

DSC Plenary Meeting 26 March 2010

The Doctoral Students' Council
The Graduate School and University Center
The City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 5495
New York, NY 10016-4309
T: 212.817.7888 E: dsc@cunydisc.org

Attendance

Absent

Stephanie Domenici
Gregory Donovan
Ashley Foster
Maggie Galvan
Armin Lahiji

Jason Schneiderman
Jennifer Sloan
Denise Torres
Ji Hyon (Kayla) Yuh
Alex Zamalin

Plenary

Christine Pinnock, Anthropology
Carlos Penaloza, Biology
Samantha Sheppard, Biology
Tony Perri, Chemistry
Jared Simard, Classics

Jeremy Rafal, Linguistics
Kim Libman, Psych: Environmental
Amanda Mentzer, Psych: LPBA
Shana Henry, Urban Education

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Present

Media Board

Carolina Barrera-Tobón
Kate Broad

Matt Johnson
Benjamin Miller

Health Issues

Boris Daussá-Pastor
Edwin Demper

Linda Neiberg
Shawn Rice

Cultural Affairs

Anne Donlon
Desiree Fields

Maggie Robertson
Collette Sosnowy

Professional Development

Mariya Radeva, Anthropology
Annie Dell'Aria, Art History
Whitney Thompson, Art History
Rachel Marcus, Audiology
Richard Able, Biochemistry
Karyn Collie, Biology
Anick Boyd, Comparative Literature
Jeremy Seideman, Computer Science
Suzanne Tamang, Computer Science
Nicole Hanson, Criminal Justice
Tarra Jackson, Criminal Justice
Katie Gill, Earth and Environmental Science
Andy Bossie, Economics
Leigh McCallen, Ed Psych
Zeynep Dereli Korkut, Eng: Biomedical
Jill Belli, English
Allyson Foster, English
Lauren Donaldson, French
Zaida Godoy-Navarro, HLBLL
Astrid Roldan, HLBLL
Jennifer Jordan, History (Proxy: Paul McBreen)

Anton Masterovoy, History
Roz Woll, Music DMA
Jordan Stokes, Music PhD (Proxy: Mark Kanner)
Naomi Perley, Music PhD
Kyle Ferguson, Philosophy
Chris Sula, Philosophy
Heather Griffith, Physical Therapy
Jeffrey Broxmeyer, Political Science
Patricia Stapleton, Political Science
Vicky Barrios, Psych: Developmental
Paul Agnello, Psych: I/O
Puleng Segalo, Psych: Social
Amber Ahmad-Baker, Public Health
Tami Farber, Social Work
Colin Ashley, Sociology
Christina Nadler, Sociology
Eero Laine, Theatre
Edwin Mayorga, Urban Education

Suzanne Tamang calls the meeting called to order at 6:33 pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Chris Sula (CS) motions to add an Agenda Item III: Appointment of New Representatives; and, under New Business, to add an item c: New PSC Contract. Subsequent agenda items will move down accordingly. Jared Simard (JS) seconds; motion passes.

II. Approval of Old Minutes

As there are errors in the attendance portion of the minutes, CS motions to postpone the approval until later in the meeting so the attendance record from the previous Plenary can be consulted. Jeremy Seideman (JSied) seconds; motion passes by unanimous consent.

III. Appointment of New Representatives

CS motions to approve two new At-Large Representatives, Desiree Fields and Collette Sosnowy. Edwin Mayorga seconds; motion passes.

IV. Reports

a. Student Affairs (Suzanne Tamang)

Chartered Organizations

The electronic rosters for Chartered Organizations are active. Encourage people to sign up. The CUNY Americanists, L'Atelier, and the Luso-Brazilian groups are in the process of being de-chartered, so if any members of those groups are interested in keeping the groups active they should contact her immediately. A reminder to the co-chairs of Chartered Organizations that an activity report is due as well as a copy of the current constitution.

Housing:

A focus group on the new Graduate Center housing development in Harlem is being formed. Approximately 30 people are needed. If interested, please contact ST.

Bike Parking

Although there is no official plan, there may be some indoor space available in the area to the right of the loading dock on 35th St. It would hold a maximum of 25 racks and would be shared with other entities in the complex. There may be an OpenCUNY blog set up to address this initiative.

NYSHIP

If you are an adjunct and want to maintain NYSHIP coverage over the summer, you need to let NYSHIP know that you want the deductions to happen.

OpenCUNY

The interim coordinator will be working to establish a directory of information for chartered organizations and various OpenCUNY groups in order to make the content more easily accessible.

b. Communications (Shawn Rice)

OpenCUNY Coordinator

Applications for the OpenCUNY Coordinator position will be accepted until March 31.

Redirecting Email

An important community notice regarding email forwarding recently went out to your GC email accounts. Please

read it carefully and tell people about it.

Tax Preparation

A dry run of the tax preparation service **VITA** proved unsuccessful so the DSC has set up a series of workshops with a tax accountant instead. The last session is scheduled on April 3rd at 11:00 am in room 5414. The workshops will also be videotaped and posted on the DSC website.

Graduate Center Website

The GC is in the process of redesigning its web presence and brand identity. Bob Campbell would like to set up some student focus groups to talk with the branding and website development teams about functionality and aesthetics. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for April 5 and 6. Contact SR if interested.

Middle States

An Outcomes Assessment Committee is being established in response to the Middle States report and the Provost needs students to participate. Contact SR if interested.

Adjunct Project

A job search for either one or two (depending on the passing of the Bylaw amendments) Adjunct Project Coordinator positions will be opening.

The president of the PSC, Barbara Bowen, will be speaking at the April 23rd Plenary.

c. Business (Chris Sula)

Budget

CS presents an incomplete budget for discussion as the DSC is waiting to hear from the administration on some points before making final funding decisions. CS points out the following changes: A new line for legal and financial services was added to the budget as pilot programs initiated this year were very well-utilized. President Kelly has shown interest in establishing a Writing Center and is willing to repurpose Graduate Assistant lines to fund staff. The DSC may want to contribute some money to this, pending more information and negotiations. A new line was added under Media for OpenCUNY. The Community Building Committee has been renamed the Outreach Committee. The budget line for parties has been increased as they have been so well-attended. A line for the UFS Liaison position has been added. Stipends will be raised pending bylaw changes. CS hopes to present a complete budget at the next Plenary.

Dissertation Fellowships

CS met twice with Associate Provost Lennihan to discuss dissertation fellowships. We were able to get 15 additional fellowships at the \$18,000 level through tax levy money. These new fellowships will be paid in lump sum this June while the regular ones will be paid at the beginning of fall and spring semesters as usual. Three Humanities fellowships and three Biography fellowships that had been used to attract incoming students will be repackaged for Level 2 and Level 3 students.

Sustainability

CS is trying to build a coalition of faculty, staff, and students to address sustainability issues at the GC. A private group exists on the Academic Commons, but will become public soon. If interested, register at the Commons and then send CS an email so he can invite you to the group. The group will be made public and the website will launch within a couple of weeks.

d. USS (Allyson Foster)

A Resolution on the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act was passed at the last USS meeting.

e. UFS (Anick Boyd)

AB is still not recognized as having a voice or vote on the UFS. The Faculty Experience Survey was distributed but Graduate Assistants were not able to participate, as they are not officially recognized.

V. New Business

a. Electronic Voting System. CS reports that, in the interests of going paperless and being more efficient, the DSC would like to purchase iClickers for voting. The advantages of iClickers are that they allow real-time voting, screen captures, and provide electronic records of results, which will make us more legally compliant. The electronic voting system will cost approximately \$3000. CS suggests that the DSC allocate \$1500 from Special Allocations to purchase them, with the other \$1500 coming out of Steering Discretionary funds. Boris Duassa Pastor (BP) asks about the sustainability of the system: are the iClickers difficult to maintain? Will they be susceptible to loss or theft? ST notes that they worked very well in the pilot tests conducted by the Steering Committee and that, as the technology doesn't change very rapidly, they won't become outdated quickly. CS adds that the batteries for each unit would last for approximately 10 years, not counting normal depreciation. Ben Miller (BM) asks about the possibility of cell phone voting. SR responds that it can be difficult to register phones and arrange reimbursement, and that reception can be a problem within the GC building. CS notes that electronic voting systems have become standard for college governing bodies, both within and without CUNY.

SR motions to take the remaining \$1500 in Special Allocations and use it towards the purchase of an electronic voting system. BP seconds; motion passes.

b. Resolution on Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act

CS presented a resolution on the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. The resolution is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

SR presents the views of the UFS Chair, insofar as the Chair supports differential tuition transferring the power of controlling tuition from the state legislature to the Board of Trustees.

Matt Johnson supports the idea of differential tuition and raising tuition to better support education across CUNY. Debate ensues about the mission of CUNY providing low-cost education and access to traditionally under-represented groups and the future role of CUNY fulfilling this stated and original mission.

Katie Gill (KG) moves to endorse the resolution. BP seconds; motion passes.

7:48 Corrections having been made, the meeting returns to Agenda Item II: Approval of Old Minutes. Emendations are attached as an appendix to this document.

BM motions to approve the old minutes. Eero Laine (EL) seconds; motion passes.

c. PSC Contract

CS asks that everyone review the materials before the next Plenary meeting. CCU has passed a Program of Demands for part-time faculty. Paul McBreen (PB) talks about the First Friday meetings that are put on by a committee of the union, and encourages people to attend. He notes that Barbara Bowen will be speaking at the GC on April 6th at 12:30 pm, and he encourages us to attend and express our concerns.

PSC Part-Timers Resolution

Matt Johnson raises concerns about whether this would take money away from funding full-time faculty and perpetuate the reliance on adjuncts. Heated debate ensues about the status and workload of adjunct, especially pertaining to graduate student adjunct.

CS motions to endorse the Contract Resolution by the PSC Committee for Part-Time Instructional Staff. SR seconds. Motion approved.

d. Amendments to Bylaws

CS presented amendments to bylaws presented at the last plenary. Amendment to AP bylaws is presented from the floor. AP Coordinators had requested clarification on their roles and possible differentiated roles/positions. Executive Committee held intake interviews with Carl Lindskoog, Jesse Goldstein, Renee McGarry, and Alison Powell. Out of these meetings, EC is proposing three separate positions: Coordinator for Advocacy and Education, Coordinator for Labor Relations, and Coordinator for Organization and Planning.

BP asks about proposed bylaw 3.2.d on start-up grants, which prohibits students from the same program getting more than one grant per year. CS proposes striking the word "program" from that section and getting more data next year before considering other changes to that section.

CS motions to (a) approve amendments to proposed amendments to Bylaw 4.1 (Adjunct Advocacy and Affairs) and strike "program" from Bylaw 3.2.d; and (b) amend Bylaws 1-7 as indicated, with changes to take effect on July 1, 2010, with the exception of Bylaws 6.2.b.iii (OpenCUNY Coordinator stipend), which shall take effect April 1, 2010; and (c) repeal all other existing Bylaws; and (d) authorize the DSC and DSCE to elect officers and hire employees for positions that will exist under new bylaws, according to procedures enumerated in and with terms to begin as indicated by the proposed Bylaws. All current DSC officers, committee members, and employees shall retain their positions throughout the natural end of their terms.

SR seconds; motion passes.

VI. Announcements

- a. Elections are live on April 1. Everyone should go vote.
- b. The Spring Party will commence after this Plenary session.

VII. Adjournment

SR motions to adjourn. Jared Simard (JS) seconds; motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 8:43 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Allyson Foster.



Resolution on Governor David Paterson's Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act

Whereas Governor Paterson's Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act would authorize the CUNY and SUNY Trustees to implement tuition policy and differential tuition rates and move tuition policy outside of the state budgetary process;

Whereas responsibility for public higher education belongs in the hands of elected officials and not appointed trustees with zero public accountability;

Whereas the proposed act will result in continuous tuition increases across all campuses and programs, making higher education more unaffordable each year and placing it out of reach for New York's poorest families;

Whereas tuition differentials across degrees will make science, business, and professional programs less accessible to low and moderate-income students and devalue degrees granted by other programs;

Whereas these tuition increases will outpace Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards and increase the immediate out-of-pocket expenditures needed to participate in public higher education programs;

Whereas accountability and investment in public education is vital for future of the state and city of New York;

Whereas the Doctoral Students' Council represents all 4,700 doctoral and master's students at the Graduate Center;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council opposes the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act tuition policy and financing plan; and

Be it further resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council joins the SUNY Student Assembly in opposing CUNY and SUNY budget cuts and reductions in TAP awards;

Be it further resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council calls on state lawmakers to protect our access to public higher education.