

Springfield

Student Government Association

PAC TV Studio / Zoom

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Agenda

I. Meeting call to order 6:01 pm.

II. **Roll Call:** Emmanuelle Yakana, Sri Charan Rao, Chris Johnson, Samuel Moore, Bhavana Neelam, Chris Combs, Matilda Kwarteng, Karac Henderson, Cassie Goudreau, Alaba Kunlere, Alora Greene, Sarah Mahler, John Kennedy, Timothy Malit, Barbara Crankson, Aman Mulla.

**Absent:** Aparna Nadhirigari

III. **Approval of March 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes :** Emmanuelle Yakana motioned; Charan Rao seconded.

IV. **Audience Participation:** None

V. **SGA Interim position nomination:** a motion was amended to remove the nomination. Emma motioned and Chris Combs seconded.

#### **VI. Administrative Reports**

Advisor Cynthia Thompson announced 32 final SGA candidates from 43 original applicants. A test ballot goes out Tuesday to check names and info. Two Student Life coordinators are also being hired, with interviews the week of April 28.

Dr. Steven Johnson, Jr.: No Report

#### **VII. Officer Reports:**

**Emmanuelle:** Attended the Campus Senate meetings on March 28 and April 4, where a vote passed to start future semesters on Mondays instead of Fridays, improving student worker availability. This change may also add two days to Thanksgiving break. They attended the Award event, brainstormed event ideas for SGA, participated in SGA coffee hours, and had meaningful discussions with students.

**Sri Charan:** apologized for missing a previous meeting, attended the Student Disciplinary Committee meeting for a three-year policy review with minor changes, and also attended the Campus Senate meeting.

**Matilda:** helped plan the Student Advocacy Coalition event hosting the Springfield mayor on Tuesday at the Student Union from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M., encouraging students to attend and share concerns.

**Bhavana:** No reports

**Chris johnson:** attended the Dance Marathon, which raised over \$1,000 for a local children's cancer hospital. At the board meeting, it was announced that student health insurance rates will stay the same, and in-state tuition will now be offered to select counties in Indiana, Missouri, and Iowa bordering Illinois.

**Samuel:** reported that SGA has spent \$1,868.32 with \$8,131.68 remaining and urged efforts to use the funds. Stipend payments have begun, with a full report coming next meeting. They attended several meetings, including Campus Senate and the Higher Learning Mission initiative, which is working to centralize academic advising. The last SOFA meeting approved most of 15 funding requests, and SOFA is planning a tabling event on April 15 with games and prizes to engage students.

**Chris combs:** The Rules and Constitution Committee had its likely final meeting, deciding to leave some items for the new SGA. SAC is still working on the budget allocation process and will finish it soon.

## **VIII. Senator Reports:**

### **A. 2-minute limit**

**Cassie:**

The speaker attended the April 1st Undergraduate Council meeting, discussing assessment plans, SGA criteria changes, Title updates, and minor degree requirements. Also joined SGA coffee hours, found it productive, and created a flyer for the next session on Thursday.

**Alaba:**

Attended the Graduate Council meeting, where a policy change was proposed to count semesters instead of credit hours for non-degree students, aiming to ease course access. They also joined the Campus Senate meeting and discussed advising issues within their school, including challenges

with unresponsive advisors. They plan to meet the incoming director to address these concerns and improve support for students.

**Alora:** No Reports

**Barbara:** Attended their first meeting and shared plans for a graduate fair organized by InterStrike in collaboration with UIS, focused on helping international students with OPT and employer connections. The event will be held on Tuesday from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. at Brookens Library and is open to interested students through personal registration, though it is not publicly advertised.

**Karac Henderson:** No reports

**John Kennedy:** Reported that the vending machines are now working after a card service issue. They attended a Student Discipline Committee meeting focused on minor policy adjustments and mentioned that the SHIN Award nomination deadline is extended to April 18th. Res Life decided trash rooms will remain permanently closed. Regarding a recent campus shooting, no suspects have been caught, and students are encouraged to stay safe, use the Rave Guardian app for alerts, and request police escorts if needed.

**Aman:** No Reports

**Timothy:** No Reports

**Sarah:** No Reports

## **IX. Old Business**

- **Promoting elections**

The discussion focused on promoting SGA elections. The speaker reached out to Cynthia for tabling approval and offered availability on Monday and Tuesday mornings to promote elections if approved. An event request was submitted. Members were encouraged to announce the election in their classes (without promoting specific candidates) and to use social media. A video promotion was suggested, with a few members volunteering to participate. The team agreed to collaborate and promote awareness effectively.

- **Coffee hours**

Cassie and Emma will attend SGA coffee hours on Thursday at 11:30 AM. Others are encouraged to partner with SGA representatives to host additional sessions. Miss Cynthia holds the purchasing card, and it's advised to keep receipts for tracking expenses. The card should be returned immediately after use to maintain accountability. No further comments or suggestions were made.

- **Bylaws change**

Chris Johnson introduced a bylaw change affecting Article 2, which updates the duties of the president and senators. The change removes the president's role in nominating campus Senate members and instead assigns this responsibility directly to the senators from each college and the president. This ensures that those elected to these roles are automatically members of the campus Senate, increasing transparency and student representation in shared governance. The motion was formally presented, seconded, and passed through a roll call vote, with all members voting in favor.

## **X. New Business**

- **SAC & SOFA**

SAC was unable to attend the meeting, but they sent a message stating they are diligently working on gathering the requested information. SOFA has completed phase one, is working on phase two, and is preparing their presentation. They emphasized that they would align their process with SAC's to ensure fairness. The committee acknowledged the complexity of the new process and expressed support and understanding, with the expectation that both SAC and SOFA will present their progress at the April 27th meeting.

- **Resolution 8: SGA finals week event**

The Student Government Association (SGA) aims to serve the UIS student body, and SGA aims to connect with students by providing them a chance to relax before finals. The resolution proposed that \$600 from the SGA budget be used to order catering from Food Services for an end-of-semester event, with any unused funds returned to SGA. Questions were raised about possibly adding more money to cover prizes promised at a past winter event, but it was clarified that the prizes had already been purchased. Another suggestion was made about extending the Student Union's hours during finals week, but it was agreed this would require a separate resolution. After discussion about event ideas, members leaned toward hosting an ice cream social, considering the

tradition and student popularity. The event was tentatively set for Friday, May 2nd, at 1:00 PM in the Student Life Center (SLC), and a motion to approve the resolution passed with majority support.

- **Resolution 9: SGA representatives meet and greet**

The aim was to provide guidance, share experiences, and help incoming representatives transition smoothly. \$500 from the SGA budget would be allocated to cater this event, with unused funds returned to SGA. The event was proposed to be held in the North Ballroom of the Student Union, where the setting would encourage a more private and focused conversation. Suggestions were made to have participants prepare reflections on their experiences to better mentor new members. Initially, the meet and greet was proposed for May 3rd, but some discussion leaned toward holding it before the transition meeting on Sunday for efficiency. Final details were still being considered as the discussion wrapped up.

**XI. Discussion**

- **SAC event: Meet the Mayor**

The meeting focused on improving advising at UIS, with a discussion led by Travis Bland, the Dean for the College of Health Science and Technology, and Drew, who are working on changes to advising (though details are not yet shared). The disparity in advisor workloads, with some advisors managing a few students while others have hundreds, was a key issue. Advisors are assigned to colleges/departments after the first two years, and there is a need for better communication to ensure students are connected to the right advisors, especially after switching advisors. Proposed solutions included creating FAQs, step-by-step guides, and a flowchart to help students access advisors more easily. It was suggested to form a subcommittee or task force to brainstorm solutions, ensuring communication with advisors is professional and collaborative. The group decided to reach out to deans and Dr. Terce Winston, the head of advising, but concerns were raised about the potential negative perception of meeting with the provost directly. They agreed to keep communication tactful and cooperative. The meeting also discussed the transition of responsibilities to the new SGA officers, ensuring they are well-equipped with relevant information. The group ultimately decided to hold two back-to-back meetings on April 27th and May 4th .

**XII. Adjourn**

Emma motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris Johnson seconded.