

Springfield

Student Government Association

PAC TV Studio / Zoom

Sunday, April 27th, 2025

Agenda

- I. Call to order: meeting call to order at 6:02pm
- II. Roll Call : Chris combs, Barbara Crankson, Cassie Goudreau, Chris Johnson, John Kennedy, Alaba Kunlere, Sarah Mahler, timothy Malit, Samuel Moore, bhavana Neelam, Sri Charan Ramaraju, Emma Yakana.
Absent: Matilda Kwarteng, Karac Henderson, Aparna Nadhirigari, Alora Greene, Aman Mulla.
- III. Approval of the Agenda : Emma motioned to approve the agenda; Samuel seconded.
- IV. Approval of April 6th minutes : Emma motioned to approve the minutes of April 6th; Charan seconded.
- V. Audience Participation

Caleb Grover, a current SOFA member, Constitutional Rules Committee delegate, and incoming SGA Secretary, emphasized the importance of the amendments for the future of the Student Government Association (SGA). She stated that more details would be shared later in the meeting and asked for the group's support in passing them.

Melody Colonel, a graduating senior returning for a master's degree, also supported the amendments. She shared her perspective as a former president of several student organizations, noting that presidents typically do not vote except in tie-breaking situations. She believes the amendments would better align SGA with the structure of other campus and governmental organizations.

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Advisor Cynthia Thompson

Congratulations were extended to the newly elected SGA senators and Springfest participants, with praise for the strong leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication shown throughout the week of events. Student Life is currently interviewing candidates for key coordinator positions, and students especially SGA members and RSO leaders are encouraged to participate in both lunch interviews and informal 1–2 PM sessions in the Student Leadership Center to provide feedback. The Student Affairs Leadership Awards will take place on Friday, May 2nd at 11:00 AM, where SGA and other student leaders will be recognized. Additionally, the Late-Night Breakfast (Kick

Back) is scheduled for Monday, May 5th at 6:00 PM, offering food and festivities as a fun close to the semester. Active student participation in these events is highly encouraged to help shape the future of student engagement on campus.

VII. Officer Reports

Emma: acknowledged the dedication of SGA representatives and plans to recognize them at commencement. reported on student concerns about canceled health insurance, discussed advising improvements with the Dean of Health Science and Technology, and are preparing for a University Budget Committee meeting. Coordination is also underway for finals week and transition events.

Sri Charan: attended campus senate meeting.

Chris Johnson: will attend the Board of Trustees meetings on May 21–22 and participate in chancellor candidate interviews in Chicago. They also addressed a student's concern about campus parking, particularly the walking distance from Lincoln parking and the closure of the union lot and will refer the feedback to the May 2nd parking appeals hearing. Additionally, they participated in Springfest, where their team won Best Spirit.

Samuel Moore: shared that they've actively participated in numerous campus committees over the past two weeks, including Student Fee, Admissions, Education, Student Life, the Vice Chancellor of Finance Search, and Campus Senate. They expressed readiness to transition these responsibilities. Financially, SGA has spent \$3,668.32 and has \$6,331.68 remaining, which may be allocated through resolutions soon. The SGA has not met since the last SGA meeting; its next meeting is scheduled for May 4, with a funding request deadline of May 2 at 5:00 PM. Students are encouraged to submit requests.

Bhavana: No Reports

VIII. Senator reports

A. 2-minute limit

Cassie: attended the Undergraduate Council meeting on April 15, where discussions included general requirements for minors, alternative instruction guidelines for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (starting next year), and finals week guidelines. You plan to attend your final meeting on April 29. Additionally, you participated in SGA coffee hours with Emmanuel.

John: represented UIS at the conference in NYC, where his team earned an Outstanding Delegation award. He's reviewing nominations, celebrated his team's Sportsmanship Award at Spring Fest, attended a UIS concert, and plans to support upcoming campus events.

Sarah: No Reports

Timothy: No Reports

Alaba: The Graduate Senate meeting was canceled due to lack of business, and the meeting with the coordinator was postponed. Alaba attended the campus Senate meeting, with key points already covered by the president. He met with the provost to discuss increasing enrollment, particularly among international students, and advocated for opening loan opportunities. As a result, UIS has been approved by a loan company, enabling international students to apply for loans—a step expected to boost enrollment.

Barbara: Barbara engaged with, Dean of Health Sciences, and the director of the School of Public Management and Policy regarding a survey and community involvement. She also attended a gala hosted by the Faith Coalition for Common Good, where UIS graduate students were recognized for their achievements.

IX. Old Business

- Programming allocations: SAC & SOFA

SOFA requested \$50,000 for next year to meet rising RSO funding needs. More RSOs are requesting near the cap, though some still don't apply. Funds cover events, facilities, and campus safety. SOFA ensures fair distribution and saw increased RSO participation and expo involvement. SOFA hosted outreach events like "cheesecake roulette" and visits to RSO drop tables to raise awareness. They showed data on budget allocations by semester, with most funds nearly fully used and 30 requests denied. They emphasized fair, unbiased funding and requested better communication with SGA and more familiarity with SOFA bylaws. Questions raised concerns about reallocating unused funds, but SOFA clarified budgets are set for the full year and must remain stable to ensure fairness and prevent bias.

SAC is requesting \$70,000 for next year, the same amount allocated last year. Funds will support contracts, marketing, food, co-sponsorships, giveaways, and leadership development. Major events include Fall Kickback, Homecoming, Spring Welcome, and Spring Fest. SAC aims to enhance student engagement through diverse, collaborative programming.

X. New Business

- Resolution 10: SGA Commencement stoles

Resolution 10 proposed using \$600 from the SGA budget to purchase customized commitment stoles for graduating members of SGA, SAC, and SOFA. SGA has 9 graduates, SAC has 2 stoles needed, and SOFA will reuse their cords. The resolution passed unanimously after brief discussion. It was also suggested that future roll calls be done alphabetically by last name for professionalism.

- Resolution 11: SGA to extend student union hours during finals week

SGA proposed allocating \$1,000 to extend Student Union hours until midnight during finals week, costing \$192/night for staffing. The initiative aims to improve student experience. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion included logistical challenges of adding food services this late, with recommendations to plan at least a month in advance for future SGAs. The Student Union expressed openness to future collaborations. Additionally, the meeting was extended by 30 minutes to complete the remaining agenda items.

- Constitution committee bylaws and constitution changes

The Constitution and Rules Committee proposed a total of eight changes—three to the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution and five to the Bylaws. The constitutional changes, which require both SGA approval and a student referendum, clarify roles within the executive board. These include explicitly naming the president, external vice president, and parliamentarian as non-voting members (with the president voting only to break ties) and specifying their roles within the organization and campus committees. Minor grammatical corrections were also made. The bylaw changes, which take effect immediately upon approval, establish a clear order of succession for presiding over meetings in the absence of the president: internal vice president, treasurer, secretary, and then parliamentarian. These updates aim to eliminate inconsistencies between the Constitution and Bylaws and ensure smooth governance procedures.

XI. Discussion

- SGA Finals Week event

The SGA Finals Week event, originally planned for 2:00 PM, has been rescheduled to 2:30 PM due to space availability. Food Services has confirmed they will provide ice cream for the event.

Members were encouraged to attend and engage with students. Additionally, efforts are being made to have social media coverage for promotion, with coordinating the filming.

- SGA representatives meet & greet

The SGA meeting, initially planned for the North or South Boardroom, has been moved to the SLC multipurpose room at 4:00 PM due to unavailability of the original spaces. An email invitation will be sent to both current and incoming SGA members. Appreciation was expressed for the effort put into organizing the events.

- Advising survey

The discussion focused on follow-up actions regarding the advising survey. It was noted that advising issues vary by department, with some, like Health Science and Technology, already implementing strong accountability systems. It was suggested that the SGA compile survey results, observations, and recommendations into a report for the incoming SGA to continue the initiative. The group also discussed meeting with chief advisors ,who oversees advising for first- and second-year students .Plans were made to reach out to her for involvement.

XII. Adjourn

Emma motioned to adjourn the meeting. John Kennedy seconded.