



CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Plenary Minutes

October 21, 2005

Chairperson: C. Braxton

Minutes: A. Tomasino

Meeting called to order at 6:07 P.M.

Members Present:

Anthropology: Tina Lee, Andrea Morrell

Art History: Daniel Quiles

Biology: Adam Kavalier, Selena Ahmed

Chemistry: Marie Thomas

Classics: Pat Brooks

Computer Science: Sumon Azhar

Criminal Justice: Brenda Vollman (by proxy: Steven Wood)

Earth & Environmental Science: Lee Hachadoorian

Educational Psychology: Kallen Tsikalas

Engineering Biomedical: Ericka Calton

Engineering Civil: Rouzbeh Nazari

English: Adriana C. Tomasino

French: Chong Wojtkowski

Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature: Hyon Kim

History: David Golland

Liberal Studies: Cam McDonald

Linguistics: Alexandra Ionnidou

Mathematics: Hieu T. Nguyen

Music PhD: Jonas Westover, Megan Jenkins

Political Science: Christopher Poulos, Aleta Styers, Jen Gaboury, Annelies
Kamran (alt.)

Psychology Environmental: Stephanie Domenici (failed to sign in)

Psychology Forensic: Virginia Fineran

Sociology: Antonia Levy

At Large: Jen Adler, David Aliano, Celia Braxton, Moira Egan (failed to sign in), James Hoff, Binh Pok, Nelly Saint-Maurice, Michael Westbrook (failed to sign in)

Members Absent:

Biochemistry: Jianghua Yin

Business: Kate McPadden

Chemistry: Hasan Yumak (excused)

Classics: Paul McBreen (alt.)

Comparative Literature: Joanna Giuttari (excused)

Computer Science: Allen Harper

Criminal Justice: Charles Lieberman (excused), Meredith Dank (Alt.)

Educational Psychology: Mariya Shyko, Leslie Craigo (Alt.)

Engineering Biomedical: Kelly Brook Emerton, Abaishek Datta (Alt.)

Engineering Electrical: Muhammad Salim

English: Chamutail Noimann

German: Marie Giurrieri

History: Kevin McGruder (excused)

Music DMA: Barbara Podgurski (excused)

Philosophy: Jennifer Jensen, Robert Palese

Psychology Biological: Alicia Walton

Psychology Clinical: Nora Goudsmit

Psychology Developmental: Aloka Star Felty

Psychology Learning Processes: Adrienne Robek

Psychology Social Personality: Valerie Futch (excused), Sarah McClelland (Alt.)

Social Welfare: William Cabin

Sociology: Emily Mahon, Stephen Sheets (Alt.)

Theatre: Kate Wilson

Urban Education: Donal Mulcahy

At Large: Christina Benavides, Acacia Berry, Holly Brown, Sarah Friedline, Ian Jones, Dorian Luey, Ulyana Munoz, Pamela Proscia, Spencer Sunshine, Nelson Tiburcio, Camille Tipton (excused)

Guests Present:

George Panaghi

Elise Perram

Francois de Paul Silatchom

Jameel Haque

Total Members Present: 36. Members Absent: 35. Alternates Present:

1. Alternates absent: 6. Guests present: 4.

Quorum established to conduct business.

I. Guest Speaker:

A. Elise Perram, Graduate Center Director of Student Activities and Associate Director for Student Affairs, gave opening remarks and announced that the Wellness Center Referendum had indeed passed. She is interested in building a greater sense of community at the Graduate Center and would like to do so by developing an online space that would include extracurricular activities.

II. Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by T. Lee; seconded by D. Golland.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes from September plenary. Motion to approve the minutes of the September 2005 plenary meeting as amended.

Moved by T. Lee; seconded by D. Golland.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Health Services Committee (Celia, Ericka)

A. Announcement of results—C. Braxton and E. Calton announced that the Wellness Center Referendum passed with the highest percentage of votes (26%) in the past 15 years (657-454)

B. Next steps—C. Braxton begins a short discussion about other ways of increasing voter turnout

C. Coffee Hour—Wellness Center feedback AND Date Change—E. Calton suggested polling students about their experiences with the Wellness Center using an online survey and/or an e-mail list. The new date and time for the DSC Coffee Hour is November 10, 2005 from 1:30-4:30 P.M. DSC lab subsidization is now 70%, down from 90%.

D. Volunteers for this year's committee—C. Braxton and E. Calton asked for new volunteers, or a reconfirmation from those who

have already expressed interest in the Health Services Committee.

V. Old Business

- A. Adjunct Project Committee Members—A. Morrell discussed the Adjunct Project Committee and requested that every department have a representative attend the next meeting on November 17, 2005. An e-mail regarding the meeting will be sent in the next week.
- B. Miguel Malo Trial—C. Wojtkowski gave a brief update about the trial, which seemed to be going well. Some charges were dropped, with deliberation to take place on the Monday following our meeting. CUNY AELLA was very supportive with standing room only at the trial.
- C. Funding cap issue for Level Three students—S. Domenici and D. Golland began a discussion about the ongoing funding cap issue. Apparently, \$20,000 was the funding cap placed on Level Three students, with variations as to internal/external funding sources, Dissertation and Writing Fellowships, etc. D. Golland has drafted a resolution about this issue that was handed out to all present. There was a discussion. Motion to table the resolution until the next plenary.

Moved by A. Kamran; seconded by J. Hoff.

Motion passed 24-3-2.

VI. Co-chair for Student Affairs Report (Stef)

- A. Business cards—S. Domenici announced that the business cards were ready for those representatives who had signed off on their information at the previous plenary. All other representatives who wish to have business cards must approve their information this evening in order for their cards to be ready by the next plenary. S. Domenici also mentioned that DSC representatives can use departmental allocations to purchase business cards for students in their respective departments.
- B. Travel and Research fund—S. Domenici discussed the present allocation for this fund, which remains at \$250 per event, covering up to half of the money that is spent for

travel/research. This needs to be discussed further, but will remain at \$250 (and covering half of the expenses per event) for the remainder of the year.

- C. Dissertation fellowships—S. Domenici noted that it appears that there will be some more money available for Dissertation fellowships next year.
- D. Grants program: Cluster committees need student volunteers—S. Domenici reminds the body that the deadline to submit paperwork for the new Grants program is October 25, 2005. The GC is taking an interdisciplinary approach to this process by having faculty representatives from the Hard Sciences (3), the Social Sciences (4) and the Humanities (3) involved. The committee is interested in also having Level Three students participate in the process as long as they are not submitting paperwork for a grant at the same time.

VII. Co-chair for Business Report (Tina)

A. Budget Update

- 1) Incoming Funds—T. Lee reported that money only becomes available when students pay the Student Activity Fee.
- 2) Departmental Allocations—T. Lee stated that enrollment numbers determine departmental allocations, with \$2.00 per student or \$150.00, whichever is greater.
- 3) Spending Report—T. Lee informed the body that the first mailing for the Wellness Center Referendum was under the amount budgeted, but a lot higher than what was quoted by the Graphic Arts Department. It might be a good idea to check with Kinko's/Staples next time. T. Lee also discussed changes made to the allocation for lab fee subsidies—now 70%, instead of 90%.

B. Conferences, Publications and Professional Development

- 1) Formation of Ad Hoc Committee and volunteers—T. Lee talked about the creation of a new category in the DSC budget for Professional Development in the

amount of \$6,000.00. The following individuals volunteered to be on the committee in formation: L. Hachadoorian, C. Wojtkowski, J. Hoff, N. St. Maurice, and E. Calton, with T. Lee as contact person.

- 2) Professional Development Grants Guidelines-- The new fund/grant will function in a similar fashion to the Cultural Affairs Grant, but likely will be broader to include the sciences. The Guidelines from the Cultural Affairs Grant will serve as a template for the creation of a new bylaw for this grant. T. Lee presented the idea that workshops about Grant Writing, Job Searching, etc. may be offered to all GC students, organizations, etc. Funds will be determined by the committee, with the total not exceeding \$600.00 for any one event.
- 3) Resolution authorizing awarding of grants—Motion to create a committee following the guidelines of the distributed sheet in disbursement of professional development grant moneys.

**Moved by D. Golland; seconded by L. Hachadoorian.
Motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. Co-chair for Communications Report (Dave)

A. College Association and Committee memberships

- 1) College Association - 1 student—D. Golland and T. Lee discussed this position. The College Association's first meeting is to be held on October 27, 2005 at 1:00 P.M. D. Golland asked for nominations.

C. Braxton nominated B. Pok. There were no other nominations. Uncontested election. D. Golland cast a single voice ballot. Election of B. Pok to College Association approved 1-0-0.

- 2) Grad. Council's Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committee - 1 student—D. Golland discussed this position. The DSC can recommend one student to the Committee on Committees for nomination to the Curriculum Committee; as the Committee on Committees had already agreed to nominate the

DSC-recommended student, this amounted to an election to the Curriculum Committee. D. Golland asked for nominations.

C. Braxton nominated G. Panaghi. There were no other nominations. Uncontested election. C. Braxton cast a single voice ballot. Election of G. Panaghi as Curriculum Committee nominee approved 1-0-0.

- B. New Bylaws—D. Golland presented the body with two proposed bylaws. Proposed Bylaw #13 was presented for initial discussion, with amendments and ratification to take place at the November plenary; proposed Bylaw #14 was presented as an informational item, and will be presented for discussion at the November plenary with amendments and ratification to take place at the December plenary. There was a brief discussion of proposed Bylaw #13.
- C. Flash drive distribution—D. Golland informed the body that Flash drive distribution will be conducted by APOs. It appears that 1,250 are available, short of the 2,000 originally promised. T. Lee mentioned that distribution will be proportional to the number of students in each department, with the chance for re-allocation if needed.
- D. Open Enrollment sessions—The benefits of being a CUNY employee (GTF's, WAC Fellows, etc.) sessions will be held on October 28, 2005, with the first at 10:00 A.M. and the second at 2:00 P.M. at 230 West 41st Street, Room 646.
- E. USS Senate Report—In the absence of C. Lieberman, D. Golland presented updated information about the Student Senate. An election had taken place on October 9, 2005.

IX. New Business

- A. Chartered org proposal—Middle East Studies Group—J. Haque presented the agenda from the first meeting of this new student organization. It is composed of interdisciplinary students interested in studying about the Middle East. It was determined that a copy of the organization's Constitution is necessary for a vote to take place, so this decision will be made either at the November or December plenary meeting depending upon date of receipt of the Constitution.
- B. Other New Business—

1. Exam Protocols--J. Gaboury discussed the problems of administering exams on computers and the incidence of cheating as a result. She provided her e-mail address (jgaboury@gc.cuny.edu) for anyone interested in discussing protocols for computer exams.

X. Announcements

- A. Open Mike Mondays—S. Domenici informed the body that "Open Mike Mondays" will be taking place at the 365 Express space at the GC on Monday nights. Prof. B. Schwartz is looking for topics following the first three evening schedules that have already been decided upon.

XI. Adjournment.

**Moved by D. Golland; seconded by M. Egan.
Motion passed by general acclaim.**

C. Braxton adjourned the meeting at 7:59 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,
A. Tomasino.**