Executive Committee

Minutes

February 24, 2015

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Room 5489

Members Present: Amy Martin (AM), Dominique Nisperos (DN), Jen Prince (JP), Cecilia Salvi (CS), Stephanie Vella (SV)

JP calls meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda
   1. DN motions to approve with one emendation; New Business 6. Psychology Restructuring and DSC Representation. Cecelia Salvi seconds. Passes unanimously.
2. Approval of the Minutes of September 30, 2014
   1. CS motions to approve the minutes, SV 2nds. Passes unanimously
3. Executive Committee Reports
   1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin, ccsa@cunydsc.org)
      1. At the Executive Committee of Graduate Council meeting on Feb. 23, AM asked that gendered titles (Mr. & Ms.) be removed from use; in the future these should not be used, but Patti Myatt may need reminding.
      2. Jen Tang (Social Media Correspondent) asked that the Social Media Event Form be added to the main menu of the DSC site, so AM added this under the Services menu.
      3. The Provost, Louise Lennihan, is meeting with other administrators to learn how to accommodate students’ preferred names on Blackboard.
      4. The DSC now has the Spring matriculated students list. It has been uploaded to VoteNet for use in any special elections during the spring. Another version with the most up-to-date OpenCUNY users will be uploaded after the first week of March.
      5. Dominique Nisperos (Advocate Advisory Board), Cihan Tekay (DSC Rep.) and Laurel Mei Turbin (DSO) have all agreed to be members of the Advocate Hiring Team for editor-in-chief. The first meeting will be March 6th.
   2. Co-Chair for Communications (Dominique Nisperos, ccc@cunydsc.org)
      1. Reaching out to IT for access to all-student email and Kentico calendar. Working to fix issues with Mass email from /works part of website.
      2. Sent DSC section to the Advocate, but haven't heard back from the editor. Please send Steering info for the next issue by the day of the next Plenary.
   3. Co-Chair for Business (Jen Prince, ccb@cunydsc.org)
      1. Spoke to Business office about getting gendered titles removed from checks. Ab will talk to IT about this.
      2. Met with server team (IT). Reiterated information from email, asked for commitment to fixing these issues. They would like to know when the security updates will be done, and when/what items have been completed. They will submit forms to the site every 5-10 minutes to see if form queries are overly complicated and slowing down the system.
      3. The GC is hiring for the External Affairs position. Out of 122 applicants, only 43 met the minimum requirements. Meeting on March 5th.
      4. The Advocate received 3 applications for managing editor, only one is qualified based on matriculation
      5. Budget: fall estimate for spring numbers was pretty close (off by about $500). We have enough steering discretionary to cover this.
   4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi, [uss@cunydsc.org](mailto:uss@cunydsc.org))
      1. Board of Trustees: Next meeting is on 3/2. One student contacted about speaking at the meeting
      2. USS Plenary: Next meeting is on 3/15. Might propose a resolution on Black Lives Matter and/or Police Repression; and/or a resolution in Support of Adjuncts/Students; Nicole Ponzo, VC Grad Affairs reported on our meeting to USS Steering
      3. USS Agenda for the year:
         1. #3 Audit:
            1. Meeting with Chris Rosa and Tom Zhou (Treasurer, Controller). Waiting to set date
            2. Meeting with VC Borington (Financial Affairs)
         2. #6 At GC: increase involvement of USS on committees; added two students to Academic Affairs Committee, but it hasn’t met yet
         3. #7 Misc: Meeting this Friday with Claudia Wald, VC for Tech Fee
   5. UFS Liaison (Stephanie Vella, [ufs@cunydsc.org](mailto:ufs@cunydsc.org))
      1. Asked the Chair to be a guest at Plenary, in hopes of prioritizing interactions between the UFS and the DSC.
      2. The only practical way of passing items in UFS is via the Executive Committee.
      3. UFS has been touting that they want to build relationships with student governments more, including sending a member of the body to USS meetings.
      4. As a program rep, an enormous amount of student emails/complaints have been coming in about the new student email transition.
      5. CS asks how long Terry Martell will be chair of UFS. SV notes that he is up for re-election and seems interested in running. But even it it isn't him, the next chair will likely be a current member of the Executive Committee.
      6. JP notes that the DSC liaison to the UFS is a complicated position because of constant turnover. SV adds that the full-time faculty members, to the contrary, are often members for a very long time, and they know each other very well. Getting an official GC student spot on this body may help fix this.
4. New Business
   1. Space
      1. Prayer
         1. JP suggests we think of a strategy of how to advocate for space for prayer, meditation, peace and quiet.
         2. DN asks if there are any spaces we can ask for specifically, notes that we don't know how classroom spaces are used. And asks if there would be any way to create a "chapel" in the Skylight room.
         3. JP notes that we've already asked that this room be open to students when it isn't reserved for special events. Suggests we can push again on it.
         4. CS suggests we ask for a dedicated space, for example, one classroom that would just be used for reflection.
         5. DS notes that the best way to ask for this may be in writing. We could then CC all of the relevant departments: facilities, student affairs, room reservations, etc. We can think of this as a diversity issue.
      2. Student Activities
         1. CS suggests that this should be considered over the long term, but we can prioritize the space for prayer/meditation right now.
         2. DS notes that as we have fewer students, there may be fewer classes, and therefore finding a dedicated space for prayer/meditation should become easier.
   2. Meeting Times for 2015-2016
      1. DN reports that we know that meeting times are not in the bylaws, but determined by historic best practices. We did change the time of one meeting this year, but due to the very controversial nature of one resolution.
      2. AM reports that a current DSC Rep brought up the fact that we have no definition of what "representation" is on the body. This is a debate that might come out of the proposed change to the Proxy policy and how it relates to those who can’t attend meetings on Friday evenings.
      3. JP notes that we would need to take into consideration the lag time of posting minutes if we define participation as something other than being present at meetings.
      4. DN reminds the body that there has also been discussion about whether minutes are transcriptions.
      5. JP suggest that this is something we can teach new Reps at the DSCE meeting in May.
      6. SV reports that UFS audio records all meetings, but there is the caveat that everyone must use microphone.
      7. DN suggests that we consider this issue the way we consider the yearly policies (like room reservations); Steering would review the needs of the students and decide yearly on the meeting times.
      8. JP suggests that we share our thoughts on the use of technology to represent students; we could add this as an agenda item on the Joint Steering Committee in May.
   3. Term Limits
      1. DN asks if we want to pursue a CUNY bylaw change to allow Steering Members to serve two years in addition to a mid-year election (for less than half a year), which they are currently prohibited from doing.
      2. SV comments that it would be a good bylaw change.
      3. AM suggests that it promotes continuity, which is useful.
      4. JP suggests that we work with USS on this.
      5. SV asks if this bylaw applies to faculty serving on faculty governance bodies.
      6. DN asks if we should frame this as a special case for the GC, or for all student governments.
      7. CS will reach out to USS to see if any students on other campuses have experienced similar issues.
      8. DN will look at the CUNY bylaws.
   4. Diversity
      1. DN suggests that we continue to push the president on diversity issues and being informed by key stakeholders.
   5. CUNY 2020
      1. JP reports that we need to nominate two students to serve on the CUNY 2020 committee headed up by the Provost.
      2. DN suggests Stefanie A. Jones. JP suggests SV. Backup suggestions: Hamad Sindhi, JP.
      3. DN suggests we move Hamad up to second on the list, SAJ down the list to third.

JP leaves the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

* 1. Psychology Restructuring and DSC Representation
     1. AM reports on Psychology students’ concerns and short-term solutions for representation by campus.
     2. AM will create an ad-hoc committee at the March Plenary to discuss more long-term solutions.
  2. Student Advocacy
     1. DN wonders if the DSC could do more to aid students being pushed out of their programs. We could think of different ways of advocating; a best practices/guideline for students; legal services.
     2. SV reports that a student in theatre who failed first exams twice (about two years ago) was the first student in the history of the program to file for an appeal at the Executive Committee level. Is there no record? Do students not file appeals because of other roadblocks?
     3. DN reports that previous students who asked for help from the DSC were accompanied by a Steering member to various committees and administrative meetings.
     4. CS notes that pushouts might be program-specific (as in quantity or frequency), so our first step might be to reach out to program reps to see what the figures/concerns are. Then we could compile information for future students in these situations, based on the idea of program governance.
     5. AM notes that the Handbook is very vague, so compiling information and anecdotal evidence would be useful for any student during the appeals process.
  3. Announcements
     1. None
  4. Adjournment
     1. CS motions to adjourn. SV seconds. Passes unanimously.

The meeting ends at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by AM