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Graduate Center, CUNY Doctoral Students' Council Plenary Minutes

September 7, 2007—6pm

Members and Voting Alternates Present:

Anthropology: Javiela Evangelista, Mariya Radeva
Art History: Monica Steinberg
Biology: Kathleen Uvino (by proxy: Anna Nugent), Lisa Offringa
Chemistry: Nancy Medina
Classics: Michael Broder (by proxy: Paul McBreen)
Comparative Literature: Adele Kudish
Criminal Justice: Alissa Ackerman, Crystal Rodriguez
Earth/Environmental Science: Angelos Lampousis
Engineering Chemical: Mehrdad Kheiripour
Engineering Civil: Rouzbeh Nazari
Engineering Mechanical: Rex Wong
English: Kerdiana Chez, Rob Faunce, Cori Gabbard
French: Chong Wojtkowski (by proxy: Liz Housley)
Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Lit: Teresa Darwich
History: Carl Lindskoog
Linguistics: Elizabeth Pratt
Mathematics: Micah Miller
Music PhD: Sean Murray
Philosophy: Chris Sula
Political Science: April Henning, Aaron Ibur
Psychology: Environmental: Stephanie Domenici Cabonargi
Psychology: Industrial and Organizational: Jessica Anderson
Psychology: Social Personality: Rachel Verni
Social Welfare: Denise Torres
Theatre: Ana Martinez

At-large Reps: Randy Cota, Gregory Donovan, Dave Golland, Anton Masterovoy, Pamela Proscia, Geoff Rab, Aya Shohat, Brenda Vollman, Kate Wilson

Members Absent:

Audiology: Allison Shapiro (excused)
Chemistry: Clayton Mattis
Comparative Literature: Andrea Efthymiou
Computer Science: Omer Demir, Deniz Sarioz (excused)
Educational Psychology: Darshanand Ramdass
History: Jameel Haque
Mathematics: Brooke Orosz (excused)
Music-DMA: Judy Woo (excused)
Nursing: Marie Giordano
Psychology: Cognition, Brain, Behavior: Janina Scarlet
Psychology: Learning Processes: Matthew Taylor (excused)

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Sociology: Valerie Francisco, Jesse Goldstein
Urban Education: Kierstin Greene

At-Large Reps: Nazreen Bacchus (excused), Jenny Bouilly (excused), Ericka Calton (excused), Robin Hizme, Fiona Lee (excused), Charles Lieberman (excused), Amy Meyers (excused), Frank Muscara (excused), Mohamed Saad, Meghan Sacks (excused), Danielle Wu (excused)

Members Present: 39; Members Absent: 26

Chair: Rob Faunce (RF)
Minutes: Brenda Vollman (BV)

Meeting commenced at 6:07pm

Guest Speaker Ombudsperson Rolf Meyersohn discusses the role of the position and how he can be reached.

I. Approval of Agenda: motion to approve – Alissa Ackerman (AA), 2nd Gregory Donovan (GD) – pass by unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Old Minutes: motion to approve - Dave Golland (DG), 2nd Kate Wilson (KW) – pass by unanimous consent.

III. Old Business

- a. Reps for 2007-2008: Rob Faunce (RF) informs the Plenary that we have 65 representatives, and they are in the process of being certified by the Office of Student Affairs.
- b. SC Member: RF informs the Plenary that due to a vacancy on the Steering Committee, we need to nominate and elect an At-Large Member. DG nominates Rouzbeh Nazari (RN) who was not present at the time to accept the nomination. Adele Kudish (AK) nominated herself, GD 2nd – AK is elected by unanimous consent.
- c. Locker Lottery: BV informs the Plenary that the Lottery is now closed, and there were not as many applications as lockers, so all of those who entered received lockers and anyone who did not remove their items by the deadline were permitted to stay in their current Locker.
- d. Honoring Former Co-Chairs: RF presents the honors to DG (a plaque), Chong Wotjkowski (CW) and Ericka Calton (EC) (Gift Cards). (CW and EC are not present so RF accepts on their behalf.)

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e. Tech and WiFi: GD informs the Plenary that WiFi is now available in the cafeteria, and the rollout for other locations is in process. GD motion to create an ad-hoc committee to follow this process and test the network, RF 2nd- pass by unanimous consent.

IV. New Business

a. Grad Council Committees: (DG) indicated the importance of student membership on these committees, and provided a handout describing all of the committees. Each committee has 3 students and 1 alternate student. DG solicits a list of potential volunteers.

b. Standing Committees Membership

- a. BV described the Scholarly Achievement Awards and Grants committees, and passed around a sign in sheet for each committee.
- b. Denise Torres (DT) provides an overview of the Health Issues Committee (HIC). AA nominates DT as the chair of the committee, Anton Masterovoy (AM) 2nd – DT is approved by unanimous consent.
- c. AM and RF provide an overview of the Library Committee
- d. BV describes the Community Building Committee and that folks can contact anyone on the Steering Committee to get involved.

c. College Association: BV describes College Association and solicits nominations for student representatives from the DSC.

- a. RF motion to nominate AA, who accepts, DG 2nd - approved unanimously; RN motion to nominate Mehrdad Kheiripour (MK), who accepts, DG 2nd – approved unanimously; RF motion to nominate DT, who accepts, DG 2nd - approved unanimously; AM motions to nominate himself, DG 2nd – approved unanimously
- b. RF motions to close nominations, Nancy Medina (NM) 2nd – approved unanimously
- c. Voting ensues and AA, DT, AM are elected as the DSC representatives to the College Association.

d. Auxiliary Enterprise Board

- a. BV asks DG to describe the AEB
- b. DG nominates himself, Carl Lindskoog (CL) 2nd approved unanimously; CL nominates himself, RN 2nd – approved unanimously nominates DG

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- e. Nurse Practitioner Update: BV informs the Plenary that we still do not have a Nurse Practitioner, but negotiations are taking place and have moved in a positive direction. There is no promised timeframe for having a Nurse Practitioner. Student Affairs is investigating short term remedies in the mean time, and have compiled a list of providers that have sliding scale services. KW expresses a strong concern about the timeline of contract negotiations and why it has taken so long, given that we new last spring that we would have no Nurse Practitioner. DT reminds the Plenary that the Wellnes Center is still in operation, and they can provide other services and information. RN motions to close the discussion, AA 2nd – approved unanimously.

BV motions that the DSC will subsidize up to \$50 per student, per visit to a healthcare provider (does not include co-pays). RF 2nd – passes by unanimous consent. BV indicates that she will discuss the actual process of making this happen with the Wellness Center.

- f. Ad Hoc Committees
 - a. After a brief description, AA motions to approve the formation of a Finance Committee to investigate issues related to CUNY guidelines for financial aid. NM 2nd – approved unanimously
 - b. After a brief description of an example of work related issues experienced by non NY (or non-US) citizens by NM, a discussion happens, at which time Stephanie Dominici expresses concerns that the particular issue cited as example seems like the primary focus of the committee, and that it should be called a work issues committee. NM motions to approve the formation of the International/Out-of State Students Issues Committee. AA 2nd, Motion passes with 1 abstention (SD).

V. Student Affairs Report (Gregory)

a. Outreach Strategies: GD informs us that he is investigating the possibility of communicating important DSC business using Textmob – a free text service for which reps can sign up to receive these announcements. Email – there is a new email address dsc@cunydisc.org . The old can still be used as well, and messages form this email will forward to the steering committee email. The rationale for the change is to make it easier to remember and communicate to others.

b. Elections Process: We are investigating the possibility of online elections to minimize the cost of voting in the long run, and to hopefully get higher

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response rates.

c. Chartered Organizations: the deadline for chartered org rosters is December 15.

VI. Communications Report (Rob)

- a. Advocate: The 1st issue has been released and RF indicated that he met with James Hoff, Advocate editor, and James and he are confident that the Advocate will have a great year.
- b. Media Board meetings: The Fall media Board meetings will occur on the following dates: September 28, and November 9, 2007 at 6pm in room 5489 at the Graduate Center.
- c. Grad Council meetings: The Fall meetings for Graduate Council are scheduled for October 31 and December 13, 2007 at the Graduate Center.
- d. Meetings and Communications with Administration The executive committee of the DSC has already met with Student Affairs and has upcoming meetings scheduled with Bob Campbell, Julia Wrigley, Steve Brier, and Brian Schwartz.
- e. DSC Website & Forums: We are working on updating the website so that it is more intuitive and user friendly, and we hope you use the forums for communicating ideas.
- f. Google Groups :for the most part, it seems as though Google Groups works, although there was an “echo” in the system over the summer, and Google is aware of the issue and is working on eliminating this problem.

VII. Business Report (Brenda)

- a. Budget Update: The budget, approved by the Plenary last May, is available here for you in paper form, and can be sent electronically. If you have suggestions for how the budget can be distributed next year, please be in touch with BV.
- b. Dept Allocations: BV asks the Plenary to note that last fiscal year, programs spent 63% of the funds allocated to them. The goal is to see that number closer to 100% this year, pending program representation. BV issued a reminder that how the money is spent is determined by

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students and not faculty, and only the certified DSC rep can sign off on a request for the funds. Additionally, the Plenary approved an increase in the amount per student made available from the DSC. We are now allocating \$3 per student or \$180, whichever is higher.

VIII. Adjunct Project Coordinator (Carl)

IX. USS Report (Alissa): The USS rep elected in May had to step down from this position, so the Steering Committee appointed AA to serve in the interim, pending Plenary approval. RF motion to approve, BV 2nd approved unanimously. AA will not take two stipends, but will assume the additional duties of the USS rep. AA will attend the meeting at Hunter College on Sunday September 9, 2007.

X. Health Issues Committee (Denise): DT indicated that she has been proactive in working with Student Affairs on addressing the short term problems related to having no Nurse Practitioner. She has provided recommendations and contacts for agencies that are structured to offer the services for which we are in need. DT said that the HIC plans to table in the lobby to get information out and hear student concerns, will visit external campuses, will put the health referral book online on the DSC website and will make a hard copy available in the DSC office. The next meeting of the HIC is September 27, 2007 at 5:00pm in room 5489 and the Graduate Center.

XI. Announcements none

XII. Adjournment NM Motion to adjourn, Pam Proscia (PP) 2nd, approved unanimously. Adjourn at 8:08pm.