

Meeting Minutes

Winter 2025, Week 9 | March 4th, 2025

1. Call to Order

- The meeting to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the University Centers Advisory Board was called to order at 2:05 pm on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, in the Warren College Room.

2. In Attendance

Shreya Ngunuri, Jess Huang, Scott Strong, Elijah Cheng, Holly Menninger, Olivia Ghilardi, Mia Veloria, Vitasta Mahajan, Camila Anaya, Sophia Li, June Jung, Danielle Sim, Nick Vacchio, Emily Trask, Xavier Lopez, Gabriella Ayala, Isabella Killian

3. Public Input

- N/A

4. Approval of Minutes

- Olivia Ghilardi - Motions to approve the meeting minutes
- Vitasta Mahajan - Seconds the motion

5. Special Presentation

- N/A

6. Chair Report

- Upcoming next quarter: Chair and Vice-Chair will be up for re-election
- End of spring quarter is when re-election takes place
- Budget committee and space allocation committee meetings next quarter, will most likely be Tuesday from 2:00 - 3:30 pm
- Headshots and group photo next quarter provided for everyone and it is free
- Same meeting time next quarter, make sure schedule is not overlapping, should you have a conflict let us know sooner we can come up with solution

7. Vice Chair Report

- Theta Tau - Professional night, April 1st, Estimated attendance: 100, Amount requested: \$187.50, Amount Recommended: \$100 approved for \$100 - 5 approved, 0 denied
- Techfee subsidies slow right now, will come back up in week 1 and week 2 of Spring Quarter
- Sprout up, mixed student union and Student veteran organization moved in, were previously in waitlist, student veterans last to move in

8. Executive Director Report (Interim Nick Vacchio)

- Good job to all of the board for their hard work!

9. New Business

- N/A

10. Old Business

- Starbucks feedback?
- Would people support a campus alternative, 78%, art of espresso, better buzz, philz coffee, etc.
- About 21% think it should be kept
- Jess - From what I know fraternities and sororities prefer having starbucks, everyone else was pro-removing or did not really care about the decision
- Gabriela - The people I talked to were up for idea of having something new but the time was kind of an issue, did not want to wait that long, frustration over timeline
- Xavier - Student leaders do not think price tag is worthwhile, if a new vendor came in, it would be fine but mostly replace it with something else
- Isabella - People are more worried about how long it would take, how much is the estimated time?
- Nick - It would depend on who we chose, we can't do anything that cooks food given spatial constraints it would be very difficult to have someone, depends on pay for rent, process of vacant space is tricky think about nail salon vacant for over a year ago and still thinking of who could be in charge
- Shreya - Polling on international students and most of them were pro starbucks because name brand is definitely there and it reflects a sentiment for people visiting campus, it is important to consider that subsection of population
- Mia - People in MUIR would rather move starbucks and moms, it is just way more busy but a space welcoming students is something that people are looking for, a different feel, Mom's is very homey
- Xavier - Well let's keep in mind the change in leadership in starbucks, design in furniture in store CEO has expressed shops can be a stay and enjoy experience aspects of how you order and get your drink, better cater to that welcome mentioning
- Emily - Staff it is very popular and that is one constituent almost everyday people go to starbucks, it is a known quantity, nervous to have something that no one has heard of
- Elijah - It should not be political in any sense, but we shouldn't keep it on campus, the space is too small to have furniture changes

- Olivia - And if some individuals choose to see it with a political lense we have to think what if in a few years people are not caring about such ideas and trends, long term decision based on short term feelings
- Xavier - We own it so we see a lot of that negative feedback, but the hate and low sales is not just directed towards our Starbucks
- Vote:
- Keeping starbucks on campus:
- Motion to vote whether starbucks stays on campus: Eijah Cheng
- External vendor, but starbucks remains on campus: 6 votes
- Not keeping starbucks on campus operated by external vendor: 6
- Abstain vote: 0
- Does not pass so it will continue next quarter
- Elijah - keep in mind we will no longer be in charge of that space and most students workers will leave
- Isabella - 50/50 students can still be hired and at the end of the day they are franchise of starbucks
- Replace starbucks with a new venture : Holly Mellinger
- Vote yes: 6
- Vote no: 7
- Abstain: 0
- Starbucks will remain on campus but we need to vote
- Keep starbucks on campus operated by external: Isabella Killian
- Vote yes: 9 votes
- Vote no: 3 votes
- Abstain: 0
- Extend starbucks lease operated by external vendor
- June - what would happen if no one steps up
- It would remain as storage

11. Member Reports

- Xavier - lower than expected traffic action immediate for Shores, a substitute for budget committee for space allocation committee, uni center has space in stage room and it is a venue adjacent to shores diner, not supportive for shores nor advantages of space interested in redeveloping on how we are managing the space, what can make it better, task force
- Shreya - What would the workload take up?
- I think i would envision a 30 min. to hour meeting, until there is something to come back to the board with

- Olivia - Some people said shores was gross and did not think it was undergrad friendly since it serves alcohol, does not feel safe, branding issue, the goal should be to make it feel like a welcoming space
- More social media activity, unspoken vibe that it is mostly for grad students
- Holly - I've heard some council members said it is expensive
- Xavier - social life for campus, targeting uc socially dead stigma, invest in a club-like atmosphere, uni center commitment, reservations for space, maybe making it non-reservable and giving space to as, as paying for security dj, etc, maybe would uprise shores
- Trask - student organization space is in demand just send something over reminding people that there is a lot of demand for space and that can be an open space, what is the space ?
- Nick - 70 people but could hold 120

12. Open Forum/ Announcements

- Xavier - Last time there was 3 space allocations in the waitlist, is that still the case?
- Jess - only ones reached out bak interested about space

13. Adjournment

- **The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM on 03/04/25.**
- **Next meeting is set to be at 2PM on 04/01/25.**