

Doctoral Students' Council
Plenary Meeting
October 22, 2004

Chair: Paul McBreen
Minutes: Celia Braxton

The meeting was called to order at 6:22 pm due to a delay in food delivery. A quorum was present.

- I. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- II. Minutes of the September 10th meeting were approved with the following changes: Under III.B., in the second paragraph, the words “to know” were added after “DSC.” The passage now reads, “She wants members of the DSC to know that there are student scholarships . . .” The minutes were unanimously approved pending corrections.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Business Cards: Stephanie Domenici announced that business cards had arrived for those representatives who had authorized them at the previous meeting. Those needing to authorize cards could do so by checking the information in their representative packet and handing it to Stephanie or Paul.
 - B. Information Resources Tech. Fee: The I.R. budget will be going up on the website. New spending includes (1) \$22,000 on video conferencing capabilities. Current capabilities are slim to none. These capabilities will aid in meetings of dissertation committees, for instance. (2) \$27,000 in specialist output lab equipment— a new high fidelity printer, 3-D poster sized printing and video editing equipment. This will soon be set up on five terminals around the building. Workshops on how to operate it will be taking place soon. (3) Salary for a person to maintain the Web page server. Web pages will soon be available for all. (4) Development of remote U-drive availability and file sharing from remote locations.

A comment from the floor: At a recent DreamWeaver workshop, students were instructed on forming their own websites. The URL is <wfs.gc.cuny.edu>.

Paul also stated that we need to begin paying more attention to oversight of I.R. tech fee usage. We have seen no receipts on anything. Finally, he stated, there is a feeling in I.R. that printing privileges are being misused, particularly on the Concourse level. Paper costs are going up. Suggestions from the floor regarding this included: (1) Set the printers to print double-sided by default. (2) Post a policy statement that certain types of items are not appropriate for printing on those printers, particularly during rush hours (right before class). That way those needing printouts for papers due can at least point to the policy. (3) Both Baruch and John Jay have software that enforces quotas for printing. (4) To ease the

rush-hour crush, it was suggested that a third or even fourth printer be purchased for the Concourse level.

- C. Lockers: Tina Lee stated the Steering Committee is trying to get more lockers. Current policy is on a *de facto* first-come-first-serve basis. Tina presented three possibilities for an official policy: (1) Keep the current first-come-first-serve method; (2) mandatory vacating of lockers once a year, with an application that provides a reason for needing a locker; (3) kick everyone out now and reassign lockers. There were several suggestions from the floor:
- There should be some lockers for day-by-day use and some for long-term use.
 - Lockers for day-by-day use can be smaller than lockers for long-term use.
 - Signs should be posted and email sent to find out who has a locker, which one they have, and why they need it.
- There will be a two-week period for comment. Comments should be sent to Tina via email at tinalee85281@yahoo.com. Give her an idea of how many students in your program need lockers, get feedback on the issue from your program, and she will make proposals at the next plenary.
- D. Physical Fitness Center at Baruch: Stephanie Domenici requested feedback on this. Is the Baruch solution adequate? She herself attempted to sign up for the fitness center and found that information was easy to get, the people at Baruch were well-aware of the arrangement, and everything went smoothly. Twenty-five students from the Graduate Center had signed up within the first three weeks. She suggested representatives survey their departments, reiterate the policy, and ask if there are any problems.
- E. Budget: Aleta Styers is unable to make it to the meeting tonight. She has videoed a QuickTime film for the website explaining the budget. Paul reminds everyone that this year, departmental allocations will be made on a reimbursement basis only. Make sure your receipts include food, not just alcohol, or reimbursement cannot be made.
- F. Health Services Committee: Celia Braxton reported as follows:
- 1) Health Insurance Subcommittee: Our original idea, to form a student association specifically for purchase of low-cost health insurance, has imploded due to the findings of preliminary research. Insurance companies working in New York State do not insure associations, as they find the hierarchy and membership too fluid. Our new plan: Research health insurance options provided to students by other New York metropolitan area schools: insurance companies, premium costs, coverage, etc. On the assumption we discover a better option, we will then make suggestions to the GSUC and CUNY administration regarding improvement of the current options to GSUC (and CUNY) students.
 - 2) Wellness Center Subcommittee: We are currently researching health services provided by other CUNY wellness or health centers. It appears

that almost no services are offered to students of community colleges other than first aid and some educational programs. Baruch and Brooklyn have extremely good health service programs. We continue to research the health programs of all the colleges and will further research those of Baruch and Brooklyn to learn how these services are funded apart from student activities fees. With this information, we will then pressure the administration to provide similar funding and services to Graduate Center Students.

IV. New Business

- A. Graduate Council: There will be a Graduate Council meeting this coming Thursday, October 28th, at 3:00 pm. This is the overall decision-making body for the GSUC. It meets four times a year. Student attendance has been very sparse, and there is discussion about eliminating the requirement for student representation because of this. Each program has one student member representative and one faculty representative. The E.O. is responsible for holding elections for the faculty members and will know who is the student representative. At the next meeting, the faculty will be electing members to the Presidential Search Committee.
- B. Coffee Hour: The first coffee hour of the semester will be held on Wednesday, November 10th from 3:30pm to 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided by Java Stop. There will also be giveaway items, such as refrigerator magnets.
- C. Goals for 2004-2005. The Steering Committee Goals were handed out. (see Appendix A). A comment from the floor: International students are not represented or mentioned in any of the goals. What issues particularly affect International students? Paul stated we want a regular column from the International Students' perspective in the *Advocate* but have not had any luck in locating someone to write it. A suggestion from the floor: place information for International students in the International Students Office on the 7th floor. They all have to go in there. David Golland stated he hoped the goals of the Ex-officio member of the Steering Committee would be put on the website as they were not included here. His goals include making Wellness Center parity and openness a reality for every CUNY student within the city.
- D. Adjunct Project Coordinator: Paul McBreen announced interviews will be held next Friday, October 29th for a new Adjunct Coordinator. We have had about ten (10) applications.
- E. David Golland, U.S.S. representative, announced the election results of the U.S.S. elections. Agnes Abraham, who spoke to the DSC at the last meeting as U.S.S. Chair, was defeated in favor of Lauren Fasano from CCNY. David was elected Vice-Chair of Graduate Affairs. (Note: updated information on other officers will be available soon at www.uss.cuny.edu.)
- F. New Business:
 - 1) Paul McBreen mentioned in reference to Wellness Center issues that the William H. Ryan Center will accept CUNY students with a valid ID. This is a public health center. One is at 97th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam. Another is at 47th Street and Seventh Avenue.

- 2) A suggestion was made from the floor that the DSC help regular students get business cards. Annaliese _____ will head the committee to run workshops or private consultations to help departmental reps work with VistaPrint Online, which is where the DSC has obtained our business cards.
- 3) The question of an ATM machine within the building was raised. Moira Egan stated she was proceeding on this. Dion Powell, a U.S.S. representative from CCNY and guest at the meeting suggested she find out who are the representatives on the Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation at this campus. All CUNY campuses generally have such a committee. Ten percent of concessions go towards this committee, which is responsible for spending the monies on student needs.
- 4) Graduate Center Hours: Security is getting very harsh in making people leave the building, particularly on weekends. A suggestion was made that massive permission requests for late hours be organized, and/or that events be regularly scheduled for late nights in the student lounges. After discussion, the following two resolutions were proposed, moved, seconded, and passed unanimously:
 - a. RESOLVED: That the Students of the Graduate Center, whether based at the Graduate Center or the campuses, believe that the buildings should be opened twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, to anyone with a valid Graduate Center I.D.
 - b. RESOLVED: That Graduate Center students based at campuses other than 365 Fifth Avenue should have twenty-four-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, three hundred and sixty-five-day-a-year access to their home campuses, including all facilities necessary to their studies.

V. Announcements

- A. CLACLS: Deborah Upegui reported as follows: The number of Latino students at the Graduate Center are not represented by faculty of Latino background at the Graduate Center. Latino faculty are all off-campus and rarely give classes here. Yet the percentage of entering Latino students is the same as the percentage of entering African-American students. To add to this problem, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies (CLACLS) is losing its funding from the Chancellor's office at the end of this year. The Masters' degree in Latin American studies will have no one to work for it, and will therefore disappear. The Concentration in Latin American Studies will also be endangered. Funding comes from CUNY Central, which has decreed the organization must find a way to be self-supporting. However, foundations do not generally provide funds for Operating Costs. The Operating Costs of CLACLS are minimal, less than \$50,000 per year. Deborah is forming a committee to address this issue and work towards restored funding for Operating Costs.

A Resolution on this issue was proposed, moved, seconded and passed with one abstention and no nays as follows:

WHEREAS CUNY students who wish to pursue Latin American Studies at the graduate level should have the opportunity to remain within the City University of New York to do so; and

WHEREAS the Doctoral Students Council commends to work of CLACLS,

BE IT RESOLVED that Operating Costs of CLACLS should be funded.

- B. Dion Powell, U.S.S. Representative from City College, announced a Halloween Party for children twelve years and under at City College.
- C. Paul McBreen announced a Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, October 25th, at 4:00pm at Baruch College. This is to be a contract negotiating session by PSC. Students are urged to sign up to speak for three minutes.
- D. A speaker from the floor announced that at BMCC, a new program in Security Education was being added. It was suggested in addition that rules be made and enforced for military recruiters on college campuses.
- E. Stephanie Domenici announced that Charlotte Frick's brother is donating one of her paintings to the DSC for the student lounges.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

APPENDIX A
Steering and Executive Committee Goals for 2004-2005

ERICK DOVIK

I'm limiting myself to one goal: "Researching health insurance in New York and New Jersey, so that GC students can find an insurance policy which is appropriate for them."

Health Insurance Subcommittee -- ditto.

PAUL MCBREEN

My goal this academic year is to bring full representation of academic programs to the DSC plenary meetings. This will require reaching the students in academic programs outside of 365 Fifth Avenue with visits and encouragement to join the DSC. The next step will be more challenging and will involve actually being of service to these students after securing their involvement with the DSC.

MOIRA EGAN

My main goal for this year is to help to foster a sense of community among graduate students. To do this, I will be arranging for DSC-sponsored coffee hours, participating on the Student Services Committee, and would like to continue the efforts of last year's DSC to connect with students not based here at the Graduate Center.

TINA LEE

I have two main goals:

1. To work toward the continuation of the health center past the current academic year. (I am serving on the Wellness Center Subcommittee of the Health Services Committee).
2. To work with fellow students to assess student interest in an on-site fitness center and how people are feeling about the Baruch arrangement (where students can pay to use their center) to see if students think it is adequate.

ALETA STYERS

Doctoral Students Council, Representative, Political Science Department
Business Co-Chair

I wear two hats on the Doctoral Students Council. I represent all doctoral students in relation to the financial management of their activity fees that are allocated through the DSC. I represent the Political Science Department in representing their needs and interests to the DSC and the Administration. My goals address both of these roles.

1. As Business Co-Chair: Our financial records concerning check requests have been maintained in paper format. My goal is to set up a computer-based tracking system. We will be able to identify the status of any individual request, of amounts spent by project to date, and outstanding commitments. My project has begun. I hope to have it completed by the end of the academic year.

2. As Representative of the Political Science Department: No regular method has previously been established to solicit and communicate political science students' needs to the

DSC and the Administration. I plan on soliciting feedback monthly and where possible gaining DSC support for addressing those needs. In September we addressed signage and smoking. In October we are addressing building open hours. Each month I will take a topic someone has asked me to address and see if other departments have the same interest and if we can generate a DSC Project.

TOMO IMAMICHI

1. Outreach: Get more non-GC campus students involved with the GC and the DSC.
2. Access: Make the roof of the GC accessible to students. Possibly extend building hours.

CAMILLE TIPTON

My goals include leading the Constitutional Convention for the second year in a row and bringing our constitution and bylaws up-to-date. This project includes reviewing our current documents, presenting revisions to the plenary and in the spring, organizing a mail-out to the student body for a vote. Additionally, as the DSC and Advocate webmaster, I want to encourage a sense of community among the various departments and encourage all students to visit the website and utilize the information available there.

CELIA BRAXTON

Standing Committee on Health Issues

Health Insurance Subcommittee: Our original idea, to form a student association specifically for purchase of low-cost health insurance, has imploded due to the findings of preliminary research. Our new plan: Research health insurance options provided to students by other New York metropolitan area schools: insurance companies, premium costs, coverage, etc. On the assumption we discover a better option, we will then make suggestions to the GSUC and CUNY administration regarding improvement of the current options to GSUC (and CUNY) students.

Wellness Center Subcommittee: (1) To research health services provided by other CUNY wellness or health centers. (2) To learn how these services are funded apart from student activities fees. (3) With this information, pressure the administration to provide similar funding and services to Graduate Center Students.

STEPHANIE DOMENICI

1. I share with Tomo. The goal of campus outreach to students at other CUNY campuses.
2. To increase the visibility of the DSC and to increase the visibility of the GC.
3. To form an active committee to investigate financial aid issues and housing services for new and continuing students.