**University of Illinois Springfield**

**Student Government Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

Student Union – Ballroom #225

Sunday, February 24, 2019

1. Meeting called to order by President Dawoud at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll Call
   1. Present: President Dawoud, Secretary Loera, Senator Reuss, Parliamentarian Coultas, Senator Kanai, Senator O’Daniel, Internal VP Cunningham, Senator D’Elia, Senator Gin, Treasurer Qazi, Senator Meints
   2. Absent: Trustee Humphrey, Senator Ayankojo, Senator Sharma, Senator Meta, Senator Ogunbameru, Senator Hunt, Senator Rayl, Senator Watts, Senator Cabantog, External VP Rude
3. Approval of the Agenda
   1. A motion was entertained by President Dawoud to approve the agenda of February 24th. So moved by Senator Reuss, seconded by Treasurer Qazi.

Unanimous Aye

1. Approval of the Minutes
   1. A motion was entertained by President Dawoud to approve the minutes of February 10th. So moved by Treasurer Qazi, seconded by Senator Kanai.

One Nay

* + 1. Senator Meints pointed out the mistake of her name being referenced in the last meeting minutes despite not being in attendance. Secretary Loera will email the amended minutes following the meeting.

1. Audience Participation
   1. Chancellor Koch
      1. She was at a wonderful event Friday night in the Ballroom. She remarked that it was the biggest alumni event in the history of the school with an attendance of over 350.
         1. This was an event where alums of all ages come together and celebrate memories of the university.
         2. They gave out two alumni awards.
            1. Larry Golden- founder of the Illinois Innocence Project.
            2. Randy Dunn- received a degree at UIS, became a successful investor, and has been a generous donor.
      2. Arts and humanities grants
         1. There was a grant program that U of I system started for the first time this year. It was a way of elevating the arts and humanities on the three campuses.
         2. Of 50 sum grant proposals, 14 grants were given, totaling almost 2 million dollars.UIS was part of 4 of the winning proposals
         3. Biggest awarded grant is resulting in a total renovation of Studio Theatre. Once theatre production is over in spring, the renovation will begin. It is in the design process currently.
      3. UIS received a 250 thousand dollar gift for art for the Student Union.
         1. An art piece made by Sanford Biggers has been purchased to be installed above the second-floor fireplace.
         2. This spring, a three-part sculpture by a sculptor named Amy Williamson will be installed outside the Student Leadership Center.
         3. Chancellor Koch was promised they’ll be installed before commencement.
      4. The proposal for the downtown Springfield hub of the Illinois Innovation Network is well underway.
         1. This will be a great conduit for activities for students and faculty in the downtown area.
         2. The main focus is on entrepreneurship and economic developments.
      5. Black History Month is underway. Women’s History Month is next month.
         1. Chancellor’s office is sponsoring events for both.
      6. Division II athletics program had another great success.
         1. Blake Jones, a freshman, became the 5 thousand meter Track and Field champion. His time was around 15 minutes.
      7. President Dawoud inquired on the condition of the road leading up to the Student Union.
         1. Chancellor Koch had a meeting with the CFO of the U of I system on Friday. They are putting funding together for a repair of the troublesome parts of the road.
      8. Chancellor Koch is hoping to have a dialogue with both artists as an event on campus so they can talk about their work.
         1. The sculpture already agreed and will supervise the installation.
      9. Some of the young alums at the event, including past student trustees who were here when the Student Union was debated and approved, saw it for the first time.
      10. Chancellor Koch thanked everyone on SGA for their leadership.
   2. Ben Paoletti
      1. Serving as Chair of the Elections Committee.
      2. Will be having SGA elections two weeks earlier than usual. This is in order to not conflict with Model UN and other events in April. The elections April 3rd and 4th.
      3. Ben Paoletti came to speak on the creation of an event for the commencement of election week.
      4. The time set is April 1st. He is thinking the best time will be during the day from 11 am to 2 pm or during the night from 7 pm to 9 pm.
      5. It is proposed that the event will be in banquet style with a lunch sponsored by SGA in the Ballroom. There would be a check in at a table, pamphlet with candidates can be handed out with the positions they are running for. There can also be a powerpoint with information about what SGA accomplished this year.
      6. Ben acknowledges that one of SGA’s goals was to become more prominent on campus. This event would help promote the election and he is asking for part of the SGA budget.
      7. The name of the event would be SGA Election Week Commencement with the sole purpose of enlightening students.
      8. Senator Ogunbameru remarked that, as a commuter student, it would be better to host the event during the day. He asked how Ben Paoletti would go about recruiting SGA representatives interested in assisting.
         1. Ben responded that he would be sticking around following the meeting.
      9. Senator Kanai questioned if this event would be replacing the candidate forum that was hosted last fall.
         1. Ben Paoletti responded that he did not like the environment of the candidate forum. He felt that it was not informative and for that reason decided that having a lunch, laid back environment would be more effective.
      10. President Dawoud made the comment that an event like this would benefit the candidates running and the students deciding whom to vote for. This set up would promote an informed and educated vote. She would be in favor of sponsoring and funding this event.
   3. Dance Marathon Representative
      1. Not present.
2. Administrative report
3. Advisor Cynthia Thompson
   1. Will be acting as the advisor to the elections committee.
   2. Election packets will be available by next Monday, March 1st.
   3. SGA has been remained visible in the UIS community. Advisor Thompson has been a part of various meetings we have held. She also has seen reps who attended the Foreign and Independent Film Series “Cornbread, Earl, and Me” screening on February 15th. She also recognizes many reps involved with Model UN as she has assisted head delegates in making those arrangements.
   4. Advisor Thompson commends SGA reps for their participation and visibility in our community.
4. Officer Reports
5. President Dawoud
   1. Campus Senate Meeting
      1. They are working to revise the general education curriculum. A lot of issues involving ECCE have arisen. They are creating a General Education Review Committee. They have assigned approximately one to two professors from each department but there is no mention of having student representation.
      2. The exec board stressed that having a student representative when revising general education is appropriate because students have been through the curriculum and can provide insight.
      3. The response was that the task force would be three years long and they also expressed worries that a student would not be able to make that commitment.
      4. The exec board will continue to push and keep the rest of SGA updated. The next meeting will be this Friday, and we will raise a vote to have a student on the committee.
      5. Senator Ogunbameru mentioned that within discussions with students and professors, he heard many issues with ECCE. At the last SGA tables, he had a few students complain that they want ECCE scrapped. He supports the idea of encouraging student representation on the committee.
   2. Treasurer Qazi questioned if there were any updates on SGA’s social media.
      1. President Dawoud remarked that the individual hired to handle our social media was on track to graduate at the end of fall. The plan was for the exec board to take up the role of updating social media afterward. Due to issues involving lack of attendance and communication, the role was shifted to External VP Rude. He emailed all SGA reps for their front page information to update the SGA web pages.
      2. SGA has experienced issues with the Facebook page as the account information was never passed down the SGA administrations.
         1. President Dawoud attempted to gain access to it but was unable to. SGA can likely start a new Facebook page.
         2. President Dawoud does have access to the SGA Twitter account.
6. Trustee Humphrey
   1. No report.
7. Internal Vice-President Cunningham
   1. There are openings on three Campus Senate committees for student representatives. These committees include Campus Planning and Budget, the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, and Graduate Student Council.
   2. He emailed Senator Gin requesting her preference for which SGA committee she would like to join. He also attached the bylaws which detail the roles of the committees.
      1. President Dawoud suggested replying to all SGA representatives with the committees looking for a student reps along with any needed qualifications.
8. External Vice-President Rude
   1. No report.
9. Treasurer Qazi
   1. SOFA has changed meeting times. It is now Tuesdays at 8 pm in the Student Leadership Center downstairs.
   2. The next meeting is next week and two weeks from now will be the meeting after.
10. Secretary Loera
    1. Recently had his Sustainability Committee meeting through Campus Senate.
       1. Content has involved putting on events for celebrating Earth Week.
       2. Megan Styles, chair of the committee, informed everyone that they are close to establishing UIS as a hub for BikeShare, a bicycle sharing program. Campus Recreation will be the responsible party.
       3. the Green Fee Committee has approved 6 different projects. They will be implementing over the next year. These projects include enforcement of green parking spaces, a bicycle rack proposal, water bottle refill stations at Founders and Lincoln, and others.
    2. Will be addressing his Student Affairs Committee meeting with Geoffrey Evans and Ann Comerford later on in the meeting.
11. Parliamentarian Coultas
    1. No report.
12. Senator Reports
    1. Senator O’Daniel
       1. No report.
    2. Senator D’Elia
       1. Currently serving as the liaison for the Green Fee Committee.
       2. By the comeback of Spring Break, the recycling dumpsters will be implemented. By the next session, he will introduce the resolution.
       3. He thinks every SGA should include a liaison for the Green Fee Committee to ensure a sustainability aspect within our student government.
       4. Senator D’Elia asked Advisor Thompson if a space request can be made within a week for tabling in the Union.
          1. Advisor Thompson clarified that tabling does not require a space request two weeks ahead of the date.
       5. He thanked Advisor Thompson for moving the election dates to not interfere with MUN and MIG.
       6. Secretary Loera expressed support for the idea of a resolution requiring an SGA liaison for the Green Fee Committee.
          1. President Dawoud mentioned that it might involve an amendment to the bylaws to add the responsibility.
    3. Senator Kanai
       1. He is excited for working with Kaelen Smith and his fellow SGA senators in organizing the discount downtown program.
          1. It has been slow going but he thinks once they get some awareness to it, it will be something that students will enjoy and benefit from.
    4. Senator Ogunbameru
       1. No report.
    5. Senator Meints
       1. Senator Meints expressed interest in assisting with generating feedback on the class catalog. She has experience working in advising.
    6. Senator Reuss
       1. On the topic of the downtown discount program, Senator Reuss forwarded a document that she received last week containing informational material.
       2. She suggests setting up a meeting before the semester ends before terms end.
       3. Senator Reuss was contacted by the chair of the gender and equity committee for athletics to set up a meeting.
    7. Senator Gin
       1. No report.
13. Committee Reports
    1. Executive Board Committee
       1. Refer to New Business section A.
    2. Internal Affairs Committee
       1. The Ad Hoc Committee on the downtown discount program will be setting up a meeting on a Tuesday around 6 pm welcoming any SGA reps. Will send out an email once a time has been decided. Internal VP Cunningham is waiting on the state representative’s office to send a list of businesses to contact. Then they can set up an informational table and give out fliers for students.
    3. External Relations and Marketing Committee
       1. External VP Rude will be looking into if SGA can make a trip out to visit the Peoria campus. We could have Senator Gin tour us around and have a greater understanding of how their campus is situated.
       2. External VP Rude also proposed making a trip to downtown Springfield to visit the site for the Illinois Innovation Network once it opens. He will be looking into the logistics of transportation.
    4. Student Affairs Committee
       1. Secretary Loera had a collaborative meeting with Ann Comerford and Geoffrey Evans on February 20th. The following was addressed:
          1. Food pantry/convenience store in the Student Union
             1. Logistically there were a lot of obstacles. In years prior, Food Service has attempted to sell generic grocery/convenience store items but it was not financially viable
             2. Ann Comerford mentioned having internal conversations about additionally selling school/life supplies in the space where they are currently selling merch.

Gloves and hats can also be sold to visitors or schools visiting.

* + - 1. Hours of Starbucks
         1. Starbucks does not want their location open on weekends. Geoffrey will have to discontinue Saturday hours soon. Ending the Saturday hours will save money by not hiring staffing or an additional manager that day.
      2. Starbucks price increase
         1. Over Spring Break there will be a 3% increase in prices. This is in accordance with Starbucks Midwest pricing.
      3. Nutritional information
         1. Geoffrey was looking into hiring a nutritionist to assist with reviewing all the menu item’s nutritional information.
      4. Building traditions within the Student Union
         1. Working on having a music series out on the patio on Friday afternoons.
         2. Using the Sports Grill as a space to kick off the baseball season is an example of a possible tradition.
         3. Traditions might increase the flow of students that visit the Student Union.
      5. Food Service communication
         1. Discussed more efficient ways of Food Service informing students of new menu items or changes to hours. Ann said that the Student Union and Food Service can find a way to communicate to students through the Union’s social media platforms.
      6. Food portions
         1. This is available and in the works for some meal options. It is an issue of how cashiers can price food portions accordingly.
      7. More world flavor options
         1. Geoffrey gave Kyle, one of the head cooks, some ideas and menus to hopefully develop some new menu items.
      8. Deli toaster
         1. Geoffrey will look into adding a panini press toaster to the salad/sandwich bar. Burn potential is higher for students who might not know how to use the toaster.
    1. Senator Reuss made the remark that the current UIS Food Pantry is not in an ideal location. It also has limiting hours of operation. She questioned the possibility of moving it to the Student Union.
       1. President Dawoud stated that in a meeting with the Chancellor, she brought up a raising concern regarding student hunger. To address this, they will be putting information on the food pantry on all the syllabi. President Dawoud thinks more flexible hours and a more accessible location would be more beneficial to students.
    2. Senator Reuss also mentioned that within the salad/sandwich bar, there is an additional toaster oven below the one on the counter. That toaster oven might work better than a panini press or the current toaster.
       1. Secretary Loera said he would ask Geoffrey about it.
    3. Advisor Thompson pointed out more reasons why a food pantry within the Union would not be a viable option.
       1. There is a lack of space and it is not the ideal location for students who feel insecure about needed to use the food pantry.
       2. Faculty are looking at relocating the food pantry.
    4. Senator Ogunbameru questioned if there is a lot of response from students using the current location of the food pantry.
    5. Senator Reuss thinks many students do make use of the food pantry. There are a variety of food options and she suggests that SGA reps take the time to visit it.
       1. She also pointed out the bins around campus that students, faculty, and staff can use to donate to the food pantry.
       2. Students can make appointments to have access to the food pantry during non-regular hours by emailing the volunteer center.
  1. Academic and Administrative Affairs Committee
     1. Update on the survey of increased library hours:
        1. The survey has been approved. One the committee receives positive or negative responses, they can have conversations with the dean of students to manipulate some library hours.

1. Old Business
   1. SGA Representative on the Gender Equity Committee for Athletics – Senator Reuss
      1. Senator Reuss has volunteered to serve as the student representative on the committee.
   2. Class Catalog Selection Issues Follow Up
      1. President Dawoud reached out for feedback to SGA reps via email. By the end of the week, she will be sending the feedback to the Office of the Provost for review.
2. New Business
   1. Possible Event - Keynote with College Mental Health/Suicide Prevention & Broadway Theatre
      1. Last semester, President Dawoud was contacted by a public speaker expressing an opportunity to give a keynote on suicide prevention. The exec board stated interested in seeing where this could take us.
      2. This event could be a bonus event for Springfest. Partnering with different organizations on campus can assist in generating interest and ensuring high attendance.
      3. Secretary Loera will be creating a committee tasked with organizing this event and invites any SGA reps interested in being a part of the process. SGA’s goal is to reach out to as many student organizations and departments for sponsorships.
      4. The potential date for the event April 12nd if it is a part of Springfest. This event could use up a sizeable portion of SGA’s leftover budget. The event would comprise of a theatre portion, information, and a Q n A. There could be a follow up of the event with food trunks for students. The hope is to make this a comfortable event for students to attend and gain a greater understanding in the topic of suicide.
3. Adjourn
   1. President Dawoud entertained a motion to adjourn. So moved by Internal VP Cunningham, seconded by Senator Reuss.

Unanimous Aye

Meeting adjourned 6:51 pm.