

USG

[Meeting Minutes V](#)

2./20/2023

- I. Call to Order
 - 6:02 PM
- II. Roll Call
 - Members not present at time of roll call:
 - Rep. Heybeli (e)
 - Rep. Spencer (a)
 - Rep. Hanna (e)
 - Rep. Rothenbaum (e)
 - Rep. Dinh (e)
- III. Reading and Approval of the Minutes
 - Minutes approved
- IV. Reading and Approval of the Agenda
 - Rep Giron motions to add a guest speaker to the agenda:
 - CP Celestino motions to add Resolution 2023-S5-1007 to the agenda→ motion carried
 - Pres. Almendras motions to add Resolution 2023-S5-2000 to the agenda→ motion carried
 - SOH Zhou motions to table Resolution 2023-S4-5004 and Resolution 2023-S4-1005→ motion carried
- V. Public Comment
 - No public comment
- VI. Guest Speakers
 - a. Roni Lee – Gender and Sexuality Center
 - Pushing for the initiative to remove Chick-Fil-A from campus
 - Asking USG what would be a next move to make in terms of gaining public support for removing this restaurant from campus
 - Questions/Discussion
 - CP Celestino: At the Diversity and Inclusion Town Hall, there was a sentiment by those who identify within the LGBTQ+ community that they felt they were the only ones who were pushing for Chick-Fil-A off campus; administrators asked for more student engagement for this. We need to have more represented voices on campus
 - Rep. Zhang: As a student of color who is also part of the LGBTQ+ community, there should be a larger understanding of intersectionality; the GSC and Wellness Center has resources, but in general, there needs to be more support for those who have intersecting identities. Just wanted to know if there was anything like that on campus or with the GSC
 - Response from Roni Lee: Lots of changes are happening at GSC, new director being appointed; a lot of events are currently happening right now; in the next couple of months there is going to be a large research survey on these intersections to present them to the university for more funding and potential policy changes to support more students.
 - Pres. Almendras: Had a followup meeting with Charles Farrel after the Town Hall, in which they discussed the possible barriers of removing : invested millions of dollars of building the kitchen for Chick-Fil-A, hard to remove that; Chick-Fil-A is the highest revenue profiting restaurant in SCE; restaurants do not want to put a location on campus when there is that loss during the summer time when there is no movement on campus. A possible solution would be to create an effort, such as sending a letter from the Student Government.

- Rep. Slaughter: Have there been efforts to look into the history of the revenue that different restaurants that have been at UIC, what they made in the past, and possibly inviting those restaurants back?
 - Roni Lee: This has been an open proposal to take over that space
- CP Celestino: RFP-A part of the committee determining this restaurant change, no meeting has happened since July; will not meet until there are actual restaurants bidding for a space here at SCE. There is a clause in the contract with Chick-Fil-A, the university is not allowed to put a chicken based restaurant in the instance that they leave.
- Rep. Blin: Found that Charles Farrel was very partial to getting Chick-Fil-A on campus; Charles Farrell expressed lots of restraints to this and budgetary losses, and if they left, there would be a rise in student tuition. Students are already voting to keep this restaurant on campus, even though it is openly homophobic. We could submit a referendum before March 1st to ask the campus and students what they think- because Charles Farrel needs evidence that they otherwise should not have this restaurant on campus.
- Rep. Zafar: Lots of mixed feelings of removing this restaurant on campus; has there been any discussion of replacing Chick-Fil-A that would bring in an equal or similar revenue?
 - CP Celestino: Canes was not interested in being on campus, because of their business model; other restaurants for consideration was a smaller vendor that ; Sonic was another opportunity too
- Rep. Zhang: On CampusCare, it does not specify whether gender-affirming treatment is covered or not;
 - Roni Lee: UI Health covers this
- Rep. Slaughter: Students need to be more vocal about this issue; possible proposal: since UIC claims to be more community-based, we could speak to local restaurants in the Chicagoland area
- b. Christopher J. Eterno; UIC Police from the PACE unit
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep. Slaughter: Do you know if professors or students will have to get this training?
 - Response: Word got around that many people were asking for this kind of presentation, and now several departments have asked to hand this out to every staff member
 - Rep. Preobra: Are there any resources or training that UIC Police can offer for things like self defense for students?
 - Response: Couple police officers before the pandemic have taught a self defense class; the officer that has taught that class is working towards bringing it back to UIC
 - Rep. Preobra: As a general question, if you had to shoot the person in the leg, would you be charged with anything?
 - Response: You would not be charged with anything, but do not shoot them in the leg
 - Rep. Slaughter: Have there been training in the past for those who have disabilities?
 - Response: The training has more to do with hiding and barricading, but for those who cannot run or something of the sort, we would train them on their best next moves.
 - Rep. Zhang: What is the proximity of the threat in which we would be notified?

- Response: Our notification system is focused on campus-only events. UIC Housing was looking for something specific on how to notify of surrounding areas in which there is a threat.

VII. Old Business

- a. Resolution 2023-S4-3002: *USG State of the Student Report*
 - Read by Pres. Almendras
 - Will send a draft tonight for all members to read
 - No questions/Discussion
 - Voting: PASSEd- unanimous vote
- b. Resolution 2023-S4-3003: *Library Shuttle Transportation Service*
 - Read by VP Fernandes
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep. Zhang: In the case UIC admin are adamant about this, would we be updated on the next steps?
 - In the instance where they are against this, then we will have discussions with VC Coronado on this
 - ST Haq: VC Coronado is very open and flexible to student perspectives, we would be discussing resources and everything else relevant to make these changes
 - Rep. Cordova: For implementing this effectively, we should expand Night Ride to 9 PM when the library closes
 - Keeping it separate would ensure they would get picked up. This service would ensure that this would be the best solution.
 - Rep. Flores: Instead of having a whole different shuttle, adding onto the app
 - Adding another shuttle service would ensure they are picked up from that location.
 - Rep. Zafar: Is there any research that an independent shuttle service would actually be beneficial?
 - VP: The personnel at the Transportation Services has explained this has been occurring for 10+ years before and was successful, and then discontinued when the pandemic happened, we are now bringing this back
 - Pres: Hours are open up later at the library now, which is a big success, too
 - CP Alvarez: The library does close earlier sometimes, if students are to wait until 9 PM when they arrive, investing into another transportation resource would be a little unfeasible. We should try and improve Night Ride before adding onto this.
 - WA Suarez: Then it should just be pushed for a half hour before the building closes
 - CP Celestino: What does independent mean in this context?
 - VP: Would not be the same interface as Night Ride, it would just be a different shuttle from this.
 - CP Thumu: As a frequent user of the library until it closes, and this semester it has been consistently closed at 9 PM; support there being a shuttle when the library closes, since there are still lots of students, so if there is an independent shuttle that can take a higher volume of students– it would be safer and more efficient. This large volume of traffic can be diverted with a separate shuttle bus
 - COS Pettineo: This resolution keeps it at 9 PM, but is just indicating when the library closes; a shuttle service can be amended, so if the

library closes at 6 PM, then the shuttle will adjust when the library closes.

- Rep. Zafar: Since Night Ride is so ineffective, how do we know if this shuttle will be effective?
 - VP and Rep. Giron: This was a service that worked efficiently before, and now we are bringing it back
- CP Celestino: If you have complaints, email rides@uic.edu
- Rep. Slaughter: What kind of form of accountability will be given that when we invest in Night Ride, it will run efficiently?
 - Rep. Giron: Veronica was in the lead of this conversation, but we will add to the discussion we have with Night Ride on this
- Voting: **Passed**; NOT unanimous vote with nays and abstains
- c. Resolution 2023-S4-5004:
- d. Resolution 2023-S4-1004: Future Business Minds: Professional Development+Networking Event
 - Read by Rep. Ghoman
 - Questions/Discussion
 - Rep. Zafar: Is this open to all students or only business students?
 - All students
 - Rep. Preobra: Is this a social- what kind of event would this be?
 - This would every relevant organization at the event with professionals and alumni that can answer questions for those interested in certain topics/fields
 - Rep. Slaughter: Are they recruiting?
 - No, it is a networking event for alumni to share their experiences and answer questions on the industries they work in
 - Treas. Basta: This would be a panel-type event and the second half of the event would be networking for students to personally speak with the folks.
 - CP Thumu: Have you already reached out to these organizations?
 - We have a list of roughly 30 organizations, but we want to ensure the room is reserved first. Also collabing with the Business Student Advisory Board where they have access to
 - Voting: Passed– unanimous vote
- e. Resolution 2023-S4-1005
- f. Resolution 2023-S4-1006: Mental Health Care Package
 - No questions or discussion
 - Voting: Passed– Unanimous vote

VIII. New Business

- a. Resolution 2023-S5-1007
 - CP Celestino motions to table the resolution
- b. Resolution 2023-S5-2000: UIC USG Statement of Support for MSU
 - Read by Pres. Almendras
 - Questions/Discussion:
 - Rep. Zhang: Can this be forwarded not just to campus safety groups, but majority of student organizations, too, as it is applicable to all students
 - Rep Zafar: Would we also be forwarding the information that we have a campus safety commission in which we are actively working to make campus safer
 - CP Alvarez: This letter needs to be revised if we are going to be sending it to MSU

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- Pres. Almendras: Motion to amend Government “shall send the attached letter to the MSU Undergraduate Student Government→ USG shall share the attached letter throughout the UIC Community and Body” → motion passed
- Pres. Almendras executive orders to vote on this tonight
 - Voting: Passed– unanimous vote

IX. Items for Discussion

a. Representative Check-In

- Rep. Slaughter: Something I’ve noticed, in the past, e-board members have taken up a lot of space vocally which may discourage reps from feeling like they can talk. There needs to be structural changes to make reps feel more comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions
- Rep. Cordova: Lack of mentorship from the e-board on helping reps with things like writing up a resolution. Even in reports, sometimes credit is not given to those who have worked on certain issues/ideas.
- Rep. Zhang: As a new rep, there wasn’t much to expect transparency-wise, in the last semester up until now, we have lost vision of our goals and what we are bringing to the table, updates to be giving, etc. We have a lot of resource and a pretty big body right now, so this needs to be improved
- Rep. Slaughter: Across the board in committees, it’s an all or nothing mentality to pursue initiatives or events; so either do it all on your own or nothing. There is a community aspect that is just lacking
- Rep. Omar: Looking forward to orientation happening, and so if someone from the org sends a list of how things work in the meetings before orientation so they know
- Rep. Cordova: We shouldn’t just write resolutions to spend money, we should write resolutions with intentions.
 - Rep. Blin: It is important to spend that money, but it’s important to spend it correctly. Last year there were budget issues, and now we cannot fund student organizations– which reps were not even updated on why that was even the case.
 - ST Haq: Funding comes in different intervals and quantities and not a lump sum, and so there were some issues in which there was an assumption that the budget had been spent
- Rep. Slaughter: If USG can partner with any department in order to make a forward facing annual survey, in order to understand what students do what they want to have invested in.
- ST Haq: Funding comes in different intervals and quantities and not a lump sum, and so there were som
- Rep. Zafar: Directors do not always keep their committee members in the loop
- Rep. Zhang: To offer a solution to only USG members coming to Town Halls- bringing a +1 or even a +2 to the event can help bring outside members from USG to be involved in this conversation so it is not just an echo chamber.
 - Rep. Cordova: We do not have a current public comment- no one comes in
- Rep. Slaughter: Not enough representation at times; so there is this lack of community

SOH Zhou motions to table the rest of the agenda for next week’s GBM→ motion carried

- b. Representative Point System
- c. Student Organization Funding
- d. USG Website

X. Ex Officio Reports

- a. Report of the Advisor

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- b. Report of the Student Trustee
- XI. Officer Reports
 - a. Report of the President
 - b. Report of the Vice-President
 - c. Report of the Treasurer
 - d. Report of the Speaker
 - e. Report of the Chief of Staff
 - f. Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
 - g. Report of the Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
 - h. Report of the Public Affairs Committee Chair
 - i. Report of the Student Success Committee Chair
 - j. Report of the Campus Life Committee Chair
- XII. Announcements
 - Secy. Thnaibat: Sending out an exit poll after each GBM now to see how we are all feeling post-GBM; please be sure to fill it out if you would like to
- XIII. Adjournment
 - **8:16 PM**