
 2. Invite to be sent out for your RSVP soon
 - ii. Still waiting for DOS Office to submit the contract and make the initial deposit
 - iii. Theme is.....
 1. Enchanted Forest!
 - iv. Rep. Klimek: Can we bring plus ones?
 1. Secretary Pettineo: Yes
 - v. Rep. Narang: Can the plus one be outside of USG because what if someone gets upset about why they weren't invited?
 1. Secretary Pettineo and President Almendras: We will be inviting students from organizations around campus. For example, those that attended the Connecting Student Leaders events as well as members of the RSO focus group and tailgate participants
 - vi. Report filed
- g. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
 - i. Organizing Cultural Fair;
 1. Creating a menu from many different cultures with vegetarian, and halal options!
 2. Communicating with Catering restaurants
 3. Searching for accessories and international treats!
 4. Will connect with Cultural Centers
 5. Will connect with Cultural Organizations
 - ii. Interacting with international students to hearing about their ideas and concerns;
 1. Will connect with Office of International Students

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2. Will connect with UIC Global
- iii. Working with Treasurer Matoy and building managers for the Arcade reserve funds project!
- iv. Report filed
- h. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
 - i. LAC Meetings: 5PM-6PM on Mondays
 1. Written Testimony for Legislation
 2. Social Advocacy Fair THIS WEEK!
 3. Primaries were last week!
 4. Planning a meeting to discuss Student Bill of Rights and Chicago Statement
 - ii. Meetings + Events
 1. Meeting with Representative Ford earlier today
 - a. Discussed mental health legislation
 - b. Creating a Peer Support Program in Illinois
 2. Written testimonies for relevant legislation
 - a. SB2606 Update: Favored in committee! Going to the Senate floor!
 3. Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos
 - a. Meets next week!
 - b. Planning to inform them of our HSI survey and ask them to help us promote it through various stakeholders
 - c. If you are interested in attending please let me know!
 4. Social Advocacy Fair
 - a. This Thursday! Please come out if you can!
 - iii. New Initiatives and Updates
 1. Social Advocacy Fair: SIGN UP AT THIS LINK TO HELP OUT
 2. Lobby Day (Tuesday, April 16th): SIGN UP AT THIS LINK ASAP
 - iv. Report filed
- i. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
 - i. Director check in with Chief of Staff Quinn. We discussed:
 1. GBM youtube recordings
 2. PAC newsletter
 3. USG Brochure
 4. Website Updates
 - ii. Finalized the 2024 USG Brochure/pamphlet
 - iii. Finalized canva resolution
 - iv. Ordered Ropes and Stoles for Senior Graduates- should be coming in before May 1st
 - v. Upcoming meeting with Web administrator Maurico. We will discuss:
 1. Website Introduction video of President Matthew
 2. Feature office hours on the website along with google calendar.
 3. Updating Slideshow pictures
 - vi. Upcoming meeting this week with Deputy Dhanushri to discuss member spotlight, newsletter, and upcoming tabling.
 - vii. Diversity and Inclusion, Treasury, and Campus Life committees please stay after the meeting to take committee pictures for the website.
 - viii. Report filed
- j. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
 - i. Meeting with ChemER

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1. Met with President Nick Hok to discuss current organization practices and see what their plans are for expansion.
 - a. Learned a lot on how volunteer tutors are trained and how this could be expanded across the UIC community.
- ii. Meeting with the Director of Central Tutoring, Carlotta Johnson, is set for this Wednesday, March 27th at 12PM.
- iii. Stellic Demo.
 1. Went super well! They can completely integrate into the existing platforms we have here at UIC but are much easier to use and have a lot of features that admin can use to highlight academic concerns which is a great feature.
- iv. In coordination with COS Basta, emailed Professor Hogan to learn more about the entrepreneurial partnerships UIC has and how we could capitalize on that.
 1. Meeting is tomorrow, 3/26 at 10AM.
 2. If you or a friend is interested in pitching business ideas and winning cash prizes, participate in the Blaze Venture Challenge! Please find more info at this link:
 3. <https://innovation.uic.edu/spark-innovation-hub/entrepreneurial-pathways/blazeventurechallenge/>
- v. The Student Success Committee meets Mondays from 5-6PM in the CSI Lounge.
- vi. Report filed
- k. Report of the Mental Health Commissioner
 - i. Past Meetings
 1. Dr. Galen Duncan, Senior Associate Athletics Director
 - a. Discussed the mental health support that athletes have access to
 - b. Talked about possible points for collaboration
 2. Lynne Thompson, Director of Campus Recreation
 - a. Discussed the importance of physical activity on mental health and overall wellness
 - b. Possible collaboration on an Exercise is Medicine Event in April!
 3. Director Aparna and Reps from the MHC met with Representative Ford this morning
 4. Attended the State of the Student Dinner
 - ii. Future Meetings
 1. Graduate Assistant from the Wellness Center // Tuesday, March 26th
 2. Graduate Student from the SLCE // Wednesday, March 27th
 3. Carol Peterson, Director of the Wellness Center // Wednesday, April 3rd
 4. Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Assistant VC of Student Health and Well-being // Tuesday, April 2nd
 - iii. Initiatives
 1. Message from NAMI:
 - a. A way to advocate for increased funding for college mental health services is by emailing our legislators! I will follow up with an email on the chain to show you how you can contact them!
 2. Collaborations with the Student Athletic Advisory Council
 - a. Wellness Wednesday Social Media program
 - b. Keep an eye out for it in April
 3. Quad Chalking
 - a. Invited all Mental Health Orgs to participate
 - b. Happening April 1st! If you would like to stop by, please do!
 4. Mental Health Week (April 8th-April 12th)
 - a. Tabling

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- i. Monday, April 8 @ 10am-12pm // In front of the SCE Bookstore
 - b. Town Hall
 - i. Tuesday, April 9th @ 3:00-4:30 pm // Fort Dearborn Room B
 - c. Guided Painting!
 - i. Friday, April 12th @ 3:00-5:00pm // SCE 713
 5. Artwork in library
 - a. Working with the Dean!
 6. Meeting with the SLCE to discuss a collaboration on their “Make Mondays Matter” event series.
 7. Peer support program
 - a. Brainstormed ideas on how we can effectively bring it to UIC
 - b. Possibly reviving a Crisis-counseling class to make this happen!
 - iv. Giveaway towards the end of the semester during finals week!
 - v. Report filed
- I. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
 - i. Meeting with President Matthew:
 1. Discussed logistics for the semester.
 2. Explored campus life initiatives for the upcoming months.
 - ii. Campus Life Committee Meeting:
 1. Held discussions with representatives.
 2. Explored various campus life initiatives and strategies.
 - iii. Focus on RSO Support:
 1. Discussed bringing Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) together.
 2. Explored ways to address RSO challenges and improve support/resources.
 3. Plan to collaborate with the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) on this.
 - iv. Communication with PAC:
 1. Reached out to Zaina and Emma regarding RSO initiative flyers.
 2. Coordinating updates about RSO initiatives on Instagram.
 - v. Attendance at USG State of the Student Dinner (3/12)
 - vi. Upcoming Meetings:
 1. Meeting with the Treasury to discuss increasing outdoor seating area on campus.
 2. Check-in scheduled with Quinn Basta, Chief of Staff.
 - vii. Report filed

XII. Announcements

- Rep Thumu: mini social on thursday from 5-6 PM, Film Society is watching a horror movie at 6 (House), FIA and a Fraternity are doing a fundraiser on Friday to sell ube cookies and mango salgo, on Thursday it is trans day of visibility so there will be an open mic at 12 PM on the quad
- Dir. Heybeli: There will be a presentation on a self made millionaire in the CS lounge on April 3

XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
 - Adjourned at 7:30 PM