UIS Springfield

Student Government Association

PAC TV Studio / Zoom

Sunday, January 19th, 2025

**Agenda**

1. **Call to order:** Meeting call to order 6:07 pm.
2. **Roll Call :** Emma, Chris Johnson, Sri Charan Rao, Samuel, Bhavana, Chris Combs, Matilda, Aparna, Karac Henderson, Cassie, Alora, Alaba, sarah ,John Kennedy.

Absent: Timothy.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**: Emma moved to approve the agenda .Charan seconded.

**Approval of December 8thminutes**: Emma motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Samuel.

1. **Audience Participation**: None
2. **Administrative Reports**
   1. **Advisor Cynthia Thompson**: I hope everyone enjoyed the winter break. Very excited and looking forward to all the different things we will accomplish. I have contacted different administrators regarding lobby day, also different things that they want SGA to be part of. Another thing is I was contacted by jessie burrow as they are currently working on company which is analyzing uis brand and they need feedback of the students. So, I will be sending a doodle poll to everyone on SGA to set up a meeting with them for an hour. They want to hear from you about what you think about UIS4 and how it’s being presented differently. Check out that email from me and fill out your availability.
   2. **Advisor Steven Johnson**: No reports
3. **Officer Reports:**

**Emma:** Welcome everyone back to campus. I hope everyone has had a good winter break. Over the break, I've been in communication with Nana Rubio, a student staff at the Diversity Center in order to plan a possible collaboration for event for Black History Month. I also was in communication with the president of the UIS Student Impact Coalition Organization along with Naya Garner, who is the prevention educator for Prairie Center against sexual assault. We will be meeting the three of us will be meeting this coming week to discuss collaboration on an event to raise awareness on sexual assault prevention. I met with dr Johnson and the facilitator of our February 6 town hall, doctor Guerra's this past week, and we brainstormed and discussed, and I will be able to share with you the few points that I rose during that meeting when it comes to the town hall portion of the agenda. This past week, I also attended my Senate executive meeting. I look forward to business that campus Senate as a whole will be handling this spring. I have also attended the Welcome Week RSO fair. I really want to commend the work that Student Life is doing. I was able to staff the SGA table and answer questions that students have regarding SGA. And I think that overall, the turnout was pretty good for all organizations. It was good to meet new students as well. That was just excited to hear about all the organizations we have on campus. In preparation for our recent welcome event. Over the break, I was in communication with both the bookstore leadership and the food services. Unfortunately, there were many delays, but I am glad we still were able to have a rather good turnout for our welcome event on the 18th. And I really want to thank those who showed up and helped in a way or another. And to finish, I just want to welcome everyone that was elected in the spring of 2023 to your second term. I mean, the second half of your term. And I want to commend you on your perseverance and commitment to SGA, and I look forward to what we will do this spring. And that concludes my report.

**Sri Charan Rao:** Welcome back to another semester. I have a pretty short report. I was there present for our SGA event that is meet your SGA. we had hot chocolate and doughnuts, which was good and much needed after a cool break. That is it. I'm looking forward for another term, another semester and to do better. Thank you.

**Matilda:** i just hope that this semester will be a great one. I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

**Chris Johnson:** The next board meeting is set for January 22 for the committee, and January 23 for the board meeting, in Chicago. I'll be going there and then I'll have a report after that. Thank you.

**Samuel:** So we currently have $8,020 remaining in the account. That could go up because we allocated 1,000 for our purchases for Saturday's event, but those haven't been finalized, so hopefully that'll be finalized by our next meeting. I've attended my committees for the past week General Education Outcome committee, and there's one more, but we all serve on so many their names. Cart on academic advising and recruitment. A big thing I thought that would be important for students was there's an audit for advising that's going to happen. I think that's very important. I think that's something we should try to publicize that that's happening. I think it's a good way to show that university has heard student feedback, and we can really try to they're listening to us. I also think it's important. We try to publicize the results of that. Then we can show students. Here's what they found, we need to pressure gear let's commit some people who have really done some hard work. Okay. In terms of sofa, our next meeting is next Friday. We've got about ten requests. So big events coming up for the spring, Abney Ball, big events from February. Please be on the lookout for those. More pressing for sofa. If you know an RSO president, hunt them down and tell them to turn in a sofa report they owe us that .it's going to be a great semester. I look forward to all of it. All right. Thank you.

**Bhavana:** Hello, everyone. As of now, I don't have much to report, but I have a meeting scheduled with my library department this week. I look forward to it. I'm very excited for this semester to look and to work on. Thank you.

**Chris Combs:** Not much to report. Other than the rules and Constitution committee has been very busy. We met twice over break, and we've been meeting, we met through most of December, and we met right before this meeting, trying to get the allocation process hammered out more to come during my section in the old business. Thank you.

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

**Cassie:** Hello, everyone. I hope everyone had a great break. So this upcoming Tuesday, I'll be meeting Campas Senate undergraduate counsel. I'm also currently working with Ashley Ernest to create promotional material for the UIS social media. And this upcoming Thursday, I'll also be speaking on a student panel for the Virtual House. That concludes my report.

**Alaba:** On Wednesday, I attended the Graduate Council meeting, which lasted about 10 minutes. Two courses were eliminated from the program due to a lack of student enrollment for several years. These courses were the Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Labor Relations and Curriculum Revitalization, Accelerated Joint Degree. According to reports, no students have registered for these programs in the past ten years.Additionally, I set up a meeting with my department to address an issue regarding advising. Two of my colleagues faced a situation in December where emergency courses had to be created for them due to poor advising. They were unaware of required core courses and were only informed four weeks before the semester ended, which could have delayed their graduation. A similar issue happened to me—I attempted to register for a required course, Castles Part 2, only to find out it was not being offered thissemester, meaning I would have to wait until fall, which would delay my graduation. I escalatedthe issue and sent multiple messages to my advisor. I am currently waiting for a response by Tuesday.I also plan to meet with the Dean of Faculty to find a long-term solution to prevent future students from experiencing similar advising issues.

**Karac Henderson:** Earlier this week, I attended the student organization fair, where I interacted with new students and learned more about campus organizations. On Friday, I volunteered at the PB&J event, making food for the homeless shelter. Later this week, I have a meeting with Dean of Liberal Arts, Maria Wallace, to discuss enrollment, language courses, and ways to better prepare students for global interactions. I will also meet with James Kleppe to discuss plans for Extra Life, the cancer research fundraiser we have been working on for several months. Additionally, some students raised concerns about the trash rooms being closed in residence halls. The residence halls confirmed that they made this decision over winter break due to misuse. However, since students now have to take their trash outside in the cold, trash is piling up in certain areas. I want to arrange a meeting to discuss possible solutions to this issue.

**Alora:** I attended the student organization table in event also and got to interact with some of my constituents that I haven't met before. And then tomorrow I also going to the MLK events. Thank you.

**Sarah:** Hi, everyone. It sounds like everyone had a pretty good and busy winter break. I don't have anything to report right now, but I'm looking forward to seeing how I can make an impact this next semester. Thank you.

**John kennedy:** As Karac briefly touched upon, I was, I did get confirmation that the trash rooms are permanently closed as of currently. I hope to get in contact with them after tomorrow's holiday and try to see what we can do about recycling? The recycling cans have been taken out of the laundry rooms. And I feel that we should probably put those back in there because I think that recycling is very important part of our campus. And furthermore, I was also in contact about some of the students brought some concerns to me about how the hiring process works for Resident life. So I was in contact with them about some student concerns. Other than that, I am looking forward to working with you guys this semester and looking forward to what we can accomplish. Thank you guys.

**Aparna:** Earlier this week, I've been a part of Student Organization Fay. And I also have academic technology committee lined up the coming week.

VIII**. Old Business**

**· SGA New Student Welcome Event Spring 2025: Feedback**

The feedback shared discusses several key points from the recent event. Firstly, it was suggested that Saturday events may not be ideal, as many students, especially commuters, tend to leave campus for the weekend, which likely impacted attendance. Additionally, the timing of the event, coinciding with another, was not anticipated and affected turnout.

Regarding event organization, participants were automatically entered into a raffle for prizes that were supposed to be purchased from the bookstore. However, due to communication delays with the bookstore, those prizes weren't available at the event, and a follow-up event will be needed to distribute them.There were also challenges with communication with the food services director, but thanks were given to Miss Cynthia for assisting in securing the needed food items, even though it was delayed. Overall, the team acknowledged these challenges, emphasized learning from the experience, and committed to improving future events.

**· Constitution Commitee Report:**

The Constitution Committee, led by Chris Combs, has been working on reimagining the SGA allocation process for SOFA and SAC. The committee has met regularly since November, including twice during the break, and has developed a two-phase process for allocation. In phase one, which is set to begin in February, organizations will fill out a general questionnaire about their budget requests, including how much they plan to allocate for various categories like advertising, events, and major programs. They will also be asked about their past allocations, goals for the upcoming year, and how their programming aligns with the SGA’s programming goal statement. This goal statement focuses on event accessibility for online and commuter students, career development programming, and enhancing student quality of life through better awareness of services like disability support and mental health resources.

Phase two will be more tailored to the specific needs of each organization, taking into account the differences between SOFA (which allocates funds to RSOs) and SAC (which organizes community events). The committee plans to finalize phase two questions at their next meeting and will also be drafting bylaw changes to formally document the new allocation process for future SGAs. The committee’s goal is to make the process transparent, fair, and equitable while allowing for the specific needs of different organizations.

· **SGA Academic Advising survey:** The SGA Academic Advising survey is ready to go live, and Miss Cynthia has asked for input on whether to send it out immediately or delay it for more promotion. The survey is scheduled to be distributed on Tuesday, but there has been little promotion so far. Miss Cynthia suggested creating a flyer to help promote it, as the survey should feel like it’s coming from SGA rather than the administration.

There was a discussion about whether to delay the survey's launch to allow more time for promotion. Some members felt that a brief delay (until January 28) would be beneficial for more promotion, while others argued that it’s better to release the survey on time and promote it actively as it goes live. Ultimately, it was agreed to go ahead with the survey launch on January 21, but to focus on promoting it strongly once it’s live, including through personal outreach and social media. Alora volunteered to create the flyer, and Miss Cynthia confirmed the survey timeline from January 21 to February 7 would still work.

The committee decided to move forward with the planned survey distribution and agreed to actively promote it once it’s live.

**· SGA Student Townhall: Updates**

The student town hall aims to foster collaboration between SGA and non-SGA students, ensuring it remains a space for constructive dialogue rather than opposition. Logistics include finalizing the location, securing online participation via the TV studio and SGA link, and structuring the event as a 60–75 minute hybrid session facilitated by Dr. Matt Geraslea. The discussion will begin with a brief introduction by the SGA president, followed by an open-floor discussion where E-board members may address concerns while ensuring student voices remain the focus. To handle complex issues, inviting higher leadership is considered, and a follow-up plan will be in place to address concerns beyond the town hall. Additionally, students will be encouraged to submit written concerns via a form to ensure all voices are heard. Measures such as an external facilitator and a contingency plan will be implemented to maintain order and prevent disruptions.

Key points from the discussion include having UIS police available but not directly in the room for a comfortable environment, using a Google Form or QR code for submitting questions to manage time effectively, and setting clear expectations for students regarding whether answers will be provided immediately or later. There’s also debate on whether to invite university leadership, such as the Dean of Students and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to address specific concerns directly. Additionally, the discussion emphasizes time limits for speakers to ensure a variety of voices are heard, and the importance of transparent follow-up to student concerns. Finally, the group is deliberating whether to hold the event on February 6 or adjust the date based on logistical needs.

The group discussed moving an upcoming event to February 20th, which is two weeks after the originally planned date of February 6th. This would allow more time for promotion, food requests, and logistical coordination. Miss Cynthia recommended confirming the availability of a location, with the idea of putting a temporary hold on the space until the event request is formally made. The group agreed that the 20th would give enough time to properly prepare. Several key representatives were suggested to attend the event to answer questions, including those from financial aid, housing, international students, food services, parking, facilities services, campus police, and the Dean of Students/Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. The group also discussed the importance of having a more professional catering option rather than relying on fast food to ensure the event looks well-organized.

A proposal and vote on the event details would need to be finalized at the next meeting, and food and venue arrangements would need to be confirmed with enough time for approval, ideally by February 6th. The decision to move the event to the 20th was generally agreed upon, allowing for better preparation and outreach.

**IX. New Business**

**· Black History Month: Possibility of collaboration**

The SGA discussed a potential collaboration with the Black Student Union for Black History Month in February. The event aims to bring a speaker, preferably a legislator, to discuss Black history and student concerns. Senator Turner was suggested as a possible speaker due to prior connections , but attempts to contact her office have been unsuccessful. Plans are in place to visit the Capitol in person to follow up. It was suggested that reaching out to the Student Advocacy Coalition, which works with the system relations office, could facilitate communication. Volunteers are welcome to assist in planning if the speaker is confirmed.

**· Sexual Assault Awareness event**

The SGA is planning a sexual assault awareness event in March, moving away from the traditional April observance. The president of the Student Impact Coalition and the PR Center prevention educator on sexual assault awareness have been consulted, and a meeting is scheduled for Thursday to discuss the event details. Volunteers are encouraged to help organize, and suggestions for the event are welcome. The goal is for SGA to actively support this important cause on campus

**Discussion: - Lobby Day: Volunteers and UIS Promoting: Volunteers:**

The discussion covered several topics, including the promotion of UIS and Lobby Day. Miss Cynthia mentioned the need for volunteers to help promote UIS and also for the upcoming Lobby Day on February 26. The training for Lobby Day will be on February 7, and volunteers will need to attend the training to become lobby day leaders. Team leaders will be given a group of people and specific talking points for meetings with legislators, along with logistical details like the legislator's office location. The event is formal, and volunteers are advised to wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as they will be walking a lot. Both training and Lobby Day will have transportation provided from campus, ensuring that transportation is not a barrier to participation.

Some volunteers for Lobby Day were confirmed, including a couple of individuals who offered to participate. Additionally, it was mentioned that the MRK March will take place tomorrow, with transportation provided, and attendees should dress warmly. In a final update, the International Student Senator emailed to inform them that they would no longer be able to hold the position due to personal commitments.

**Adjourn**: Emma motioned to adjourn the meeting.Chris johnson seconded.