



Members and Voting Alternates Present:

Art History: Tara Burk
Audiology: Allison Shapiro
Biochemistry: Avalon Garcia
Biology: Jillian De Gezelle, Adam Kavalier
Chemistry: Marie Thomas
Classics: Michael Broder
Comparative Literature: Alexander Moudrov
Computer Science: Hassan Adekoya, Mohamed Saad
Criminal Justice: David Caspi, Charles Lieberman
Economics: Andrew Bossie
Educational Psychology: Leslie Craigo
Engineering, Biomedical: Veronica Lopez
Engineering, Chemical: Mehrdad Kheiripour
Engineering, Civil: Rouzbeh Nazari
Engineering, Electrical: Rex Wong
English: Rob Faunce, Tina Meyerhoff
French: Chong Wojtkowski
History: David Golland, Jameel Haque
Liberal Studies: Nazreen Bacchus (by proxy: Howard Caro-Lopez)
Linguistics: Ji Young Shim (by proxy: Paul McBreen)
Mathematics: Brooke Orosz
Music DMA: Barbara Podgursky (by proxy: Carolina Artistico)
Music PhD: Jason Hooper
Political Science: Jen Gaboury (by proxy: Douglas Medina), Aaron, Ibur, Zeeshan Suhail
Psychology, Industrial/Organizational: Lauren Mondo
Psychology, Learning Processes: Adrienne Robek
Psychology, Neuro: Robyn Powers
Psychology, Social Personality: Elizabeth Velilla
Social Welfare: Denise Torres
Sociology: Binh Pok
Theater: Kate Wilson
Urban Education: Lynda Kennedy
At-Large: Dave Aliano (by proxy: Joseph Sramek), Celia Braxton, Ericka Calton, Gregory Donovan (by proxy: Stephanie _____), James Hoff (by proxy: Annelies Kamran), Patrina Huff, Lindsay Krasnoff, James Lyles, Tina Lee, Amy Meyers, Frank Muscara (by proxy: A. Majstorac-Kobiljski), Dion Powell, Pamela Proscia, Vincenzo Sainato, Brenda Vollman

Members Absent:

Anthropology: Kate Griffiths, Martha Lincoln
 Comparative Literature: Kai Kreinke
 Earth and Environmental Science: Angelos Lampoussis
 English: Louise Geddes (excused)
 Hispanic/Luso Brazilian Languages and Literatures: Hyon Kim
 Music PhD: Inessa Bazayev
 Psychology, Clinical: Nora Goudsmit
 Psychology, Environmental: Stephanie Domenici Cabonargi
 Psychology, Forensic: Ryan Copple
 At-Large: Valerie Futch, Lee Hachadoorian, Amber Hui, Ian Jones, Tieuvi Nguyen (excused),
 Farishta Satari

Non-Voting Alternates Present:

Engineering, Chemical: Makonnen Payne

Guests Present:

Manfred Philipp (UFS Chair), Gabriel Gonaga (Physics), Arun Rajam (Physics)

Total Members and Voting Alternates Present: 54

Total Members Absent: 16

Sufficient quorum to conduct business

Chair: Brenda Vollman

Minutes: Charles Lieberman

Meeting Called to Order at 6:08 p.m.

- I. Invited Speaker: Hon. Manfred Philipp, UFS Chairperson and CUNY Trustee Ex-Officio
- II. Approval of Agenda and November Minutes

Moved by D. Golland to approve the December agenda and November minutes by unanimous consent; seconded by K. Wilson. Unanimous approval.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Future is Green (FIG) Chartered Organization

Moved by C. Wojtkowski to charter the Future is Green (FIG) organization by unanimous consent; seconded by A. Ibur. Unanimous approval.
- IV. Elections to Fill Vacancies
 - A. Co-Chair for Communications, effective February 1, 2007, with \$250 honorarium for Jan., 2007

E. Calton and P. Huff nominated themselves.

Discussion: Due to the application of the Open Meetings Law to the DSC plenary, there was discussion in regards to the voting process to be implemented for the elections scheduled for this plenary meeting, to ensure that all vacancies are filled and that the process not take an excessive or inordinate amount of time. B. Vollman suggested conducting a straw poll, via showing of hands for candidates interested in running for the vacancies. Numerous plenary members, including K. Wilson, C. Braxton, D. Torres, A. Ibur, and V. Sainato, expressed concern regarding the showing of hands in the presence of the members interested in running for the position of co-chair for communications. B. Vollman explained that due to the Open Meetings Law, the plenary members can not be asked to leave the room during the proceedings and asked for suggestions from the plenary on how to proceed in a manner that the plenary finds acceptable, while following the Open Meetings Law. D. Golland requested the plenary agree to a straw poll by a show of hands in order to expedite the election proceedings, as all official votes will be recorded by name and available to all interested parties. Again, several members of the plenary expressed concern about the ability to have a discussion about the individuals interested in the position while those individuals were present and the use of an informal straw poll using a show of hands. E. Calton volunteered to leave the room to allow members of the plenary to discuss her nomination without her being present. B. Vollman suggested using paper ballots an alternative means of conducting an informal straw poll.

Avalon Garcia moves to use paper ballots to conduct a straw poll for the election process for the positions the DSC plenary is to vote on for 12/08/06; seconded by M. Kheiripour.
Unanimous approval.

An informal straw poll, using paper ballots, determined that Ericka Calton had a majority of votes.
Moved by D. Golland to elect E. Calton by unanimous consent; seconded by C. Wojtkowski.
Unanimous approval.

B. USS Delegate, effective January 1, 2007

R. Nazari was nominated by D. Golland.
Moved by M. Broder to elect R. Nazari by unanimous consent; seconded by A. Ibur.
Unanimous approval.

C. Two At-Large Steering Committee Seats (vacated by A. Ibur and R. Nazari), effective January 26, 2007, and One At-Large Steering Committee Seat (vacated by E. Calton), effective February 1, 2007

P. Huff was nominated by C. Wojtkowski, R. Faunce was nominated by T. Meyerhoff, D. Torres was nominated by D. Golland, and V. Lopez was nominated by E. Calton.
An informal straw poll determined that the body favored the candidates in the following order: P. Huff, R. Faunce, D. Torres, and V. Lopez.
Moved by D. Golland to elect P. Huff and R. Faunce effective January 26, and D. Torres effective February 1, by unanimous consent; seconded by M. Broder.
Unanimous approval.

- D. One Media Board DSO Seat (vacated by Yvonne Liu), effective immediately, and One Media Board DSO Seat (vacated by A. Ibur), effective January 1, 2007

A. Kamran was nominated by herself (she was serving as proxy for J. Hoff). Moved by T. Lee to elect A. Kamran effective immediately by unanimous consent; seconded by K. Wilson. Unanimous approval.

- V. Adjunct Project Report prepared by Carl Lindskoog (B. Vollman summarized content)

A. Work with Part-Timers Committee of the PSC: At the most recent meeting of the Part-timers Committee of the Professional Staff Congress I presented the results of the Adjunct Project survey conducted earlier this semester. I also presented the conclusions of a meeting of Graduate Center adjuncts and GTFs that took place on November 7th. After hearing about the most pressing concerns of graduate student adjuncts and part-timers, members of the committee offered suggestions that will be useful as we work to address these concerns.

B. Ongoing Campaigns: The Adjunct Project has been engaged in a number of ongoing campaigns. I have continued to work with graduate student adjuncts who have not received the retroactive pay to which they are entitled. I have also been working with graduate students to resolve workload grievances. Finally, there has been some confusion surrounding the recent discussion of dental benefits for faculty and staff, and I have been working to clarify this matter and keep the GC community informed about progress for adjuncts and part-timers regarding these benefits.

C. Focus for the Future: For the remainder of the semester and over the winter break the Adjunct Project will be focused on the upcoming contract negotiations. The Professional Staff Congress recently reported that they sent a letter to the administration requesting the start of negotiations for the new contract and the administration has accepted this request. The Part-timers Committee of the PSC has already begun to formulate and prioritize key demands for part-time faculty and to craft a strategy to achieve these demands in the new contract. I believe it is imperative that graduate student workers play an important role in this process in order to strengthen the position of part-timers and especially to ensure that our particular demands are included in the contract. With this objective in mind, the Adjunct Project will facilitate a discussion among graduate students about what must be included in the next contract and will advocate for graduate student workers as we enter a new contract struggle.

- VI. Co-Chair for Student Affairs Report (C. Wojtkowski)

A. Business Cards, Holiday Cards:

1. A second round of business cards for representatives that did not order cards the last time an order was placed
2. Holiday cards will be sent to CUNY officials and Graduate Center administration on behalf of the DSC

B. Chartered Org News

1. The DSC may be de-chartering two chartered organizations that have not yet submitted to the DSC the information required to maintain chartered status

C. Departmental Involvement

1. A straw poll was conducted to ascertain the prevalence of departments that do not comply with required course evaluations

2. Several representatives commented on their department's lack of compliance with required course evaluations
 3. The Co-Chair for Student Affairs will provide this information to the president of the Graduate Center
- D. Spring Campus Visits
1. The Spring 2007 campus visits will take place at Queens and Hunter College
 2. Dates and times of these visits will be announced at a later date

VII. DSC Standing Committee Reports

- A. Constitution and Bylaws (A. Ibur)
1. Proposed Amendments to Constitution Article XI.

Article XI. MEDIA BOARD

11.1 The Media Board shall consist of five members:
 The DSC Co-Chair for Communications,
 Two DSC representatives appointed from the Council, and
 Two delegates elected in the Spring by the student body.
 [The editor of the newspaper shall be a nonvoting advisor
 The Webmaster of the DSC and/or Advocate shall be nonvoting member(s).]
The senior employee of each DSC-operated medium shall be a nonvoting advisor.

11.2 Members of the Media Board shall serve for terms coterminous with DSC officers [shall be selected in the spring] and shall appoint their own chairperson. In the event that one of the delegates elected from the student body is not able to complete his or her term of office, a new delegate shall be selected from the student body by the DSC. The appointed delegate may not serve concurrently as a representative to DSC. The Media Board shall meet no less than twice per semester.

11.3 The Media Board will propose an operating budget for [the newspaper] each DSC-operated medium to the DSC Co-Chair for Business Management annually, as well as propose capital expenditures as required.

11.4 The Media Board shall be responsible for the selection and/or removal of the [editor] senior employee of each DSC-operated medium by a majority of at least three votes.

11.5 The Media Board will act as arbitrator when necessary in order to resolve conflicts within the [newspaper] media staff.

11.6 Neither the DSC nor the Media Board are responsible for the editorial content of the student newspaper.

**Moved by A. Ibur to approve the amendments for mailing to the DSO by unanimous consent; seconded by D. Golland.
 Unanimous approval.**

VIII. Co-Chair for Communications Report (D. Golland)

A. Webmaster Bylaw Amendment and Acting Chair Bylaw Proposals

1. Webmaster Bylaw Amendment Proposal. Prompted by our ongoing discussion of the relationship between the DSC webmaster and the DSO Media Board, and with the issue brought to the fore by Camille Tipton's resignation as webmaster, the Steering Committee recommends that we reconsider the role of the DSC webmaster and amend the website bylaw (#11) as necessary. The idea is that the DSC website, unlike *The Advocate*, is not a DSO medium but rather a DSC project, more like the Adjunct Project. The website is, after all, for the DSC, meaning student government, unlike the newspaper, which is only indirectly supervised by student government. The content of the website is not editorial but informational, and the informational content is determined by the DSC, through the Steering Committee. In contrast, the newspaper has both editorial and informational content, and such content (except for the DSC page) is determined not by the DSC but by the newspaper staff. And so the recommendation is that the bylaw be amended so that hiring, supervision, and termination of the webmaster be a DSC Steering Committee function, organized by the Co-Chair for Student Affairs, rather than a DSO Media Board function, organized by the Co-Chair for Communications. This will require changes to the bylaw's title and sections 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, and 11.6, and will be taken up by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
2. Acting Chair Bylaw Proposal. While statute and Robert's Rules stipulate that the Media Board and DSC standing committees shall select their own chairpersons, in reality the Co-Chair for Communications serves as the *de facto* chair of the Media Board, the Co-Chair for Business Management serves as the *de facto* chair of the Professional Development and Cultural Affairs Committees, and Steering Committee members, volunteering at the joint meeting in May, serve as *de facto* chairs of the other three standing committees (Health Issues, Constitution and Bylaws, and Community Building). The Steering Committee would like to propose that we codify this reality not by forcing the *de facto* chairs permanently on their respective boards/committees, but rather naming them statutorily as "acting chairs" until (and unless) the board/committee should choose to formalize that person as chair (or elect someone else). The need arises from the fact that the boards/committees take office in June but often do not meet until the fall semester, and sometimes issues arise in the late spring or summer which require board/committee action. Board/committee action does not take place spontaneously, but is organized by a chairperson. The current system works well but without this new bylaw, actions taken under it could be challenged. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is now charged with writing a new bylaw to meet this need.

B. USS/BOT Report.

1. The University Student Senate and the Board of Trustees spent the bulk of their November meetings dealing with the renewal of the Chancellor's Compact. At the USS, I opined that the Compact has largely benefited the students of the Graduate Center and that we have been adequately and regularly consulted on how the additional student services funds will be spent. At the Board, the student trustee expressed concern that this has not been the case throughout the university, and the faculty trustee, who is our guest speaker tonight, expressed concern that part-time students (who are ineligible for TAP) will have to pay the full cost of any

implemented tuition increase. The Compact, which is actually called the CUNY Budget Request (because it is the official budget request that CUNY will be making of the state legislature), was approved unanimously by the Board. I have the materials presented to the USS and to the Board if anyone would like to look them over.

2. The Board named the following faculty members as Distinguished Professors: William B. Rossow, Electrical Engineering, CCNY; Ruth Stark, Chemistry, CSI; Wayne Koestenbaum, English, GC; Godfrey Gumbs, Physics and Astronomy, Hunter; James Lynch, Criminal Justice, John Jay; and Morris Rossabi, History, Queens.
 3. The Board approved the following honorary doctorates, to be granted by John Jay in May, 2007: Taylor Branch, Doctor of Humane Letters, who wrote the definitive book on the Civil Rights era, *Parting the Waters*; Patricia Cornwell, Doctor of Letters; Richard Delgado, Doctor of Laws; Paul Farmer, Doctor of Science; and Deborah E. Lipstadt, Doctor of Humane Letters.
- C. Media Board Report. With the deadline now past, six people have applied to the Media Board for the position of DSC Webmaster, all of whom are qualified. CVs and cover letters have been distributed to the members of the Board and will be distributed to the member who was elected tonight to fill the immediate vacancy. Interviews will be held at a special Executive Session of the Media Board next Friday, December 15, at which time a decision will be made. The Co-Chair for Communications-elect will be an invited guest at that meeting. Chong Wojtkowski and Ericka Calton have graciously agreed to handle any website emergencies which may arise between today and February 1, although it is possible that the new webmaster may start early if necessary.

IX. Co-Chair for Business Management Report (B. Vollman)

- A. 2007 – 2008 Budget
 1. The budget proposal will be presented at the Plenary at March 23rd Plenary Meeting.
 2. Suggestions for budget allocations of Student Activities Fees should come to me as soon as possible.
 3. I would be happy to
 - a. Provide an e-copy of the budget (in last Plenary pack)
 - b. Meet to discuss current allocations
 - c. Take suggestions for future allocations to be presented to the DSC Plenary.
 4. I am seeking to find a way to increase the Program Allocations to \$180 minimum or \$3 per student if possible.
- B. Grants: please advertise the grant opportunities to your department – these are not program specific. Rather, they are supposed to be open to all GC students, and this is one way to open you discipline.
- C. Movie Tickets are available for sale after the December Plenary – you may use check or cash and the limit is 20 tickets. Please see me after the plenary. Otherwise, they will be available only by appointment after official office hours end this semester. Great Holiday Gifts!
- D. Program Allocations:

1. If you intend to use the funds and can submit receipts prior to Jan 5th, then please submit a request for funds. I will submit requests on Tuesday and a check should be available within a week for pick – up or mailing.
2. Have receipts in my Jan 5th or you may not be able to register for Spring semester OR a hold will be placed on the registration.
3. Those who have submitted requests within the last week – please see me after the plenary for your checks.

X. DSC Standing Committee Reports

A. Health Committee (E. Calton)

The Health Committee will be looking for a new committee chair and will send notice for their next meeting to the DSO.

B. Community Building Committee (C. Lieberman)

The Community Building Committee met to discuss possible uses of the capital funds allocated. The committee will meet again, with notice posted to the DSO, and will present the committee's decisions to the plenary during the Spring 2007 semester.

XI. DSC *Ad Hoc* Committee and Grad Council Committee Reports (varied/as necessary)

XII. New Business

A. Student Lunch (C. Wojtkowski)

B. International Student issues (C. Wojtkowski)

XIII. Announcements

A. DSC party will commence at the end of the plenary meeting in room 5414

XIV. Adjournment

**Moved by A. Ibur to adjourn by unanimous consent; seconded by D. Golland.
Approved by acclamation.**

**B. Vollman adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
C. Lieberman.**