Name	Attendance	Class
Joseph Ayalew	Present	2028
Destiny Samare	Present	2028
Esther Ma	Present	2028
Grace Beatty	Present	2028
Aidan Keesler	Present	2028
Juliana Partida	Absent	2027
Anthony Buchfuhrer	Present	2027
Kevin Guo	Present	2027
Demetrius Daniel	Present	2027
Vaani Kapoor	Present, by proxy	2027
Simi Edeki	Present	2026
Maya McWilliams	Present	2026
Ben Fica	Present	2026
Chad Coen	Absent	2025
Alex Weiss	Absent	2025
Odunayo (Ayo) Akinade	Absent	2025
Soyoon/Sadie Moon	Absent	2025
Christopher Phillips	Absent	2025

Meeting called to order at 7:17 pm.

Agenda:
1. Call to Order
2. Approval of College Council Minutes
3. Approval of SGFC Minutes
4. E&R Conflict of Interest Directive
5. Election Code
6. USG Finance
7. Chair Process

8. Chair Approval
9. Cabinet Budget
10. Adjournment

Notes:
- Approval of the Agenda
  - **Anthony** moves to accept the agenda
  - **Esther** seconds the motion
  - *The agenda passes by unanimous consent (7:18 pm)*
- Approval of Last Week's Minutes
  - **Ben** moves to pass the minutes
  - **Destiny** seconds the motion
  - *The minutes pass by unanimous consent (7:19 pm)*
- USG Cabinet Budget
  - **Demetrius:** Elijah will be here to discuss this, but this is the proposed entire budget for USG covering RSOs, committees, internal USG expenses, and projects like the website. Once Elijah gets here, we can review it in detail.
  - **Elijah:** This is the budget. We have a $40K increase from last year's budget. We're cutting CC's funding a bit, but other committees are getting more money. The admin budget is usually the most confusing. We've kept some line items like *Taste of Hyde Park*. This is available for transfer: when you think about the money needed for committees, that's where it comes from. Based on this year, around $9,000 is a good amount.
  - **Nevin:** I don't know if any of you have used rso.funding.uchicago.edu, but the website is awful. With the budget increase, I set aside $10,000 in hopes that it'll be enough to modify the site, which will definitely make our RSOs happy.
  - **Elijah:** Two major changes: SCF is getting a lot more money this year. They haven't gotten an increase historically. We also increased SAO's budget because they're trying to get a private system to house their files. SAO is expanding. It's hard for them to manage everything through Gmail, so having a system for booking will be way more efficient. There's nothing negative going on here.
  - **Demetrius:** On the right is last year's budget, on the left is the new one.
  - **Elijah:** Last year, COMSA's budget was increased to $6K. We've decreased it to $5K this year, in case we're not able to maintain it next year.
  - **Kevin:** How bad is the current website? I haven't personally used it.
  - **Lasabra:** It's pretty bad.
  - **Nevin:** It references committees that don't exist and links to the old USG website. Hopefully we can integrate Blueprint. Right now, it's just a rolling spreadsheet and complicated.
  - **Kevin:** Who would the $10K go to?
  - **Elijah:** IT.
  - **Lasabra:** And IT costs a lot.
  - **Kevin:** You have to pay to book rooms, even if you're a university body?
  - **Nevin:** Did you know the student-run coffee shops pay rent?

- ○ **Ben:** Do you actually believe IT will charge us the full $10K?
- ○ **Elijah:** No, we're just saving that amount for now.
- ○ **Ben:** Do we have any sort of leverage or goodwill to negotiate for a discount?
- ○ **Elijah:** We did get a $40K increase.
- ○ **Nevin:** We can try begging. That was my plan.
- ○ **Nevin:** We can also ask them, "What can you do for $10K?"
- ○ **Ben:** Are there any known software costs, or is this just for labor?
- ○ **Nevin:** The other problem: have you tried going through 300 RSO budgets? That website is awful and takes hours.
- ○ **Ben:** I'm just trying to figure out where the $10K is going.
- ○ **Lasabra:** It's mostly labor. IT services and labor. It's a homegrown system, so they have to go in and rewrite a bunch of code.
- ○ **Lasabra:** A student could've received no funding, then go in and type in that they did. It's that open.
- ○ **Nevin:** SGFC also usually doesn't have Blueprint access. There are so many problems.
- ○ **Simmi:** We could find someone else to do it.
- ○ **Elijah:** If you know someone, send them our way. People still reach out to old reps, thinking they're current.
- ○ **Grace:** What about using a Wix site?
- ○ **Elijah:** Even with Wix, you have to pay. Voices is free for us.
- ○ **Ben:** Can I offer to figure it out and do it?
- ○ **Lasabra:** You'd be offering to redo the Voices website?
- ○ **Ben:** I know someone who did the Voices website for $100. I could get him.
- ○ **Elijah:** Send him our way. We can pay them over the summer. The application is still live.
- ○ **Anthony:** Why was Taste of Hyde Park cut?
- ○ **Nevin:** It was cheaper this year.
- ○ **Elijah:** They came in under budget.
- ○ **Anthony:** What about the emergency fund?
- ○ **Elijah:** The emergency fund was never allocated from USG's budget. It started as a fundraising campaign. Now it's dwindled over 10 years. Next year, we're hoping to launch a new campaign to replenish it. It won't be active for most of this year, unless y'all want to get a Metcalf and donate the money.
- ○ **Demetrius:** Do we feel comfortable voting on this?
- ○ **Ben** moves to override the bylaws and pass the 2025–2026 USG budget today by roll call vote.
- ○ **Destiny** seconds the motion.
- ○ *The motion passes (7:40 pm)*
- ○ **Anthony** moves to approve the 2025–2026 USG budget
- ○ **Destiny** seconds the motion.
- ○ **Roll Call Vote:**
    - ■ Anthony: Yes
    - ■ Joseph: Yes
    - ■ Kevin: Abstain

- ■ Vaani, by proxy: Abstain
- ■ Ayo: Yes
- ■ Ben: Yes
- ■ Destiny: Yes
- ■ Grace: Yes
- ■ Esther: Yes
- ■ Maya: Yes
- ■ Aidan: Yes
- ● Revision
  - ○ **Nevin**: I'm proposing a bylaws change. First, it delivers my draft recommendations. Second, it shifts the responsibility of making recommendations. And third, E&R will take over election turnout efforts. That's a major change to how elections are run. I was on the phone with two former E&R chairs brainstorming this because, honestly, none of us wanted this job as it stands.
  - ○ **Elijah**: For context, normally student government markets its own elections. But that's complicated when you're also running. This year, I had to create marketing content for the elections while campaigning, which was a clear conflict. So going forward, E&R will handle marketing and will actively recruit people who aren't running for reelection to do so.
  - ○ **Destiny**: Would that mean E&R would work with UChi Votes or similar groups?
  - ○ *Alex moves to pause the minutes.*
  - ○ **Lasabra**: If you can, please take time to review this thoroughly. Updating the constitution and bylaws is a big deal.
  - ○ **Nevin**: Let's at least hit the major changes. For example, in Title 4, Budget, it outlines when I have to notify you all about planned spending or allocation proposals. The timeline also includes all the things I need to report. If SGFC gets split in the future, this section outlines how that transition would work. But Section 22, which talks about rollover funds, was missing, so I rewrote the introduction to include confidentiality and records control. Basically, USG members will continue to respect confidentiality. Right now, there are thousands of shared documents with questionable usefulness. CC still retains the authority to approve an alternate if there's no E&R Chair or Secretary.
  - ○ **Nevin**: Section 13 says E&R shall be responsible for election turnout
  - ○ **Kevin**: Did you shift the interpretation of bylaws to E&R?
  - ○ **Nevin**: No, that's how it's already written.
  - ○ **Kevin**: Well, it's listed as E&R's job now.
  - ○ **Nevin**: If you check the current bylaws, it's been E&R's role for a while. We just haven't enforced it.
  - ○ **Alex**: Can you send the Google Docs edit history for comparison?
  - ○ **Nevin**: I actually worked on this in Word, but I'll see what I can find.
  - ○ **Kevin**: Adobe Acrobat has a document comparison feature, which I can try.
  - ○ **Nevin**: If you could help with that, I'd really appreciate it. Just to be clear, all these changes are things either you've approved me to do, the President asked me to do, or others requested. None of this originated solely from me.
  - ○ **Kevin**: When would you want the conflict of interest policy approved?

- ○ **Nevin**: By Wednesday, ideally.
  - ○ **Alex**: If you're on any committee that handles finances, I'd recommend showing up for those financial decisions.
  - ○ **Lasabra**: Everyone should have a solid understanding of how the financial committee works. You have a responsibility to the RSOs and students to know these systems thoroughly.
  - ○ **Kevin**: I feel like we approved the budget way too fast.
  - ○ **Anthony**: Why do you say that?
  - ○ **Kevin**: It's a multi-million-dollar budget. We should have scrutinized it more.
  - ○ **Anthony**: What would you have liked to see?
  - ○ **Kevin**: More time and closer review.
  - ○ **Ayo**: You mean you'd have liked to sit with it longer?
  - ○ **Kevin**: Exactly. We had it, but we didn't really dig in.
  - ○ **Elijah**: I'm here now if you have any questions.
  - ○ **Kevin**: I don't at the moment.
- ● Chair Process
  - ○ **Alex**: I've talked to people who attended the meeting, but I want to give a clear frame of reference for how elections will work. Each candidate will give a 90-second speech. We'll start with Chair elections, then move to Vice Chair elections. After each speech, there will be 2 minutes for questions. Once all candidates have spoken and answered questions, I'll take one speech for and one against each candidate. Voting will be done by secret ballot and decided by majority +1.
  - ○ **Ben**: What happens if there's more than one person running?
  - ○ **Alex**: We just keep going until we reach a decision.
  - ○ **Kevin**: Last year it went way over time. It was basically a conclave.
  - ○ **Alex**: I'll probably arrive late to that meeting, so the process might take the entire session. If I'm not there at the start, I'll ask Nevin to chair the meeting until I arrive and can step in.
  - ○ **Alex**: I believe elections are scheduled for Week 8.
  - ○ **Lasabra**: You're also welcome to schedule a one-on-one meeting with me if you have questions.
- ● Conflict of Interest Directive
  - ○ **Demetrius**: We want to make sure we're not seating anyone on a committee that oversees the finances of RSOs they're personally connected to.
  - ○ **Nevin**: We didn't use to have a formal process, but after E&R reported instances of toxic behavior, we put together a set of rules and regulations. A conflict of interest is a serious issue. We will be checking for them, and now is the time to report any. In theory, failure to disclose a conflict could result in something as severe as E&R recommending removal from your position. Don't take this lightly. Conflicts of interest can fast-track you into having to run for reelection.
  - ○ **Demetrius**: If you're unsure whether something counts as a conflict, just report it.
  - ○ **Ben**: That's the form we filled out two weeks ago, right?
  - ○ **Nevin**: I'm not sure how that form defines conflict of interest, but I would recommend reviewing this one and using it as guidance to ensure you've filled it out properly.

Examples include: if your roommate is the president of an RSO, if multiple close friends are members of an RSO, if you're on the board of an RSO, or if you're dating someone in an RSO. Basically, anyone with whom you have a close personal relationship and someone who might feel comfortable asking you for special treatment in a budgeting process should be flagged.
- ○ **Nevin**: When in doubt, abstain from voting.
- ○ **Lasabra**: Use your best judgment when evaluating the closeness of your relationships and your potential biases
- **Anthony** moves to adjourn the meeting
- **Destiny** seconds the motion
- *The meeting is adjourned (8:05 pm)*