

USG

Spring Meeting 9

4/01/2024

I. Call to Order

- 6:05 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at the time of roll call
  - Michael Fernandes (excused)
  - Matoy Caballes (unexcused)
  - Dilay Heybeli (unexcused)
  - Tejal Gupta (excused)
  - Aminah Ahmed (unexcused)
  - Aryaman Narang (unexcused)
  - Dhanushri Devi Kannan (unexcused)
  - Grace Sands (excused)
  - Grace Satterfield (excused)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- Commissioner Progrid motions to table Resolution 2024-S9-3022
  - Seconded, favored
- Approved

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Approved

V. Public Comment

- None

VI. Guest Speakers

- Jair Alvarez Student Advocacy Coalition
  - Co-President
  - SAC Introduction
    - Similar to USG but on legislative level
    - Liasons of students under U of I System and connect students on local and federal level
    - Lobbying for student resources and research funding for medical studies
  - Supporter of Resolution 2024-S9-1025
    - \$3300 budget to purchase a short bus to take UIC students to the Capitol for Lobby Day
    - Lobby Day is where students talk with senators and representatives and we will ask for an increase in mental health resources and Pell Grants
    - Will reserve spots for USG members, April 5th is registration deadline
  - President Almendras: Will students get letters of excuse for class to attend?
    - Jair: Yes, Theresa Thomas will provide that
  - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: I want to learn more about SAC. It costs a little more than \$3000 for the charter. Is that asking for USG allocation because SAC does not have the budget or is there another reason?
    - Jair: The U of I System has a specific budget and dedicate a specific amount to that budget and unfortunately they do not have the bandwidth to budget the charter. This has been a tradition that USG pays for it. The Office of Government Relations has a strict budget and cannot afford this
      - Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: On average, how many students go to Lobby Day?

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- Jair: We bought a bus for 60 students, and 50 students took it the past few years
- Director Ramakrishnan: We have been talking about Lobby Day for a while, and last time I heard it is pretty difficult time for students to attend so can I get a head count
  - 4 USG members
- I urge you to sign up if your classes and schedule allows
- Rep. Thokkudubiyapu: Do you have a count of students on SAC side
  - Jair: No, I do not
- President Almendras: The other student governments will be there so this a great chance to trade ideas. I spoke about the meal swipe program and Urbana Champaign has been implementing this semester. You can also network and gain connections
- COS Basta: So there are various groups attending, OGR, USG, SAC, are there other administrators coming?
  - Yes, President Killeen, Chancellor Miranda, and other U of I Chancellors

#### VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2024-S8-5008 Canva Pro Funding
  - Rep. Thumu: How is the Canva subscription passed on if there is a new PAC Director or Graphic Designer, how is that account passed on?
    - PAC Alramahi: The account login information is passed on, and it has been passed on for years now
    - President Almendras: There is a document that contains all login information that is used for the PAC transition document
  - Favored, passed

#### VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2024-S9-1024 MHC End-of-Year Giveaway
  - President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - SOH Zhou: What is being ordered in this resolution?
    - Commissioner Proгри: Nothing additional is being ordered I just didn't know if it should be a 1000 resolution, but we are giving away things we have already purchased
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-1025 USG x SAC Lobby Day Support
  - Rep. Mata: I would advocate for passing this resolution because I learned a lot through this event as a freshman coming in and learned advocacy. I was also able to cite this in an interview and got a great internship because of it
  - President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-3020 MHC x SLCE "Make Mondays Matter" Collaboration
  - President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-3021 MHC x SAAC Wellness Wednesday Social Media Campaign Collaboration
  - President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-3023 Treasury Reserve Fund Authorization: Individual Meeting Room Implementation
  - COS Basta motions to amend the resolution to say Quinn instead of Quin
    - Favored, passed

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- President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - The plan was to rank choice the reserve fund ideas, write a resolution, and executive order them
- President Almendras motions to change 75K to \$75,263.03 to be the exact amount of money we have in reserve funds
  - Favored, passed
- President Almendras motions to change the amount allocated from \$25,000 to be \$28,837.95, which is the exact cost of 4 private meeting rooms
  - \$2400 for shipping and each meeting room is about \$5995
- Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-3024 Campus Life Committee Reserve Fund Authorization: Sleeping Pods
  - President Almendras executive orders this to be voted on tonight
  - President Almendras motions to change \$75,000 to \$75,263.03 to be the exact amount of money we have in reserve funds
    - Favored passed
  - Favored, passed
- Resolution 2024-S9-3025 Diversity and Inclusion Committee Reserve Fund Authorization: The Arcade Lounge
  - President Almendras motions to change 75K to \$75,263.03 to be the exact amount of money we have in reserve funds
    - Favored, passed
  - President Almendras motions to change the allocation to \$18,500.68
    - Favored, passed
  - Favored, passed
- Remarks from President Almendras: We will be investing \$75,263.03 into these three projects! When we first heard about the reserve funds we were shocked because we didn't know where our excess funds were going. We have 300K across 4 years so next year's administration and onward will each have 75K. I think we have hit a lot of campus issues with these resolutions. We are a commuter campus and we are providing sleeping pods. As a University we ensure academic success but it is also important to socialize so the Arcade Lounge provides that. The private meeting rooms provide a solution for students who need a place for quiet meetings (2 SCE and 2 in the Library). It would be great to get even more meeting rooms in future years. We are signaling priorities and setting an example for future administrations.
- Resolution 2024-S9-5009 USG Plaque Purchase

#### IX. Items for Discussion

- None

#### X. Ex Officio Reports

##### a. Report of the Advisor

- i. Election voting starts at 9 AM Wednesday and ends 4 PM Thursday
- ii. I am looking for students to be part of Student Conduct Committee meetings (academic and behavioral misconduct), and we will train you. If you aren't graduating this would be great
- iii. If you want to consult with me about legislation and what DOS would be looking for, please let me know
- iv. COS Basta: How many students are you looking for for the committee?
  1. Carlos: As many as I can get because I have no one so far
- v. Rep. Klimek: When will election results be posted?

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1. Carlos: Unofficial results will be posted on Thursday at 5pm and official results will be posted as soon as EPC ratifies them
- b. Report of the Student Trustee
  - i. None

#### XI. Officer Reports

- a. Report of the President
  - i. MH Commissioner Progoni and I met with Wellness Center GA, Leah Lasher, to discuss student mental health and how the Wellness Center can be improved.
  - ii. Campus Safety Concerns: Recently, a non-UIC affiliated person was sexually assaulted on campus. I will be working with CS Commissioner Dinh, UICPD, and others to address this issue. I am thinking to meet with the Alderman of our campus area.
  - iii. I met with Dr. Guevarra to discuss the Statement Taskforce that I am on. We discussed about ensuring free speech is protected and that all stakeholder voices are heard.
  - iv. Reserve Funds: introducing resolutions this Assembly Meeting. We should all be proud of these new investments coming to campus- we did this together!
  - v. Budget: We discussed in our last board meeting to close funding for this year as we have successfully spent all our funds!
  - vi. End of the Year Report: This will include accomplishments and work from the past two years of Vice President Fernandes, Student Trustee Haq, and I's 2-year term. We will now be wrapping up our year by closing out initiatives and look forward to the next one!
  - vii. Meetings & Events:
    1. VC of Student Affairs & CSI: Wednesday?
  - viii. Report filed
- b. Report of the Vice-President
  - i. Began writing important information for Vice President transition documents
    1. Will include contacts and ongoing initiatives
    2. Rest of the board is working on transition documents as well
  - ii. Communicating with outside inquiry about AI tool to help student governments with their initiatives
  - iii. President Matthew and I are scheduling a meeting with CSI and Student Affairs administration to discuss how we can support student organizations better
    1. Focus groups of student leaders on campus will help guide our conversations together
    2. Feel free to reach out with any important notes that you think should be touched upon during this meeting
      - a. Individual typed story submissions would also be helpful to convey specific examples of lack of support
  - iv. New campus dining partner should be decided upon and finalized around mid-May by BOT
    1. Will give briefing to incoming administration when this decision has been officially made by BOT
  - v. Report filed
- c. Report of the Treasurer
  - i. Continued on the planning of Food Truck Day
    1. Met with Carlos to discuss how the event should be ran
    2. Received finalized quotes and quantities from all vendors

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3. Confirmed with DOS and other appropriate parties that the event will take place on the street behind Stevenson Hall
  4. Sign up to volunteer!
  - ii. Went to the Rec with Director Dilay to discuss the Arcade Room Idea
    1. Plan to order a pool table, shuffleboard, foosball, electronic arcade machine, and possible television screen
  - iii. Moving forward with the planning of the individual meeting rooms and sleeping pods
    1. Will set up a meeting with President Matthew and the appropriate parties asap
  - iv. Discussing with Director Aparna on ordering the lobby day busses
    1. Will discuss the bus rental with DOS this week
  - v. Report filed
- d. Report of the Speaker
- i. Deputy Chair Task Force meeting
    1. Discussed initiatives progress as we wrap up the semester, Rep Points System, campus safety concerns
    2. Meetings held weekly on Thursday from 10-11 am
  - ii. Representative 1-on-1's
    1. Thank you to everyone who met with me! It was great having conversations with you all and hearing your thoughts
      - a. If you missed meeting with me, you will have an unexcused absence on your attendance record; if this puts you in danger of being removed from the body, please reach out to me to set up a meeting
  - iii. Representative Points System
    1. Top 3 individuals with the most points accumulated throughout the semester will be recognized at the USG Gala for their engagement!
    2. Rep with most points will have the opportunity to give a speech at the USG Gala
      - a. Detailed guidelines to follow, expect to speak about your experience within USG
  - iv. USG Plaque
    1. Triple check the spelling of your name on the document attached to the plaque funding resolution
      - a. Please reach out to me and let me know if you would like to be referred to by a different name on the plaque
  - v. USG Spring Social—Monday, 4/22 from 6-8pm (usual GBM time)
    1. Decided not to use USG funds, casual celebration
    2. Ideas—picnic? Potluck? Outdoors?
      - a. Reach out to me if you would like to help coordinate this!
  - vi. Internal Elections – Treasurer and Speaker
    1. Second to last GBM (NEXT GBM) will be our internal elections for the positions of Treasurer and Speaker!
    2. Process:
      - a. Nomination: Individuals must be nominated to be considered
        - i. Anyone can run!
        - ii. Any USG member can nominate someone—you can even nominate yourself!
        - iii. Nominees must accept or decline the nomination
      - b. Speech



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1. Working with Secretary Abbey about Cultural Fair reserved tables
  2. Working with Treasurer Matoy about ordering
  3. Working on ingredients and food informations/details about Cultural Fair food menu with Representative Jiya
  4. Working on halal options with Representative Saba
  5. Working on ticket system with Representative Manasvi
  6. Working on the restaurants with Deputy Chair Sajal
  7. Working on accessories orders with Representative Jacob
  8. Will invite Cultural Organizations
  9. Will invite Cultural Centers
- v. Report filed
- h. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
- i. LAC Meetings: 5PM-6PM on Mondays
    1. Written Testimony for Legislation
    2. Lobby Day in 2 weeks!
  - ii. Meetings + Events
    1. Planning a Follow-Up Meeting with Representative Ford
    2. Written testimonies for relevant legislation
      - a. SB2606 Update: Favored in committee! Going to the Senate floor!
    3. Planning a meeting with the Office of Governmental Relations on Bills
      - a. If you are interested please let me know!
  - iii. New Initiatives and Updates
    1. General USG Survey: Looking to roll-out next semester and pass a resolution next week
      - a. If you have anything in particular you would like to see on this please let me know!
    2. Lobby Day (Tuesday, April 16th): SIGN UP AT THIS LINK ASAP
  - iv. Report filed
- i. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
- i. Worked with Treasurer Matoy to finalize stoles order for USG graduates
  - ii. Meeting with Web administrator Maurico. Discussed:
    1. Website Introduction video of President Matthew
    2. Feature office hours on the website along with google calendar.
    3. Updating Slideshow pictures featured on the website
  - iii. Attended e-board meeting
    1. Starting end of year PAC report soon.
  - iv. PAC meeting today. Discussed end of semester plans: newsletter, tiktok, and future outreach for USG.
  - v. Upcoming meeting this week with Deputy Dhanushri to discuss member spotlight, newsletter, and upcoming tabling.
  - vi. Report filed
- j. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
- i. Meeting with the Director of Central Tutoring, Carlotta Johnson, is set for this Wednesday, March 27th at 12PM.
    1. Will be helping facilitate meetings between all tutoring center directors to learn about their goals in the next few years.

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2. Will be conducting discussions about implementing a campus-wide tutor certification process.
- ii. In coordination with COS Basta, emailed Professor Hogan to learn more about entrepreneurial partnerships UIC has and how we could capitalize on that.
  1. Learned about how UIC Innovation is helping students expand their entrepreneurial knowledge.
  2. Will be sharing details of the UIC Innovation Blaze Venture Challenge in the near future- everyone should come and check out the finalists! Free food, hear student ideas, and vote on what you think is a legitimate business idea. Take part in creating a support network for fellow UIC entrepreneurs!
  3. Hope to connect them with more channels of communication and host resources alongside them to cater to student interests.
- iii. The Student Success Committee meets Mondays from 5-6PM in the CSI Lounge.
- iv. Please remember to attend the Mental Health Week hosted by the Mental Health Commissioner! There's many great events and people coming to speak. We'd love to see a huge turnout from USG!
- v. Working on transition docs for the next Director of Student Success.
  1. If there's anything you think the future DoSS should work on, let me know! I'm happy to incorporate it in the framework of programs and initiatives to pass along.
- vi. Report filed
- k. Report of the Mental Health Commission
  - i. Past Meetings
    1. Graduate Assistant from the Wellness Center
      - a. Discussed the overall challenges faced by the student body to improve Wellness Center programming.
    2. Graduate Assistant from the SLCE
      - a. Discussed the "Make Mondays Matter" collaboration.
    3. Attended the Social Advocacy Fair
      - a. Great work, Director Aparna!
  - ii. Future Meetings
    1. Carol Peterson, Director of the Wellness Center // Wednesday, April 3rd
    2. Raphael Florestal-Kevelier, Assistant VC of Student Health and Well-being // Tuesday, April 2nd
    3. Meeting with SAAC/CAAC/Rec Center // TBD
  - iii. Initiatives
    1. Mental Health Week (April 8th-April 12th)
      - a. Tabling
        - i. Monday, April 8 @ 10am-12pm // In front of the SCE Bookstore
      - b. Town Hall
        - i. Tuesday, April 9th @ 3:00-4:30pm // Fort Dearborn Room B
          1. Representative Howard, NAMI Representative, Dr. Taliaferro
          2. Video Update from Natalia, Director of PHI, and Raphael!
      - c. Guided Painting!
        - i. Friday, April 12th @ 3:00-5:00pm // SCE 713
    - iv. Collaborations with the Student Athletic Advisory Council
      1. Wellness Wednesday Social Media program
        - a. Keep an eye out for it in April



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2. Chalking Initiative Update
  3. Artwork in library
    - a. Working with the Dean
    - b. Looking towards finishing this up in the Fall
  4. Peer support program
    - a. Working on setting a meeting to bring back the crisis counseling techniques class.
  5. Stress Ball Giveaway right before Finals Week!
  - v. Report filed
- I. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
- i. Check-In with Chief of Staff Quinn Basta:
    1. Discussed current campus life initiatives.
    2. Addressed the RSO initiative.
    3. Discussed the Sleeping Pods resolution.
  - ii. Collaboration with Representative Ashley:
    1. Worked on dining-related issues concerning food and services.
    2. Objective: Enhance overall dining experience for students.
    3. Focus areas:
      - a. Diverse dietary restriction labeling.
      - b. Improved vegetarian protein options.
      - c. Gathering feedback on provided food.
  - iii. Objectives Compilation:
    1. Aim to compile a comprehensive list of objective suggestions.
    2. Backed by data from students.
    3. Purpose: Present suggestions to Charles Farrell, Head of Dining Services/SCE.
    4. Objective: Convey importance of improvements to new vendors for Fall 2024.
  - iv. Meeting with Treasurer Matthew Caballes:
    1. Discussed increasing outdoor seating chairs across campus.
    2. Further discussions planned in upcoming weeks.
  - v. Campus Life Committee Meeting:
    1. Discussed RSO initiative.
    2. Objective: Bring RSOs together to address issues and ideas for improvement.
    3. Collaboration with Undergraduate Student Government.
  - vi. Report filed

## XII. Announcements

- Rep. Thumu: APIDA opening ceremony tomorrow in SCE

## XIII. Adjournment

- Motioned, seconded, accepted
  - Adjourned at 7:42 PM