

Doctoral Students' Council Plenary Minutes  
March 12, 2004

Chair: Moira Egan  
Minutes: Paul McBreen

The DSC plenary was called to order at 6:18 p.m.

- I. The agenda was approved with several changes: K. Moss's discussion moved to Sec. IV B and H. Gautney's to IV C. Section IV D to become "PSC/CUNY March 20<sup>th</sup> event".
- II. The minutes of the February plenary were approved with one change in Sec III: the acronym SAFE should be defined.
- III. Guest speaker: John Flanigan, NYPIRG. He began with background information regarding CUNY's voter registration card. CUNY has its own coded card so that politicians will know exactly the extent to which voter registration in CUNY is successful. NYPIRG along with the USS's Democracy Project intends to increase the student electorate. "Help America Vote Act" was discussed. NYPIRG will be a watchdog since first time voters will have to show identification and electronic voting apparatus must be supervised. C. Braxton: can people currently registered re-register with CUNY form? J.F.: not necessary. J. Kramer: can those not registered vote w/affidavit? J.F.: one must be registered. J.F.: NYPIRG, Common Cause are looking for coalition partners.
- IV.
  - A. Democracy Project at GC (C. Fisher). The USS encourages each campus to hold at least one event which highlights importance of voter registration and immigrant naturalization. P. McBreen: we need Republicans and Democrats, not just Democrats to speak. K. Moss: This should happen late April/early May. We may be able to get celebrities. L. Fasano: HBO/MTV celebs are being courted for events in which voter reg's must be shown for admission to event.
  - B. K. Moss's USS update after her first meeting as delegate. NYC Council Lobby Day is coming up. More info TBA. USS passed a resolution regarding tech fee. Our DSC resolution is being considered as a model. USS also passed resolution to create a position specifically for tech fee matters. Student appointees on tech fee committees must be approved by the President of the student gov't on a given campus. The matter arose at USS (a draft is underway) also regarding the canceling of classes on national holidays. Questions arose regarding current policy. K. Moss agreed to consult current class-cancellation policies. K. Moss on health insurance survey: Survey did not open where it said "click here." She explained that this was about the possibility of a mandatory health fee. The URL will be re-circulated and completed surveys are due 3/24. Rep's discussed confusion regarding survey.
  - C. H. Gautney on Adjunct Project: PSC is now negotiating contracts. Negot. Committee wants student representation. It's a huge time commitment,

once a week. The end of April and beginning of May will see a rise in health care issue. V.P. will want students to speak up on need for health care. H. Gautney will email people to volunteer to do this. Adj. Proj. working with and without PSC to organize COCAL in NYC. She explained COCAL (Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor) and the need to create NY/Metro area coalition concerned with adjunct rights. NYU is threatening a strike. On May 14 there is a meeting at the GC, people from other universities are being invited. A group is forming to protest the RNC (Republican National Convention); the group meets at the GC. In the Sociology lounge there is a banner-making event at 6:30, 3/17, to prepare for the 3/20 protest.

D. J. Zambrana on budget: Budget for next year assumes constitutional changes will go into effect. We were charged for audit now instead of later as in the past. DSC may need a vote to re-allocate funds. The Trav/Res Fund ran out. We were notified in January about shortfall; a list of people remains requesting funds. In order to balance for next year we can only contribute again \$30K. We need to make decisions about our expenditures. One third of our funds go to this fund. C. Braxton: Can we vote to increase our student activity fee to support these items? J. Zambrana: we can but must make argument regarding its use. We need 10% of student body to approve of this. We must take more funds from reserve fund.

Administration agreed to match our contribution.

V. Announcements: DSC elections (C. Fisher): We need volunteers to help stuff envelopes. There will be incentives for those who stay and stuff. Nominations due Monday 3/15. Coffee hour: Thurs. April 1. End of year party will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. Housing: (P. McBreen, C. Fisher, M. Egan): Trip to Roosevelt Island discussed.

VI. Constitutional convention (C. Tipton): More written info is forthcoming. All changes will be distributed to constituents. P. McBreen: explained Media Board changes in constitution. J. Zambrana: Media Board section needs to indicate that webmaster may be different person for DSC and Advocate. Article III sec's B and D were discussed with regard to last year's contentious plenary. Issue arose on whether amendment is needed to clarify language about "politics" and "representation". J. Kramer: the issue was about the nature of "representation". Discussion about salaries of executive committee. Article IV sec 2.1 regarding "nomination period". An overall deadline for voting process is favorable. M. Egan: Can we have students address referenda via email. A. Kwan: we need wording in the constitution which allows for electronic voting.

VII. Adjournment: 8:20