

Doctoral Students' Council Plenary Minutes  
February 6, 2004  
Room 5414  
6 p.m.

Meeting Chair: Brenda Jenkins  
Minutes: Paul McBreen

B. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

- I. The agenda was approved with no alterations.
- II. The minutes of the plenary held on December 12, 2003 were approved.
- III. The guest speaker, Sandor John (History program, GC), spoke on the state of the Miguel Malo legal situation. The new trial date is March 8, 2003 and the new attorney will be Lynn Stewart (spelling uncertain). He told of the original incident, during which Miguel Malo was arrested at Hostos Community College and then answered questions posed to him by members of the plenary. P. Mauro asked about state of ESL programs at Hostos (the original incident occurred during a protest to cuts in funding to English-language programs). K. Moss asked if Hostos' protest policy was distributed widely to the community and if M. Malo was asked to leave with his sign. S. John replied that Malo was not given a clear order to leave and that no policy was distributed in Spanish. D. Wetzel asked what took place in so many court appearances. John spoke of preliminary court procedures such as admission of evidence. C. Braxton remarked that a community college is public space. S. John said that the presence of children on campus is the reason given by the administration for its restrictive policy on protests. M. Egan asked if the arresting officers were NYPD or CUNY officers and if they had jurisdiction to make arrests. S. John explained that "SAFE" is an elite CUNY force deputized by the NYPD and that they can make arrests by turning over arrested individuals to NYPD. K. Moss asked about the Spanish language proficiency of arresting officers. P. Mauro asked about the photos taken of Malo's back after the incident and their admission as evidence. S. John said that the prosecution blocked their admission as evidence.

At this point, B. Jenkins altered the agenda by moving forward the "update" to be given by D. Wetzel (Agenda section V. A.) so he could leave. D. Wetzel requested that reps take flyers and talk to people about the party on Wed. Feb. 11. He read his flyer/invitation and reminded the plenary that the party is important since contract negotiations are coming up. He spoke of the COCAL conference in Chicago during the upcoming summer. He announced a tabling effort, seeking help in tabling and popcorn with the goal of publicizing the issue of adjunct labor. B. Jenkins reminded the reps that the party date was looming and that reps needed to speak to people about it.

- IV. New Business
  - A. Proposal to adopt resolution in support of Miguel Malo. M. Egan called for a reading of the resolution. B. Jenkins read it. P. McBreen spoke out urging others to vote in favor of adopting the resolution. K. Moss said that

the PSC's support of Malo influenced her in supporting the resolution. The resolution passed with a vote of 27 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

- B. USS Alternate representative position is open. K. Moss was applauded for having stepped forward earlier to be the USS delegate. C. Fisher spoke in search of an alternate. M. Egan declined a nomination. C. Braxton nominated herself. Vote was held and C. Braxton was elected to the USS Alternate position.
- C. Constitutional convention: C. Tipton begins with article on "reserve fund". The DSC will maintain a reserve fund. J. Zambrana explained that the DSC may be sued. Other student groups have insurance and it was suggested that we get insurance. Previous DSC co-chairs were looking into purchasing insurance. M. Egan clarified that a process is underway and that the matter must be made a referendum before the student body. Regarding program allocations deadlines, C. Tipton said that it was favorable to add language to the constitution listing the deadlines. For Fall term the check requests must be submitted by the first day of the Spring semester. The deadline for Spring is June 23<sup>rd</sup>; the Business office closes at the end of June. Representatives who submit before the deadline are listed. Those who do not make the deadline will forfeit their funds. Money not allocated will be pooled in a fund for sharing by those programs who do submit requests before deadline. K. Moss: deadlines are important. C. Tipton: a representative should be able to pool funds for expenditure on a major event/project in one semester. The EO would have to write letter of explanation to the Business office confirming that the program has a large project planned for which funds from two semesters could be combined. J. Zambrana: the "pooling" idea is designed to spark competition. Representative: letters from EO may not be appropriate and "punishment" purposes are not beneficial. J. Kramer: how does the pooled money become allocated? K. Moss: perhaps a different kind of penalty is possible. P. Proscia: policy should be flexible enough to accommodate the realities of grad student life.

V. Announcements/updates

- A. C. Fisher spoke on chartered organization fair. B. Jenkins reminded reps to speak to others about events and to attend themselves.
- B. Tech fee update: J. Zambrana recalled the last plenary's adoption of resolution regarding the expenditure of tech fee funds, i.e. that such expenditures must meet with DSC approval. Fifteen rooms (5 completed, 10 uncompleted) are slated to be high-tech equipped (Power point, etc). P. Proscia: other campuses have no-fee copying. We need this. J. Zambrana speaks about upgrades and programs which the GC supports currently. We are getting student web services. A special server must be purchased and people hired to maintain it (full-time support person). The "teaching aspect" is under discussion. Someone must be hired part-time to do systems-related maintenance. Hopefully, a GC student may be hired in this capacity. On terminal services, VPN will allow students to use programs from off-campus location. P. McBreen: should students block attempts by

administration to make CUNY “wireless” at the expense of students? J. Zambrana: what should we take to IR regarding wireless technology? K. Moss: does President have power to spend money anyway? J. Zambrana: President does have final decision in expenditures of tech fee money.

- C. D. Wetzel spoke already (cf. above)
- D. Mid-year goals update. C. Fisher summarized list of goals. P. Mauro: we need more leverage over administrators. If students are not being served year after year we need to come up with strategies.
- E. S. Carbonargi speaks on Roosevelt island housing. Rep.s speak negatively of the recent housing survey.
- F. P. Proscia mentions the pay phone on concourse level which does not work.
- G. S. Gordon spoke on health insurance survey coming via program email and encourages all to take the survey. Questions are answered about survey.