Springfield Student Government Association

PAC TV Studio / Zoom

Sunday, January 21st,2024

Agenda

1. Call to order - 6.01 PM by Emma
2. Roll Call

Present - Emmanuelle Yakana, Chris Johnson, Ignat Striletskyi, Wonder Odutola, Jesu Jennifer Devairakkam David, Jessica Neethi Bondada, Emma West, Matthew Edwards, Anirudh Paka, Christopher Combs, JJ Joseph, Sam Oluwole, Cassie Goudreau, Caleb Grover, Samuel Moore, Dominic Hayford, Giorgio Grivetti

Absent - Kyle Ingram, Ayomide Daramola

1. Approval of the Agenda - Motion to approve Emma. Approved
2. Approval of minutes of December 3rd -Emma Motion to approve, Moved to next week. Approved unanimously.
3. Housing representative: Melissa Beisel (Director of Res Life)
   1. Cost increase for next year 2% in the residence halls and 3% in the apartments, extra increase in the apartments is because we are having to replace the old track.
   2. 60 units in need of replacement
4. Administrative Report
   1. Advisor Cynthia Thompson
      1. 63 students attended our leadership summit back in September. On September 9, 117 RSO officers completed RSO officer training. We had 603 RSO events that were approved for fall 2023.
      2. Student life events information This fall, 55 student organizations hosted events. 72 student organizations submitted a registration form for the academic year, 64 of which have completed the registration process. And the average RSO roster has 38 student members. Just some information from student life. SGA (Student Government Association) members tried to guess the Top 5 events from last semester. ISO (Indian Student Organizations) Diwali event festival of light was the most attended student life event with 266 students.
   2. Dr. Clark
      1. Nothing to Report
5. Officer Reports

**Emma:**

1. **I was part of the search for the new Academic Vice Chancellor for student engagement. We have conducted zoom interviews. Candidates will be visiting our campus this coming week. I look forward to being part of some of the lunches. I know the invitation was extended to some of you (SGA Members) as well.**
2. **The search for a new international student senator has gone out. I am looking forward to receiving the applications.**
3. **reaching out to our campus students organization leaders. I am hoping to hear back from Is Marie sometime this week to see where that is fit into. I had shared here before that I strongly believe that if we want to be effective at serving UI students better, then we want to collaborate with student organization leaders. I look forward to hearing back from them.**
4. **I also met with the UIC president. The University of Illinois Chicago president Continue to see how we can improve our three campuses by just inspiring ourselves from whatever is done that is positive on other campuses. I also look forward to meeting with the UIUC president along with the UIC president sometime next week.**
5. **When I hear back from them from my SGC meeting this past Friday, we discussed the possibility of removing Spanish as a minor at UIS (University of Illinois at Springfield). I did let them know that SGA is working on a survey to assess whether students want foreign languages to continue to be on campus**
6. **The next campus senate meeting is scheduled for 26 January. Our next meeting is on February 4th I have a meeting this Thursday with Student Student Activity Coalition representative to talk about Lobby Day. Usually, Lobby day happens early in the spring semester, usually in February. This year it has been pushed to April. I have a meeting with them this Thursday. And after that meeting, I will be able to report and have more details on lo day so that we can prepare for that. But yes. Thank you everyone.**

**Chris:**

1. **We had the Spring welcome back involvement expo SGA, we had our table there, it was surprisingly good. A few students came and talked to us and told us things that they wanted like graduation, and we wrote down their feedback.**
2. **I I also attended the meetingthe Dean's event, which was particularly good. Sadly, there was not a lot of student participation at that event. It was sparse for a while and there was a lot of food. But we did eventually get some people to take some of the food, but I shared with them a way to improve the event in the future. I did talk to the Dean for College of Health Science and Technology, and we were looking at plans for how we could help computer science students be more involved.**
3. **I also attended the Diversity Fair hosted by the Diversity Center and talked to all the different people that were present there. We had a lot of organizations, sororities, attorneys, and a lot of support for our different students it was nice seeing that.**
4. **Looking forward to when we make our bylaws changes, we will have the internal committee. And so, I look forward to trying to plan meetings for that as soon as possible.**

**Ignat:**

1. **I will go through the language survey that we are preparing right now. If you remember guys, before the winter break, I sent the link for our survey. I heard from Samuel that he has made some changes and that he suggests meeting on Thursday with Dr. Y. Allen, who is doing that survey for us. I hope that very soon she is going to make some changes in that survey, which I remember there was field that you say, Sam, that should be required to fill. I hope that we will be ready to go because the survey looks good. I also got some consultation with Tina Helton, who's Vice Chancellor, and she also approved that. She said that this looks good, and I think that very soon we are going to take a big step in that way.**
2. **I also became a part of the equity taskforce plan that helps the university create the plan to involve more minorities in our university. We are working on that way also. I hope the language survey and plan that University of Illinois staff is doing will go well. This is for my report, and I hope that at the next meeting we are going to go about our survey.**

**Wonder:**

1. **I want to go through how much we have in our budget for after the first semester. So right now, we have** $6,228. So **just keep in mind the upcoming present on our agenda today and that is about it.**

**Jennifer and Jessica – nothing to report**

Senator Reports (2-minute limit)

* 1. Samuel Moor- January the 29th. I am scheduled to be at one of the lunches for interviewing the Vice Chancellor position.
  2. Cassie - I attended the involvement expo and I also plan to attend the student engagement at lunch with.
  3. Sam - So like in the break, like me some student finished earlier, part of what I have been working on. Launch partnership with student now can micro internship and directly with recruiters immediately, I think is a good one and I look forward to more successful implementation of more internship and other things I promise to do.
  4. Emma West - I just have a resolution that we will get to later. And then I will just discuss the details of that when it comes around. Along with that, I have Savannah in the audience who will speak later also about the event that is coming up. Besides that, I do not have any new business with committees. I am excited to start the semester and see what we can start working on.
  5. JJ - I had my undergraduate council meeting on Thursday that just passed, and we discussed the whole issues surrounding the Spanish minor. We came to the resolution that we push it onto the Senate in order. We voted to approve it. I personally did not vote for approving it, but there were a lot of issues behind the scenes staffing and the resources that have been allocated to the university to actually provide that minor in an equitable way as opposed to just deciding to maybe get rid of it for now and then go in a separate direction, try to approach it again in the future. They voted to approve that removal. I have washe search committee for a new staff member for the race, gender, sexuality, and I forget the entire name of the department, but we are in the ending stage of that now. We're having a meeting tomorrow whittling down the candidates that we want to pursue. That will be interesting.
  6. Anirudh - Last week I attended the library meeting to improve some of the things in library. I went to a meeting because vice president of Indian Student organization Thank you. Thank you.

1. Old Business

A. SGA Info Session:   
It's happening on January 30th at 06:00 P.M. at the Student Union. The Chancellor will be present and a few other administrators will also be there.

B. Art Student League Event: Resolution 8: Emma West – **Approved**

**Voted and approved unanimously**

1. This art show is basically, it's going to be an honor of Sammy, but the roots are much deeper than that. It's for now, it's going to be on February 22, which is his birthday. So not only are we celebrating his life, but we're also celebrating the arts.
2. In the last five years or so, visual arts have really fallen off the edge here at UIS. My sister graduated with a visual arts degree two years ago. She always talked about how there wasn't any funding, there was not any support or anything for the arts, and a lot of the projects her and the classmates wanted to work on, they couldn't because they simply didn't have access to any funding or any materials for those projects. This event, let's see, co-sponsoring this event would not only mean a lot to Sammy's family and the R, but I think it would be a great opportunity for SGA to come together with the arts and help support the arts here at UIS, since it has gone down a little bit and the money fundings have gone elsewhere.
3. Savannah speaks, “I'm a senior here at UIS. I'm double majoring in elementary education in visual arts with a minor in art history. I'm about to graduate. This is my last year on campus and I have taken over as the president of Art Student League, come to this meeting so I could propose co sponsorship and possible funds to support and put on this show for Sammy Iverson. A couple days before Emma had her memorial show for him earlier in the school year, I was contacted by Bella Sabo, who is the of the visual art gallery like HSB. And she said that Barry Iverson, Sammy's dad, has gotten into contact with her, saying that he would love to put on a art show in His Honor. And unfortunately, the visual arts gallery in HSB is booked like months, years in advanced, and this is my last year. I don't want Sammy to have to wait years and years to have an event. We have a gallery in the visual performing arts building. The hallway that you walk through when you go to class in the VPA, that is the Art Student Leagues gallery. So we host, like we, since I've been on the board for Art Student League, we put on at least two shows a semester. So we put on a student show and we put on an alumni show. And not a lot of people know about it. We've been trying to be vocal on connections like we're having events and maybe like just the artists and maybe their best friends come. So I think co sponsoring with SGA, especially about someone who was so important on campus. That was the day I picked out of all days, the day that we don't have anything going on. It's a typical Thursday and I think it would be great if we could just hang 12 of his photographs. And the things that we need from SGA are just funds for supplies, the supplies that we are going to do”
4. IASL has 1,300 $ in their account. We do not want to use everything but 200 dollars in our account, because we have worked hard to make it over $1,000 this year. We did the homecoming window contest, like 200 dollars. So, we finally made it over that $1,000 and they requested 500$ from SGA.

C. SGA bylaws changes: **Approved**

Voted and approved unanimously

D. SGA Retreat: **A date to be determined – Discussed**

Early March – 11th 15th march spring break - decided to do the poll to find everyone’s available dates

E. SGA Spring advocacy: Events discussion – Discussion Ideas

Casse – freshmen event

JJ- wants to divide and conquer the problems to represents undergraduates and Graduates concerns separately

Civic engagement (Dr. Clark) – Sangamon County to vote for the general election.

**Coffee with constituents – Emma says, “T**here's room for us to create space in our budget to fund those kinds of events. Where let's say in that and two of us are free to meet with their constituents every Monday morning. Then if we create a budget for those, then it is easy for us to know, okay. This is the amount of money that we'll go into coffee with constituents. I think we might want to look at it again.”

Coffee with constitutions

1. New Business
   1. Weekly Student-led events
      1. Miss Cynthia has shared the file with Emma. She will be forwarding it to all of us so that we see what is happening on campus this week. We try to attend with our best of ability so that there is a student government association presence at every event.
2. Discussion: Audience participation - Salome Workman and Max

Salome Workman: I'm intending on submitting to the student government, which is a petition for the SGA to call for a cease fire in Zen Palestine. Mentioned the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs source of Over 24,000 Palestinians have been killed. Over 60,000 of them have been injured. As a student at UIS, myself and other people who have already gotten to sign the petition believe it is important to be committed to justice and to human rights, which is why we want to petition the SGA to pass this resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Max: A fifth year student at the sorry, in the Visual Arts and psychology programs and a Cap Honor scholar. I also happen to be Jewish, and I hope you listened to what I have to say since I voted for you. Well, I don't have family in or ties to Israel. I do everywhere else. Even if SGAs call for a ceasefire You will have done something. You will have raised the attention of UIS, and you will have shown that you condemn genocide. There are so many more actions that you can take. But I am begging you to let this one be the first. You will never regret doing the right thing. I can't speak from anyone else here. But that is my position on the issue. What is happening is a genocide and I heartily condemn it.

SGA intent of the Constitution is to advocate for students and their issues. And the different problems that they may face on campus here so they can be successful, that they can graduate. That they can go on in the world and reflect on that. Though I have reflected, and I do think that it does specifically say provide them a form. And so I don't think this is a political organization. We have college Democrats and colleagues Republicans on campus. I don't think this is that. But I do see the part where it does say provide them a form and so I wouldn't be proposed. We don't have to endorse the resolution or provide a stance on the resolution, but it does say provide a form, so informing campus Senate of it and giving them, the students the form that they're requesting with the campus Senate, I think that's something we could also consider doing.

SGA gave January 30th , 06:00 P.M. info section meeting detailes to the audience participation, where Chancellor will be there taking questions. We represent the UIS Student body. We can, of course, share the concerns of students during campus. I think that's a great step towards helping your voices be amplified. The student government associations stand for peace in every country around the globe, because we do not want people die. We do not want war. UIS student government wants peace everywhere around the globe.

1. Adjourn

Emma adjoining the meeting. Chris second. With that, this meeting is adjourned. All in favor this meeting is adjourned till February 4th.