My name is Aaron Mulvey and I have been serving as the UIS Student Government Association (SGA) President for this year. The SGA has been hard at work throughout this past summer and this semester for the betterment of the student body, as we have been tackling many issues.

From the last newsletter we sent out, I explained several initiatives that the SGA would be working on this year, which included: transportation, parking, the 99 Problems Campaign, committee reform, student union developments, and several others. The SGA has definitely been following through on these initiatives.

A task force will soon be formed on transportation and a survey will be distributed for the task force to obtain a sense of how the campus feels about transportation at UIS. The SGA has remained in contact with the chief clerk of Parking Operations and had the chief clerk even attend an SGA meeting to keep us updated regarding parking on campus. The 99 Problems campaign had many ideas, comments, and concerns submitted by students. These ideas were all compiled and have been and will continue to be addressed at the appropriate committee levels. Several SGA members have continued to serve on the student union committee to give insights into the design scheme of the building, which is still currently ongoing. The SGA also has involvement in other major issues such as the possible nickname/mascot change and the possibility of a smoking ban on campus. Furthermore, we’ve been reaching out to students a lot more this year by having the monthly SGA Town Halls. The SGA has been very active this semester in dealing with many of these issues and we will continue to be active for the rest of the year to represent the students of UIS in a positive way.

Contact me at amulv3@uis.edu!

What We are Working on for You....

**Student Union:** The student union is a top priority for the SGA, as well as the University. On the quad, you can now see signs with the proposed design for the Student Union, the building that will ultimately house many activities and student resources.

**STArewards:** This initiative was created in order to help bolster student involvement on campus. New and improved prize changes are coming to the program, so be on the lookout for events to gain new rewards at, and keep swiping!

**Smoking Task Force:** Currently ongoing, this taskforce, led by Internal Vice-President Dane Vincent and Parliamentarian Kyle Noland, is designed to examine the impact of a proposed policy to reduce the prevalence of smoking on University grounds. For more information on when to attend the meetings of this taskforce, contact Dane Vincent or Kyle Noland.

**99 Problems:** Last year we sought your feedback and as a result SGA was able to get many of your concerns addressed. This year is the second run of the “99 Problems and You Can Fix One” campaign. As always you can always provide feedback to the SGA at www.uis.edu/sga/initiatives/99problems throughout the whole school year. Your concerns are taken very seriously, so please visit the site when you have a recommendation.

**Mascot Change Task Force:** The University and SGA recently received a report about a proposed mascot change at the university. There are several options available, provided by a consultant for the university. This is an ongoing topic of discussion on campus, so make sure you contact your SGA representative, and let them know how you feel about the proposed change of mascot.

Your SGA:

President: Aaron Mulvey  
Student Trustee: Jamaal Hollins

Internal VP: Dane Vincent  
External VP: Riley Quinlan  
Secretary: Samia Ahmad

Treasurer: Josh Eastby  
Parliamentarian: Kyle Noland

Senator for Public Affairs & Administration-Michael Dahmane

Senator for Business & Management-Paige Heiser, Speaker of the Senate

Senator for Liberal Arts & Sciences-Katie Reynolds

Senator for Education & Human Services-Michael Lotspeich

Transfer Students Senator-Garrett McAlister

Senators-at-Large (2): Marc Reiter and Will Newton

Freshman Students Senator-Patrick Simon

Undergraduate Students Senator-Khalil Jamal

Online Students Senator-Justin Ketterman

Graduate Students Senator-Michael Oyakojo

International Students Senator-Jeshwanth Harish
The Student Organization Funding Association (SOFA) is a standing committee of the UIS Student Government Association. The function of SOFA is to allocate University funds to student organizations to assist in creating a positive university and learning environment on campus. SOFA serves as a guide for students to plan campus and community events.

In academic year 2012-2013, nearly ninety percent of all campus events were partially or fully funded through SOFA allocations. SOFA utilizes the opinions of students from many majors, organizations, and backgrounds to advocate that only the best happens for the student body.

SOFA meets at least once a month and to see our spring 2014 meeting dates, just go to the UIS SOFA page or like us on Facebook. As the Chair of SOFA, it is my responsibility that we meet all of the goals given to us in our bylaws.

If you have any questions about SOFA or are curious about serving on SOFA in some way, please do not hesitate to contact me at npipe2@uis.edu.

Student Activities Committee (SAC)

By: SAC Chair Richard Prebil

As we find the semester winding down SAC is busier than ever working on planning next semester’s schedule of events. This semester has been one of strong growth and fun for SAC. From Welcome Week to Homecoming to Haunted Library and so many other events SAC has been super busy this semester. Next semester promises to be even better. We are planning on bringing in a more diverse group of performers and events. We are still looking to build our general membership so please come every Sunday at 6pm in the Student Life Building Multipurpose Room and sit on a sub-committee to help the Coordinators plan these awesome events! Come out and get involved!

University of Illinois Board of Trustees Update

By: Student Trustee Jamaal Hollins

The Board of Trustees has met twice since I wrote my last article. At these two past meetings, the Board received presentations and fostered discussions regarding topics like tuition rates for next year, growing our alumni outreach efforts, as well as important discussion regarding the University of Illinois hospital located at the Chicago campus. Chancellor Koch gave a presentation at teach of the past two meetings highlighting various aspects of the UIS campus. The first presentation by the Chancellor focused on our faculty here at UIS. She discussed how we compare to the faculty in our own peer group institutions, Her next presentation was given on the Springfield campus and highlighted various aspects of campus including the Honors Program, the student union, as well as the various teaching efforts here at UIS. If anyone wishes to have more information on these meetings, please feel free to contact me.
Featured Member: Graduate Senator Michael Oyakojo

My name is Michael Oyakojo, and I ran for an SGA position in order to champion the necessary change at UIS. Having held various leadership roles with real impacts, I have relevant international experience.

My goals are effective and inclusive representation of graduate students in relevant university activities – academic, social, and community service related. I also am seeking efficient communication in order to bridge existing gaps, bond, and serve as point of connection between graduate students and the university community. I also Want to improve funding for graduate students’ programs, while deepening the experience of graduate students at UIS through friendly academic and social environments.

My favorite thing about UIS is the strong network with reputable institutions that facilitates relevant internship opportunities for students to complement classroom teaching. The university achieved this objective through strong alumni networks in reputable organizations which enhance students’ learning experience.

Featured Member: Undergraduate Senator Khalil Jamal

My name is Khalil Jamal, and I ran for SGA because I want to be more involved in making decisions for myself and other students. I want students to realize that SGA members are their ambassadors and they should feel comfortable enough to bring all questions and concerns to us.

Two of my major goals on SGA are to work on extending the operating hours of campus facilities and to work on bringing affordable food options to UIS.

My favorite thing about UIS is the size of the community. The disconnection between students and professors/administrators is not as pronounced as it would be at a larger university. During my time here, I have had no issues getting in touch with my professors or other administrators, when I had a question or concern. It speaks volumes when even the Chancellor of the university is willing to meet with students personally.
How to Get Involved with SGA!

Spring Elections
The SGA holds elections in Spring semester as well as the Fall semester. All executive positions within the SGA are elected in the Spring as well as the four college senators. If you are interested in running for any of the open positions feel free to pick up a filing packet in the Office of Student Life or go to our website www.uis.edu/sga and print one out as we get closer to the election.

Committees
There are many opportunities to get involved on various committees. UIS has an abundance of committees that allow students to serve on.

SAC and SOFA are the two largest committees of the SGA and there are opportunities to get involved with them right now! SGA also has other standing committees that do important work on behalf of the SGA. You can find all of our committees at www.uis.edu/sga/committees. If you are interested in serving on one please email uissga.uis.edu. Your help is appreciated!

Campus Senate is a part of the University of Illinois’ vision of shared governance. The Campus Senate has many committees that allow opportunities for students to serve as student representatives on. If you are interested in one of these committees please email us at uissga@uis.edu.

Keep an eye out on other opportunities throughout the school year, they will be publicized when they become available!

Did you Know?
• All SGA meetings are televised and recorded. Live meetings can be accessed at the following link: www.uis.edu/technology/uislive/. Past meetings can be accessed through the video on demand link on the same page.
• All SGA meetings are held usually every other Sunday, in the TV studio located at the bottom of the PAC at 7 P.M. Audience participation is welcome!
• During the last academic year, the SGA moved to paperless meetings in order to save student fee money as well as become more environmental friendly. All documents are now accessed by members through iPads rented out from ITS Media Lab at SGA meetings.
• SGA is currently giving input on new types of software for UIS’ strive to keep modernizing its data and application of informational resources.