

## Plenary meeting of the Doctoral Student's Council

Date: Friday, September 19, 2003

Time: Meeting Called to order 6:08pm

Chair: Carolyn Fisher

Minutes: JosÈ L. Zambrana, Jr.

Quorum Present

### I. Approval of Agenda

1) Item II, "Approval of Old Minute" was removed as they were not present for approval.

2) For Item V, sub-topic D was added and designated "Hunter 3 information"

The approval of the Agenda was motioned, seconded, and passed without objection.

### III. Provost Bill Kelly

Provost Kelly spoke about the new "tuition package". Some key points in his presentation:

6-year phase-in plan, 2 million dollars now, with planned increase to 5 million

Idea is to have recruitment packages that will include 5 years of tuition "remission"

(scholarship actually)

The Graduate Center will control the assignment of new teaching fellowships (about 600)

The new deal extends to incoming Science & Gileece Fellows as well

The new package does not directly benefit present students. It should indirectly benefit by "freeing up" program money to support current students, and also current students can be substituted in when vacancies development due to attrition.

It is unlikely that other monies will be available to CUNY Central to help current students because with the package, the Graduate Center has "made it big", and CUNY still suffers from a 120 million dollar hit to the City/State budget crisis. However, Albany will continue to be solicited.

Rep's were encouraged to read the article by Carolyn Fisher in the Advocate.

Q&A.

Q. Incoming students who don't get a package and still teach, will they still have to pay tuition? Yes.

Q. Will they still have opportunities to adjunct?

A. Yes. There are plenty of adjunct positions available CUNY-wide - ~ six thousand.

Q. Will the pay be the same as it is now?

Yes. Because they are PSC titles, they get the same pay, and the contract is negotiated by the

Union. It will be at the "Graduate Assistant C" rate.

Q. Where did the money come from?

A. Will power and work of administrators. Also, when the PSC had given one

million dollars last year for one year, the University agreed to maintain its one million dollar commitment after the PSC did not renew. Reserve funds from all the CUNY colleges provided the other one million dollars because this effort was seen as a University-wide issue.

Q. There is still issue for current students when resources dry up. How will this be addressed? Will new students know the specifics of support package early on (like where they will teach in order to choose where to live)?

A. The new money will help all around. For the new packages, the teaching requirement doesn't begin until the second year so people could have a year to figure out their housing.

Other questions can be addressed to Provost Kelly by e-mail:  
bkelly@gc.cuny.edu

Any answers received could be forwarded to the DSC via list-serv.

#### IV. Old Business

##### A. Presentation of Constitutions of New Chartered Organizations

###### 1. Culture Club - presentation by Efua Okoh.

Robert Landsman of the Mathematics Ph.D. program was the brainchild.

Various events have been going on (tourism, Broadway shows, etc.).

Activities open to all GC community.

Ticketed events - plan to offer tickets at discounted rate to matriculated students. Others can participate of course, but will not receive the discount. Also, there may be discounted tickets through TDF (Theatre Development Fund).

Unticketed events - free to all.

Publicize through DSC website and procure DSC funding.

Q&A

Q. How will the President and Treasurer be voted into office?

A. Voting will be done electronically.

There will be three officers, faculty advisors, and a treasurer.

## 2. Eighteenth Century Group.

Meet once month and is primary a discussion group.

Plan on inviting speakers (faculty from GSUC, other schools, and also students finishing dissertations) to give a paper talk. Afterwards, then hold a small reception and discussion.

Would like to have outings. Everything is free and open to all.

Have a list-serv right now of 80 members.

Point of order - Can we charter clubs which have formal elections? No.

B. Approval of DSC Budget - presentation by JosÈ L. Zambrana, Jr.,

DSC Co-Chair for Business

Acknowledgement of last year's Co-Chair for Business, Charlyn Hilliman for preparing a draft budget. The budget presented had a few changes to reflect goals set by the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs.

By-laws funds are present in a separate account and are mandated by the DSC

Constitution.

The entire budget plus surplus is allocated to help prevent the Administration

From asking for increases in the DSC's contribution to certain things.

The Business Office will no longer upfront the entire Student Activity Fee, but pay as it is collected.

Question of increased funding of external audit.

Answer by Charlyn - audit is being increased because when we were running a deficit for many years, the GC split it with us. Most student govt's pay for their own audits.

Warning-budget increases can't be sustained since we're spending down a surplus.

10,000 increase to wellness center = expenses going up and poor planning on their part becomes an emergency on our part.

Subsidizing medical tests at wellness center 90%.

Motion to approve budget, seconded, passed, 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

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## V. New Business

### A. Orientation for DSC Student Rep's.

Materials were passed on in folder which included pertinent information on Chartered Organizations, Departmental Allocations, and the members of the Executive and Steering Committees.

B. DSC Goals Resolution

Important to include Graduate Assistant issues!

The Resolution is like a "Manifesto" for the year.

There was a question on expatiating point IV of the resolution (concerning statements to be made by the DSC). The point is meant to be general and non-binding as any specific resolutions would be concerned by the plenary for adoption in the future.

Motion to approve Resolution, seconded, and passed, 32 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain

C. Announcement of Committees

Cultural Affairs - 2 people (1 hour/month)

Special Events - 3 or 4 people, raising awareness of DSC

Political Monitoring Committee, 2 or 3 people

Constitutional Convention - 2 people (2 2-hour meetings)

Welcome party committee - 3 people (10 hours at beginning)

Grad Center Committees - Constant [aeisenberg@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:aeisenberg@gc.cuny.edu)

Sign up after the Plenary

D. Resolution in support of Miguel Malo

Presentation by Paul McBreen

Seems good to support. Resolution was read.

Extensive discussion followed.

Do we know if Miguel has a criminal record? No.

What was written on the sign he was holding up at the protest?

"NO FUNDING CUTS TO BILINGUAL AND SPANISH PROGRAMS"

Who else has supported his cause? Various CUNY Professors, other CUNY student governments, USS.

Do we know what the exact charges are? No.

Suggested that the middle paragraph be deleted from the resolution.

It was suggested that the resolution should state our support "in principle" - without becoming entangled in details.

Suggestion that the last paragraph needed clarification on legal things listed.

More information is available in the press and can be forwarded to the list-serv.

Suggest that the DSC should generalize its support of peaceful protest, and mention "people like Miguel Malo" without getting involved in evaluating his legal posture.

Suggestion that the resolution as written was based on fact when few facts were available to the DSC presently.

Question of the time-sensitivity of the resolution? Support for the demonstration is time-sensitive, and it is possible to endorse the demonstration and work further on the resolution.

Motion to send the resolution to committee for further work or call the question now?

Seconded. Vote to send to committee passed by a clear majority.

Discussion on supporting the demonstration was tabled.

VI. Updates

University Student Senate (USS) (Charlyn Hilliman)

Chancellor alluded to incremental tuition hikes to offset cuts.

USS wants to strengthen communication now ahead to network to deal with this.

Dealing with current students' tuition - USS wants to reopen issue in Albany -

Have an intern (lobbyist) in Albany from USS.

FITNESS CENTER. Ernesto Malvo thinks the GC administration is not really pushing this issue to CUNY central. Adjuncts are throughout CUNY and have few privileges - these needs further work. We need to work on getting the GC admin. to support this issue and bring it up to the Chancellery frequently. There is also a need to address the issue of seamless transfer between CUNY schools at undergrad and grad levels.

The issue of support the Miguel Malo demonstration was revisited.

There was still discomfort because of a lack of details about the case.

Suggestion that more info could be forwarded to the list-serv.

Suggestion that individuals sign the resolution in support of the demonstration rather than the DSC as a body.

The question was called:

Motion to sign demonstration resolution as the DSC

Seconded

20 for

12 against (noted, 'Stewart Hung from Chemistry voted against')

2 abstain

Motion passed.

#### VII. Announcements

We will continue to revisit the Malo resolution.

Urge participation on committees.

DSC to form an ad-hoc Fitness Center committee.

Comment from Jacob Kramer regarding tuition scholarships: Political momentum was taken from the issue of charging tuition to getting the new package for new students, which got nothing for current students. Departments still have to offer support to the new fellows during their non-teaching years.

Comment from Charlyn Hilliman - Need to still voice things to GC admin. and involvement of USS critical.

Comment - Who are these "desired students" that the GC is looking for to give the new tuition packages too?

Comment - Kate Moss - PSC still in negotiations. They need our support.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed without objection.