The Doctoral Students' Council
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Plenary
Executive Committee
Steering Committee
Constitution and Bylaws
Grants
Health Issues
Outreach
Student Services
USS Advisory Committee
Governance Task Force
Student Tech Fee

Constitution and Bylaws Committee
October 7, 2014
Minutes

Meeting is called to order at 2:05pm

I. Approval of agenda
A. AM motions to approve the agenda with the addition of Old Business item "Approved amendments that need to be presented to the October plenary." DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
II. Approval of minutes
A. AM motions to approve the minutes from April 2014. DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously
III. Old Business
A. AM presents the old bylaws changes that have been approved but need to be re-presented in October to vote in November.
1. Bylaw 3.8 Emeritus DSC Leadership Advisory Board
2. Hiring committee bylaw 1.4
3. Changes to bylaw 8.3a Recognition of Program Student Association's Petition Requirements
IV. New Business
A. Edit to Bylaw 3.7 on convening Governance Task Force
1. Discussion of who should convene the GTF. Agreement that it should be the Co-Chair for Student Affairs.
2. Discussion of changing the membership to all interested members of the DSO because there's nothing that should reasonably limit the membership to just DSC. AM points out that the structure committee members would not necessarily be DSC reps and that former DSC reps could also be helpful in this group.
3. AM motions to change Bylaw 3.7 b to state "all interested members of the ~~DSC~~DSO". JP seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
4. DN motions to change Bylaw 3.7 c to state: "The Governance Task Force shall elect at least two co-leaders from among its members at its first meeting, which shall be convened by the Co-Chair for Student Affairs." KBB seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
B. Proposed changes to Bylaw 3.2c.
1. Discussion of the additions and the justification. DN asks January too late to let the people submitting applications know when the meeting is? AM explains that this language takes into account current practice because of changes in class and teaching

schedules in the spring. JP responds that the change also allows for the meetings to be set at the December meeting or at any time that the committee has their schedules set.

2. JP motions to change Bylaw 3.2 c to include these additions. AM seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

   AM motions to add item New Business D "Discussion of attendance policy," DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

C. Replacing board members within affiliate organizations

1. JP explains OpenCUNY's board eligibility and elections.
2. AM suggests looking to Program Representatives Special Elections procedures in the Constitution, V.2.1 Replacement due to vacancy, Representatives. KBB and DN suggest looking to Bylaw 1.6.b Withdrawal of Appointment. Discussion about the merits of both. Should this be done formally or informally?
3. AM motions to table this discussion to next meeting with KBB following up with OpenCUNY and the Advocate regarding any handling of board absenteeism in the past. DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

D. Discussion of Attendance Policy

1. AM explains some concerns of a former DSC rep regarding representation in a program where the representative is doing just the minimum to stay a program rep (missing every other meeting, showing up to vote once or twice then leaving, getting proxies).
2. DN mentions the limits of having a policy. Could we limit the number of proxies every year? What about having a policy for number of absences over the number of meetings instead of just the policy of missing two consecutive meeting? DN also points out the point of democracy implies that the answer to this would be mounting a campaign against the representative the following year.
3. JP notes that there is procedure in place for recall. DN notes that the recall numbers are high, ⅔ of program members.
4. AM mentions that a change in attendance policy may increase the number of representatives at a meeting or increase representative turnover and vacant seats.
5. AM will speak to the student who is concerned about representation and mention the possibility of a recall vote.

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment. AM motions to adjourn. DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously

Meeting ends at 3:04pm