

**Graduate Center, CUNY  
Doctoral Students' Council  
Plenary Minutes**

**November 21, 2008—6pm**

**Members and Voting Alternates Present:**

Anthropology: Christine Pinnock (by proxy: Mariya Radeva)  
Art History: Monica Steinberg, Whitney Thompson  
Biochemistry: Richard Able  
Biology: Kathleen Schanaars Uvino, Samantha Sheppard  
Chemistry: Yu Zhao  
Classics: Jared Simard  
Comparative Literature: Anick Boyd, Anna Finkelstern  
Computer Science: Jeremy Seideman, Suzanne Tamang  
Criminal Justice: Julie Viollaz  
Engineering Chemical: Mehrdad Kheiripour  
Engineering Civil: Rouzbeh Nazari  
English: Jill Belli, Allyson Foster, Amanda Springs  
Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Lit: Efrain Cardenas  
Music DMA: H. Roz Woll  
Music PhD: Rachel Lumsden  
Philosophy: Kyle Ferguson, Chris Sula  
Political Science: Patricia Stapleton  
Psychology: Bio: Preston Foerder  
Psychology: Cog, Brain, Beh: Justin Ostrovsky  
Psychology: Environmental: Stephanie Domenici Cabonargi  
Psychology: Learning Processes: Matthew Taylor  
Psychology: Neurology: Olga Nikelshpur  
Psychology: Social Personality: Stephanie Anderson  
Social Welfare: Larry Iannotti  
Theatre: Frank Episale  
Urban Education: Shana Henry, Liza Pappas

At-large Reps: Karyn Collie, Boris Daussa Pastor, Gregory Donovan, Rob Faunce, Ian Foster, Philip Kopp, Armin Lahiji (proxy: B. Andino), Linda Neiberg, Pamela Proscia, Denise Torres, Brenda Vollman

**Members Absent:**

Anthropology: Andrew Brooks (excused)  
Biology: Oren Tzfidia  
Chemistry: Tony Perri (excused)  
Criminal Justice: Tasha Youstin (excused)  
Engineering Biomedical: Xiang (Ian) Gu (excused)  
French: Chong Wojtkowski (excused)  
Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Lit: Teresa Berenice Darwich  
History: Igor Draskovic, Anton Masterovoy (excused)

Linguistics: Elizabeth Pratt (excused)  
Political Science: Aaron Ibur  
Psychology: Dev: Vicky Barrios  
Psychology: Forensic: Marsha Brown  
Psychology: Industrial and Organizational: Kimberly Iaffaldano (excused)  
Public Health: Princess Fortin  
Sociology: Colin Ashley  
Speech & Hearing Sciences: Carol Tessel (excused)

At-Large Reps: Robert Azzarello, Ericka Calton, John DeCarlo, Taylor Kennamer, Lauren Klein (excused), Charles Lieberman (excused), Neil Meyer (excused), Rachel Meyer, Shawn Rice (excused)  
Members Present: 45; Members Absent: 26

Chair: Chris Sula  
Minutes: Jill Belli  
Meeting Called to Order: 6:29pm

#### I. Approval of Agenda

Chris Sula (CS) asks for additions to the agenda. There are none. Gregory Donovan (GD) motions to approve the agenda; Amanda Springs (AS) seconds the motion; the agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

#### II. Old Minutes

CS asks for corrections to draft of October 24, 2008 minutes. Chong Wojtkowski (CW) would like to clarify III (c) – “Printer and Server Problems”: while she was aware of the problems with printing PDF files, she was not the one actually printing them. Rob Faunce (RF) announces that he has already made the change in the minutes. GD motions to approve the minutes; Philip Kopp (PK) seconds the motion; the minutes are approved by unanimous consent.

#### III. Old Business

##### a. Student Survey

GD reports that since the Provost’s office has already sent out a survey to students, the DSC will hold off the distribution of its survey until after Thanksgiving break (to avoid overlap). Jeremy (JS) inquires whether overlap is a concern (whether students will be more responsive to DSC than

administration). JS also inquires whether parking issues are on the DSC survey. JS wants to know if we could break up our many concerns/questions into different surveys. GD responds that if people have further questions, they should e-mail him or other DSC Steering Committee members

b. Health Insurance

NYSHIP enrollment opened about two weeks ago. A discussion about problems/questions ensues. Kit Uvino (KU) announces that, though she had signed up online a while ago, she has not received anything in the mail yet. CS summarizes the steps for enrollment (go to NYSHIP website; create username and password, request activation code, once it mailed to you, log on again and enter code). Patricia Stapleton (PS) said that she had contact with Anne Ellis about her situation. Conversation ensues about the deadline for enrollment. In order to have deductions taken out of your December paycheck, you must complete the enrollment process by 11/25 (extended from 11/21). In response to whether there is an end date for open enrollment, CS states that the DSC will follow up with HR. RF states that Teena Costabile in HR is the point-person for administering this new policy. After a comment about the lack of response from the NYSHIP benefits office, GD advises students to go to Teena Costabile if NYSHIP does not respond.

c. Medicare and SS Exemption for Adjuncts

CS reports that most college HR departments have been receptive to requests for this fiscal year; to receive retroactive compensation for previous years you must go through IRS. There is information on both the DSC and Adjunct Project websites about this issue. CS clarifies that any full-time graduate student working at a CUNY should be eligible for this exemption.

#### IV. New Business

a. Printing Task Force

CS announces that he volunteered at the most recent Student Tech Fee meeting to create this task force to help improve the printing situation at the GC. While IT is aware of several options they can pursue, they want more input from students before they proceed. The goal of this short-term task force is to summarize options and circulate them in January. Email CS, GD, or Jill Belli (JB) with questions, concerns, or input.

b. Program Standing Committees & Student Attendance

The pink form (distributed at plenary and also on the DSC website) outlining “Program Standing Committee Attendance” and “Governance of the Graduate Schools” is summarized by CS. Suzanne Tamang (ST) reports that all EO’s will be asked whether meetings are complying with these policies, and DSC reps should follow up on this as well.

## V. Student Affairs Report (GD)

### a. Chartered Org Rosters

After Thanksgiving break, electronic rosters will be available for those chartered organizations that would like to use them. If this trial period is successful, electronic rosters will be adopted for the Spring 2009 semester. These electronic rosters are conducted with the DSC’s e-Ballot system (used for voting).

### b. OpenCUNY.org

~10 groups (chartered orgs and Adjunct Project) are currently using this new system (blogging service), which is on track to be open to all students in Spring 2009.

## VI. Communications Report (RF)

RF had to leave early, so the plenary is directed to the statement he printed and distributed to those present. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 2 and 3 (mention of the travel fund’s quick depletion – Student Affairs is backed up with requests, so submit soon). JS inquires about the article submission fee mentioned in paragraph 2. Stephanie Domenici (SD) remarks that it would be useful if DSC reps could get announcements stating when Grad Council meetings are coming up (since they are alternates). CS announces the next meeting is Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> (refreshments served at 2:30pm, meeting starts at 3pm). March 2009 will also be an important meeting. It is urged that DSC reps be vigilant about corresponding with their departmental Grad Council reps to make sure that students are well-represented at these important meetings.

## VII. Business Report (CS)

a. DSC Submit

E-submit is working (CS refers the white handout distributed for instructions on how to log in to DSC Submit). Department reps can use this system for department allocations. JS inquires whether the receipts can be scanned in and submitted electronically; CS clarifies that original receipts (hard copies) must be submitted still. CS reminds everyone that Friday, December 12th is the last day to submit check requests if you would like to receive your checks before the holidays. GD also reminds everyone to get their rosters in for chartered organizations. CS concludes with the reminder that you can still use paper copies for submission if you are having problems with the online system.

VIII. USS Report (Allyson Foster, AF)

There is nothing new to report since last month. There is a meeting this Sunday, so she will have more to report next plenary.

IX. Committee Reports

-CS reports on behalf of the Student Tech Fee committee. At the most recent meeting, the committee approved a budget. There were surplus funds (from software that we didn't purchase and leftover printing consumables – not from the recent student tech fee increase), which the committee re-allocated to new initiatives; these include duplex printing for all program offices at the GC, one Mac for each program office at the GC, computers/printers for Criminal Justice and Business locations (housed at John Jay and Baruch, respectively), assistive technology improvements for the library, and additional scanners for library (with document feeders). Full minutes for the meeting (and the budget) are on the IT website.

-JB reports on behalf of the Health Issues Committee. She follows up on the e-mail she previously sent out to the DSC Google Group asking for members to join the committee. She clarifies that members do not need to be DSC reps. A sign-up sheet is passed around for those interested in joining. CS reads people on list (JS, Mariya Radeva, Samantha Sheppard, ST, Frank Episale, AF); KU motions Top approve those listed; PK seconds the motion; motion approved by unanimous consent. JB thanks those who have volunteered and announces she will be in touch through e-mail about the next meeting (which will take place before the semester ends).

## X. Announcements

JS reminds the plenary about his concern about lack of student parking around the GC. He encourages others to respond to his Google Group posting about this issue. GD explains how to sign up for the Google Group through the DSC website. GD suggests that we think about why student parking options are a good idea (he wonders how people get to school, and suggests framing the concern in the context of a larger commuting issue in order to gather support for this initiative). JS, KU, Denise Torres (DT), and JB speak in support of extending commuting options/cost-effectiveness to drivers as well as those who take public transportation into the city. Discussion of Transit Benefit (tax free metro card) ensues: you sign up for this program through the HR department where you work. JB points out that this does not apply to the LIRR and PATH. CS suggests DSC reps take polls of their departments to assess the commuting situation and then proceed from there (this could be a resource for later committee meetings). JS points out that it is not only students who are affected.

## XI. Adjournment

AS motions to adjourn the meeting; PK seconds the motion; motion to adjourn unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Belli