

USG

[Spring Meeting IV](#)

2/13/23

I. Call to Order: 6:05 PM

II. Roll Call

- Members not present at time of roll call: Rep Spencer (a), Rep Caballes (a), Rep Khadeer (l)

III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes→ *approved*

IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda

- Rep Ghoman motions to add Resolution 2023-S4-1004→ Motion passed

V. Public Comment

- No public comment, next order of business

VI. Guest Speakers

- Manny Rin: Student PIRG
 - Organizing on college campuses across the country for more than 50 yrs with working on protecting the environment, making textbooks more affordable, helping students participate in democracy. Helped register more than 3 million students over the past 30 yrs with a voting campaign. Advocating for renewable energy. Increased COVID funding. Working on hundreds of campuses across countries
 - Student PIRG trying to work with IL more and student governments more
 - Ban styrofoam; Open education resources to save student money; Work with media and library and promote OER programs; Increase youth vote in elections and make voting accessible; Run a volunteer, paid fellowship, and internship; campaign work, working with media, lobbying at the capital, working with others to learn tangible skills; Training opportunities: student gov resource center, concrete skill training
 - Pres Matthew: will follow up with fellowship opportunities and firmly believes that PIRG does great work on training students how to advocate to higher-ups about educational resources. I will vouch for you if you plan to apply for the fellowship

VII. Old Business

- Resolution 2023-S3-1002: *USG State of the Student Dinner*
 - Pres Almendras: motion to remove “early March” to read instead “March 3, 2023, from 6-7:30 PM→ motion carried
 - Rep Blin: how is planning for this event going to be conducted?
 - Pres. Almendras: Main planning was reserving the room, this will be less of a networking event and more learning about USG. The report is the main part.
 - Vote: unanimous in favor, passed
- Resolution 2023-S3-1003: *Teas around the World*
 - Chair Thumu: We will refill the gallons of water using a tea kettle instead of ordering a ridiculous amount of water from UIC catering
 - Chair Chaudhari: Where will you have the kettles plugged in?
 - Chair Thumu: near west terrace
 - Vote: unanimous in favor, passed
- Resolution 2023-S3-5003: *USG Office Supplies*
 - Vote: unanimous in favor, passed

VIII. New Business

- Resolution 2023-S4-3002: *USG State of the Student Report*
 - Questions/Discussion
 - COS Pettineo: Will this be on the website as well?
 - Pres. Almendras: Yes, it will be
 - Chair Thumu: Will this be similar to a released statement?
 - Pres. Almendras: This will be much longer than a statement it is currently at 30 pages. Events included range from the past 3 years so I want to allow it to go through the body for approval to make sure no events were missed.
 - Rep Blin: Why do we need physical copies of the report?
 - Pres. Almendras: A physical copy will be at each seat for attendees to look through and see what USG has done.
 - Chair Alvarez: How many pages will be documented?
 - Pres. Almendras: 30 pages slightly more

- Chair Alvarez: How many people will be attending?
 - Pres. Almendras: 60
 - Chair Alvarez: That is a lot of pages, maybe we can use QR codes
 - Pres. Almendras: Open to reducing the cost of printing
 - Chair Celestino: UIC has moved to be more sustainable with digital pamphlets that look very physical
 - Pres. Almendras: We can reduce the number of copies to 15 and funding of \$300 if the body agrees
 - Rep Patel: What will the document include? Colored images, pictures?
 - Pres.: Yes, we are getting images and graphics included
 - On being more sustainable– comments
 - Rep Blin: I understand the professional image of USG but do not think that a pamphlet shows that. I think that the sustainability issue is a good point as well. I think we should focus on doing things and showing USG through our actions instead of how much we can afford to print
 - Rep Dinh: I think we should go mostly digital on this but a few physical
 - Rep Heybeli: I don't think it is a bad idea to print things. I think it can get people's attention
 - Chair Thumu: Some reports being printed would be nice to have a physical copy of what USG has done and having a physical copy of accomplishments to administrators in attendance
 - Rep. Omar: I think we should have both digital and physical copies but reduce the number of physical copies. Some may throw them away but others prefer physical so both options should be present
 - Rep Dinh: It would be nice if a QR code took a person right to our social media so that we can connect with students after the event
 - Rep Peredruk: For sustainability, we can use biodegradable or recycled paper
 - Rep Wojdyla: I think having physical copies would be very nice especially for older attendees
 - Rep Patel: Who will be in attendance?
 - Pre Almendras: We have an email list to invite individuals of student organization leaders
 - Rep Blin: I think it does look good to administrators to print things out but general attendees do not need to have a printed copy. I would not vote to print a copy for myself using student money. I think that for accessibility using a digital copy is also more effective. I would also like to see the document before I vote on printing it
 - Pres Almendras: We are still in the process of adding more events because we do not have a historian we are going through to make sure we covered each event. What I am thinking is we can amend the resolution to be at 15 copies to give to the highest level admin to show the work we have done and the allocation can be \$300. We can circle back next week when people have read the report.
 - Rep Hanna: it might be beneficial to ask on the RSVP form if individuals want a physical or digital copy
 - Pres Almendras: I will circle back with PAC to talk about how to distribute the document
 - Pres Almendras motions to amend \$1000 to \$300 and 75 to 15
 - Motion seconded, favored, passed
 - *Voting next week*
- Resolution 2023-S4-3003: *Library Shuttle Transportation Service*
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep Irlbacker: Is there an estimate on how many riders would use this resource?
 - VP Fernandes: We do not but we have heard that this is a valuable resource students will use
 - Rep Cordova: How do students request this service?
 - VP Fernandes: It operates in a 3 mile radius, starts at 9 PM and runs every 30 mins

- Chair Chaudhari: Have you considered night ride hours being pushed to start 9 PM because introducing another service might confuse students
 - VP Fernandes: This was a previous independent shuttle different from Night Ride so this would not be something new but restarting
- Rep Giron: We want to make sure students have safe transport at all times on campus and this service would help
- Chair Celestino: Night Ride is already backed up so unless transportation units increases as well as service hours and drivers for Night Ride then they should remain separate
- Chair Alvarez: We should focus on increasing Night Ride service rather than adding another transportation service
- Rep Dinh: I asked how we could improve the Night Ride app. They said they will invite us with the app development team in June
- Rep Giron: We had a meeting Friday to understand what was going on. Agreed that they do not get a lot of feedback from students and expressed that 11PM-12am they are overwhelmed with the amount of students requesting rides. Spoke about increasing hours and opening at 10 as well as bettering their services and the dispatch center. Veronica is leading that for the Campus Safety Commission
- Rep Gohman: I work for campus housing and Night Ride has a terrible reputation and I hear from students that it is horrible. Even extending hours people still might not use bc of reputation so I'd rather have them be different entities
- Rep Blin: If we have USG members working with administration, the admin knows best about what plan would work best and I know that the Office of Transportation is enthusiastic but what is USG going to do to ensure this happens?
 - VP Fernandes: We are meeting with VC Coronado to say the student body wants this to happen and we want this reinstated so we will have a dialogue
- Rep Irlbacker Is there a service area or does it have a fixed route?
 - VP Fernandes: Previously it was a 3 mile radius but would push that as far as we can. This should be a separate entity because other buildings close and the library could be a central meeting place for safe transportation
- Rep Patel: This would also be beneficial during bad weather for students to get home as well
- Rep Giron: If we see students want this we can increase funding and shuttles
- Chair Celestino: In your next meeting, play around with some reporting system for those who are hosting later events with large influxes of students for Night Ride to be able to accommodate that number of students because often the wait becomes over 40 mins and the app says an average 10 minute wait which is not representative of the entire week. Emailing them complaints directly makes students shy away so filling out a form about issues would be better
- Rep Dinh: There is a feedback section in Transloc but it is not very popular. If you have feedback please come talk to me. I know that there are a lot of negative issues but I am hoping I can work on practical things like the app
 - Voting next week
- Resolution 2023-S4-5004: *Representative Reward Point System Guideline Amendment*
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep Cordova: Since the rep point system will not be removed, how will it be used?
 - Speaker Zhou: It will not go into effect until after orientation and will be made clear
- Resolution 2023-S4-1005: *Representative Reward Point System Funding Allocation*
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep Dinh: Do you know what you're going to buy?
 - Speaker Zhou: Any gift under \$100, things from the UIC bookstore or an approved vendor.
 - Treasurer Basta: It will not exceed \$50 per person and will come from the bookstore.
- Resolution 2023-S4-1006: *Mental Health Care Package Initiative*

- Voting to take place next week
- Resolution 2023-S4-1004: *Future Business Minds: A Professional Development + Networking Event*
 - Rep Gohman: not just for business students. We are encouraging students of all different majors to host events like these like an engineering one and more
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep Dinh: Any specific time?
 - Rep Gohman: We are still discussing to find a good time to agree upon.
Obviously getting 20 groups available is hard but likely the last week of March
 - Rep Blin: Other than the \$600 fee for the room, what else might you need?
 - Rep Gohman: UIC alumni and food which that will be in a separate resolution, we want it to be easy to go up to other student orgs to learn
 - Rep Dinh: Is this like a career fair?
 - Rep Gohman: No, it is like an involvement fair with a lot more interaction

IX. Items for Discussion

- Student Elections
 - Pres Almendras: Lots of confusion on how student elections go; here is the process:
 - There are several positions you run for→ student trustee, president, vice president, house of representatives, senate.
 - Signatures for each position: rep. is at 75, 250 for trustee, 150 for president and VP
 - Once you get your nomination signatures, **only then afterwards**, you can start campaigning– which is mentioned very specifically in the election hand book. Usually a “meet the candidates” forum will occur, and this is a time when the running president, vice president and trustee candidates debate on specific issues
 - VP: Elections for reps makes your term 2 years instead of having to reapply in the fall
 - Speaker Zhou: If you gave a speech and joined this semester or last your term ends this semester but if you go through elections you will be in for two years
- HPSC event
 - Treas. Basta: Student Trustee (ST) and I talked to the VP of HPSC and we are interested in a collaboration with USG. ST can provide info about this but this event would be great opportunity for undergrad students to connect with graduate students to chat with those down the line
 - ST Haq: HPSC is another student government at UIC. This event would provide students with advice from older ones. I hope that this leads to more collaborations down the road
 - Rep Blin: Spoke to someone from a different USG event and learned about what he did and learned a lot more and that is useful
 - Rep Peredruk: Can this be open to pre-dental and other pre-health groups?
 - ST: Yes, we will have them spread the word and attend and it could be counted for attendance
 - Chair Thumu: Regarding graduate student councils, are there student councils representing either the law school or stem masters that aren't pre med?
 - ST: Yes, Student bar association and humanities covers everything non pre health
- USG food drive
 - Rep Hanna: Felix and I were talking about how USG can build a better connection with the food pantry, if we all brought 3 we could donate 143 items. We could do this for 1 GBM. If you have questions email CP Celestino- or for any other ideas, too.
 - Rep Slaughter: USG can be more creative and innovative, considering how many student orgs also do food drives.

X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor
 - To the new reps: Fred McCall is the USG advisor- and congrats on getting elected! The USG Advisor is a resource accessible to everyone to talk about anything so you can always reach out via email
 - Report filed
- b. Report of the Student Trustee
 - For LAS students, finalists interviews and recording are available for viewing [here](#)

- Met with Interim-Chancellor Reyes to discuss Dr. Miranda's transition; and the observed negative impact the strike caused to students' academic performance.
- Spoke with OGR and met with Assistant Vice President External and State Relations and Assistant Vice President Federal Relations
- Discussed UIC Building Temperatures Complaints with Andrew Barnett, and learned more about the temperature control systems at UIC
- Collab meeting with Treas. Basta and HPSC; general idea for a virtual/hybrid event
- Encourages to vote in the mayoral election on February 28th, 2023!
- The current candidates for mayor are:
- Report Filed

XI. Officer Reports

a. Report of the President

- *Reminder: Lobby Day Feb. 22nd*
- Met with Dr. Scoulas for the USG Survey, and will go through the e-board for review
- Meeting with Carol from the Wellness Center + Rep. Hanna on the meal swipes program
- Had a follow-up with VC/ VP Dixon for Reading/Review Days
- USG State of the Student Dinner: March 3rd, 2023, 6:00 PM- 7:30 P
- Met with Emily Gibellina and Lauren Krause from UI Health's Government Affairs office, talked about CampusCare
- Would like to invite a rep to join with in the Hispanic Serving Research Universities
- Will be joining the Career Leadership Council meeting on March 16th to increase support for professional development resources
- Upcoming meetings: CSI, Charles Farrell, Wellness Center and Keith Ellis Chief Booker on the 24th
- Report Filed

b. Report of the Vice-President

- Meeting with Dr. Bruhl on his approach to our solution to Reading/Review days
- Met with Rep. Nora and Saba to discuss next steps in response to the UIC Senate amendment to "Religious Holidays"
- Met with Pres. to draft a resolution for our CampusCare
- Scheduling a meeting with Assis. Dir. Thornsberry to discuss suggestions to CampusCare
- Met with Rep. Felix+Veronica with Transportation Services to discuss UIC Night Ride.
- Meeting with Pres.+Interim Campus Housing Dir. Ellis to improve housing for students
- Report Filed

c. Report of the Treasurer

- Connecting with UIC Marketing to resolve issues on certain USG logos + brand identity
- Met with BSAB and FIG to discuss the potential Business Professional Development + Networking Event; HPSC potential event for students seeking advice from graduate students
- Met with Rep, Jesse to ensure that our budget records are up to date and in line
- Met with Speaker Michelle to discuss funding for potential future USG initiatives
- Meeting with a Programming Assistant from COCL (Commuter and Off-Campus Life) to discuss a potential USG collaboration
- Winter Wear, Spring Supplies, and Helping Hygiene Initiatives
 - March 1st, 12pm-2pm - Winter Wear
 - March 8th, 12pm-2pm - Spring Supplies
 - March 15th, 12pm-2pm - Helping Hygiene
- Report Filed

d. Report of the Speaker

- MANDATORY USG Orientation: Thursday, February 23rd from 6-8pm, ARC 241
- Mental Health Commission meeting: DIC x MHC Teas around the World event-volunteers needed!; MHC Care Package Distribution
- Working on getting therapy dog organization approved
- Deputy Commissioner applications are open!
- Met with Interim Speaker Yasmeen to discuss USG Spring Social. fill out the availability form!

USG

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- Meeting with AVC Florestal-Kevelier on Monday for updates on peer and support groups
- Report Filed
- e. Report of the Chief of Staff
 - Finished draft of 100 day report for State of the Student event
 - Eboard meeting Friday
 - Report Filed
- f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
 - DIC Town Hall recap and highlights
 - Category 1: Student concerns about Chick Fil A. Recently Charles Farrell reached out to George Flan from GSC to outreach the community for concerns
 - Category 2: School of Public Health ties with Israeli and Zionist institutions. The administrators stated how they can't speak directly on the issue because they work for the University. Students wanted to reach out about Nadine Peacock regarding her position
 - Town Hall was recorded and will be forwarded to PAC for the rest of this body to see what was discussed.
 - Met with Roni Lee from the Gender and Sexuality Center
 - Met with Rep Dinh to contact UIC Global to recruit students for international student council
 - Need volunteers for Teas of the Word Event
 - Jiya & Brina: Mental Health Week events planning: therapy dogs, collab events with student organizations, etc.
 - Report Filed
- g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
 - Upcoming Elections and Mayoral Candidate Forum
 - LAC discussed a partnership with ChicagoVotes to promote voter education and distribute their 2023 Mayoral Voter Guide in the week of February 20th - 24th.
 - Attended the WBEZ & Sun-Times' Mayoral Candidate Forum here at UIC
 - Report Filed
- h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
 - Filmed a Tiktok video with committee members on campus safety regarding the emergency call boxes around campus and the UIC SafeApp
 - Helped COS Pettineo with State of the Student doc. on appropriate flyers and images
 - State of the Student Dinner RSVP
 - Emailed DOS regarding merch shipping for graduates
 - Report Filed
- i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
 - Representative Juana is planning to host a Town Hall
 - Reps Saba and Nora will work on the Eid Resolution + more Halal food options on campus
 - Scheduling follow up with Dr. Kotche for the Dean's Advisory Board with Rep. Saba
 - Scheduling follow up with Lauren for collaboration event this semester
- j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
 - Looking to have USG Host a Food Drive to donate to the UIC Pop-Up Pantry. Rep. Veronica reached out to the Wellness Center to get more info on needed items.
 - Student Workers' Rights: looking to follow up with the VC of Student Affairs later this month; Rep. Isaiah and I are planning on meeting with Student Affairs Human Resources to discuss the plan for the student wages increase schedule.
 - Connecting Student Leaders Event sometime in March
 - Campus Housing: Rep. Lauren followed up with RHA to get information about the survey that was sent out twice now and will have data for it soon
 - Report Filed

XII. Announcements

- Chair Thumu: DIC meets Sunday on Zoom 2:30-3:30
- Graphic Designer Zaina: pick up merch
- Advisor McCall: Clarification that it is 75 signatures for reps due by Feb 20th deadline

XIII. Adjournment: 8:09 PM