Springfield

Student Government Association

PAC TV Studio / Zoom

Sunday, November 17th, 2024

Agenda

1. Call to order: Meeting call to order 6:02 pm.
2. Roll Call : Emma, Chris Johnson, Sri Charan Rao, Samuel, Bhavana, Chris Combs, Matilda, Ganesh, Aparna, Karac Henderson, Cassie, Alora, Romina, Timothy, John Kennedy, Alexander

Absent: Abhishek, Sarah

1. Approval of the Agenda : Emma motioned to approve the agenda.

* Approval of November 3rd minutes: Emma motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Chris.

1. Audience Participation:

* UIS student has addressed an issue where she joined a sorority as she thought it was cheaper in price ($400 per year) and also felt it would be a great experience. The official initiation day was not until the end of November , so this means that she hasn’t officially joined. Then later she realized that the fee is $400 per semester which was not informed to the student before hand. The student informed the head of the sorority that she would not be joining because it is a little too expensive. The sorority was upfront about the fee what will be charged but hasn’t mentioned when will that be charged. When the student said the that she doesn’t want to join the sorority(trisigma) told the student will be charged $255 as a new member fee. The student is charged anyways.

Cynthia as the director of student life took initiative to forward the information through the process to ensure this doesn’t happen again.

* Guests: SAC (Student Advocacy Coalition) Presentation

Emma West the president has give a presentation on what SAC is , how it works, Why statement and last year agenda.

Followed by question and answers.

1. Administrative Reports
   1. Advisor Cynthia Thompson: SGA photos are ready and a work order will be put to have them hung. Second thing is an update on academic advising survey . We have the appointment scheduled. Steven Johnson and Cynthia are meeting the office of survey research on Tuesday. To review the survey and finalize it. The third update is the leadership and the digital age session took place on Thursday November 11th . The colonnade lighting was streamed first time online.
   2. Advisor Steven Johnson
2. Officer Reports:

**Emma:** Had the opportunity meet with the commencement representatives, the vice chancellor for enrollment Dr. Vicki cook and Bryan Clevenger , I was able to request to the meeting at t he meeting so that I could share feedback that I have heard from past commencement. Was also part of higher learning commission discussion. It was a great discussion to improve the enrollment of graduate students at UIS. There were a few graduate students along with me were able to talk about lack of resources for GPSI . We are looking at other agencies that the university can partner with to have more GPSI programs. Attended the university budget meeting , the departments have sent requests now , we will be reviewing them at our upcoming meeting. Attended the panel discussion hosted by UIS AI campus learning community. Attended the college of public management and policy student appreciation event. Attended the Christmas ornament making event Attended the civic engagement event where we made greeting cards for veterans. Attended the career bytes conference. Attended the colonnade lighting event , appreciated the efforts put in by Samuel and john.

**Sri Charan Rao:** The colonnade was a great success as there were many students who attended the event despite the cold weather. Received the email from Sarah on the student disciplinary committee which had annual reports of the previous year.

**Matilda:** The report is based on academic task force. The committee is doing welltrying to find ways to know about student enrollment and how they can change programs to fit the desires of students. The committee is gathering data and would like to know students.

**Chris johnson:** The board meeting took place on 12th and 13th in Chicago, we approved the appointment of Dr. Gabrial to serve as the vice chancellor for advancement and senior vice president of University of Illinois. Attended many events on campus. Went to fall frosting, sweet artistry and active minds event. Attended Diwali DJ night took place in SLB. Attended the black history month planning meeting.

**Samuel:** We currently have $10000 in our account, we approved $800 for the lighting of colonnade so at some point, we’ll have a transaction lowering that to about $9000. There were 8 online students and 130 to 140 on ground attendants. Brief update about the camarada, a week beforehand we were double checking some facts and while reviewing we did not feel we have a strong communication with them to go forward with their events and participation in it. We decided to cancel it for the safety of the event and for the benefits of camarade so they didn’t feel overstressed. Had SOFA meeting and there were 18 requests and we approved 17 and kind of approved 18th request.

**Bhavana:** Over the past 2 weeks , have attended the library department meeting , where we discusses on faculty survey design which we are currently modifying it and will be completed by next meeting. I have attended the Diwali DJ event and the colonnade event.

Chris combs: Attended the colonnade lighting event. The rules and constitution committee have solidified a day and time to meet and discuss the SGA allocation process going forward.

1. **Senator Reports:** 
   1. 2-minute limit

**Ganesh:** Have attended the Diwali event. On 15th Nov have been to the trip to Saint louis which was organized by ISS.

**Cassie:** Attended the under graduate council meeting on November 5th, we discussed the WGS program new change department honors guidelines, as well as program revision in the school communications and media. On Nov 11, I also read a tour for Mr. Michael roth, who is the finest for the associate provost for student success and undergraduate education. Also attended the undergraduate focus group on nov 14th with Dr.Velegas which is an open session where student discuss issues such as student retention and graduation, student service sand other topics. Attended the CAP honors student committee meeting .

**Romina:** Was able to meet with both representatives of the office of engaged learning, also had emails and answers from career development center, student union, diversity center had in-person meeting last Thursday with the dean of students and getting feedbacks and reviews to make sure this the transition of students is smoother. We start thinking of a small presentation made by a student for the students at the beginning of orientation. I will make a report and send it to Emma. And I had a service trip this yesterday with rotoract in delivering winter cloths.

**Timothy:** Last two weeks, I have been in contact with two constituencies. As far now there are no issues have brought to me. I attended focus group and we discussed lot of issues. In the first week , I will be holding regular office hours and drop in sessions every Monday and Friday.

**John kennedy:** I am glad to see everyone and all the administrators at the colonnade lightning. it was really a good event. I am looking forward to rules and constitution committee meeting finally having that date solidified. I have looked into the matter that vending machines not working in residence halls . I don’t know who is actually responsible for fixing this issue. i am still trying to figure it out.

**Alexander Gerlach:** I don’t have too many updates today. I think Cynthia did a great job of summing up a lot of the progress that we have made in online space.

**Alora:** For my report I have participated in the undergraduate focus group and also worked with division of advancement to encourage students to write thank you to uis donors.

**Aparna:** I have a meeting with interim team for the college of Health science and technology this coming week and also I have a meeting also with committee of academic technology lined up.

1. Old Business

* SGA Colonnade lighting November 15th Feedback:

Chris combs suggested that chocolate chip cookie would have been better alternative for caramel cookie as they are the classics. John Kennedy replied saying that they have asked the food department for the cookies but not the type of the cookies , john and Samuel said that they will make sure that to mention about the choco chip cookies the next time.

Chris johnson suggested that it would be better if we expand the event with fireworks not only with lights. Samuel conveyed his thanks to Cynthia and everyone for their efforts.

* SGA Student Townhall:

Emma asked to suggest dates for Town hall. Emma said she reached out to miss gurski about having a facilitator or moderator for the town hall that is outside of sga.And miss gurski is in contact with dr.johnson. and I am hoping to hear from dr.johnson about who is the facilitator and how can we get facilitator on the campus.

After the discussion, everyone agreed to do it in spring semester but not in December.

1. New Business

* SGA New Student Welcome Event Spring 2025

Emma reserved space for SGA and to submit the form. The form is due on November 14th. Emma suggested to plan this event as early as possible to engage students with SGA.

Chris johnson suggested for ice scrapers or donuts with some coffee in the morning to make the students feel more welcomed.

Chris combs felt that SGA has found a lot of success in ice cream socials. So it would be better if we consider that in this event. And he suggested for hats and uis gloves since it is cold.

Cassie suggested for a raffle basket and Romina said like a ticket box and chris combs added suggestion box to it. Chris johnson advised to do this event at student union fire place to gather more students. Emma said she will share the notes and during the training meeting on the 22nd she can have the clarity on date to host this event and whether it is three dates or one date.

* SGA Spring semester calendar

The calendar is made with consideration of super bowl and easter .The very first meeting of the spring would be January 19th and remaining feb 2, feb 6th, march 2, march 23, April 6th, April 27th and may4th. Everyone suggested to do the townhall in the first week of February that is 3 or 6 or 7.

Discussion:

Emma mentioned about the coffee hours and If anyone is interested reach out to Samuel or emma.so that they can plan together to start it and suggested Before this semester ends we can host one or two. And suggested for a introduction video of SGA members to post it on SGA Instagram page. Cassie, chris combs , bhavana and emma are volunteering for this.

Adjourn: Emma motioned to adjourn the meeting and chris combs seconded.