

DSC Plenary Meeting Minutes

23 April 2010

Absent:

Kate Broad
 Edwin Demper
 Anne Donlon
 Gregory Donovan
 Ian Foster

Armin Lahiji
 Linda Neiberg
 Maggie Robertson
 Collette Sosnowy
 Alex Zamalin

Plenary

Richard Able (Biochemistry)
 Amber Ahmad-Baker (Public Health)
 Karyn Collie (Biology)
 Tami Farber (Social Work)
 Allyson Foster (English)
 Heather Griffith (Physical Therapy)
 Nicole Hanson (Criminal Justice)
 Rachel Marcus (Audiology)
 Anton Masterovoy (History)

Naomi Perley (Music PhD)
 Christine Pinnock (Anthropology)
 Mariya Radeva (Anthropology)
 Tatiana Schneider (Bio-Psych and Neuro)
 Puleng Segalo (Psych: Social)
 Samantha Sheppard (Biology)
 Jordan Stokes (Music PhD)
 Whitney Thompson (Art History)

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Media Board

Health Issues

Cultural Affairs

Professional Development

Present:

Carolina Barrera-Tobón
 Susan Brillhart
 Boris Daussá-Pastor
 Desiree Fields
 Ashley Foster
 Maggie Galvan
 Matt Johnson

Kristin Margelot
 Benjamin Miller
 Shawn Rice
 Jason Schneiderman
 Jennifer Sloan
 Ethan Zadof

Paul Agnello (Psych: I/O)
 Colin Ashley (Sociology)
 Vicky Barrios (Psych: Developmental)
 Jill Belli (English)
 Andy Bossie (Economics)
 Anick Boyd (Comparative Literature)
 Jeffrey Broxmeyer (Political Science)
 Annie Dell'Aria (Art History)
 Zeynep Dereli Korkut (Engineering: Biomedical)
 Lauren Donaldson (French)
 Kyle Ferguson (Philosophy)
 Katie Gill (Earth and Environmental Science)
 Zaida Godoy-Navarro (Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Lit)
 Tarra Jackson (Criminal Justice)
 Jennifer Jordan (History)

Eero Laine (Theatre)
 Kim Libman (Psych: Environmental)
 Edwin Mayorga (Urban Education)
 Leigh McCallen (Ed Psych)
 Amanda Mentzer (Psych: Learning Processes)
 Christina Nadler (Sociology)
 Carlos Penalzoza (Biology)
 Tony Perri (Chemistry)
 Jeremy Rafal (Linguistics)
 Astrid Roldan (Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Lit)
 Jeremy Seideman (Computer Science)
 Jared Simard (Classics)
 Patricia Stapleton (Political Science)
 Chris Sula (Philosophy)
 Suzanne Tamang (Computer Science)
 Roz Woll (Music DMA)

Shawn Rice (SR) calls the meeting to order at 7:06pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Tony Perry motions to approve the agenda with the addition of "Election of College Student Association"; Katie Gill (KG) seconds. One nay; motion is approved.

II. Approval of Old Minutes

Corrections of those incorrectly marked absent: Ashley Foster. Jeremy Seideman motions to approve minutes with emendations. Boris Daussà-Pastor seconds. Unanimously approved.

III. Ratification of New Representatives

SR announces that members of the council have been removed (as per procedure in constitution) for various reasons of ineligibility and non-attendance. Members removed are: Ji Hyon Yuh, Shana Henry, Denise Torres, Stephanie Domenici.

Petitions submitted for following people to join DSC: Mark Kanner (Physics – At-Large), Tatiana Schneider (Bio-Psych and Neuro), Susan Brillhart (Nursing – At-Large), Kristin Margelot (Art History – At-Large), and Arthur Starr (MES – At-Large).

Chris Sula moves to ratify new members; Jennifer Jordan (JJ) seconds; one abstention; motion passes.

IV. Executive Officer Reports

a. Student Affairs (Suzanne Tamang)

Proposals for chartered organizations are presented to the plenary and proposals themselves are included in the plenary packets:

Utopian studies: Jill Belli introduces group and speaks about the their mission and intention of charter.

GC Composition and Rhetoric Community, Ben Miller speaks to the interests of this group and their aims as an organization and asks for suggestion as to how the groups may apply itself to other disciplines.

Greek Community Group, Valia Mitsou speaks about the forming of the group and the types of events that the group intends to hold to include tradition and culture.

Suzanne Tamang (ST) reminds plenary that voting to charter these organizations will happen next plenary. ST informs the body that a housing survey will go to all students in the beginning of May.

Post Middle States meeting, KG speaks about outside assessors who met privately with certain students and voices concern about those who would possibly be denied opportunity to speak to the assessors. Discussion ensues over whether or not this occurred in other programs.

b. Communications Report (Shawn Rice)

NYSHIP summer coverage deductions letters sent out but Civil Service changed deduction schedule. There will be coverage until August 31 regardless.

The Emergency Loan fund program is still available to students through Financial Aid.

Travel and research applications are now closed. All processed requests are to be funded, but no new ones can be. The closing date was April 20, 2010.

The DSC is still receiving application adjunct project positions, Advocacy and Education and Labor Relations positions. SR encourages people to apply.

The writing center proposal is still being drafted, and it will be presented to Bill Kelly soon. SR recently spoke to President Kelly about this endeavor, and he was still excited about it.

SR presents the President's tentative plans for Travel and Research grants for 2010-2011: Restructuring will include increase award to \$500, however, only for presenters in attendance and conferences must be "of significant academic merit." The EO would sign off to confirm merit of the conference. SR raises concerns about this being recognized by the EO and the justice of this system, and provides the possibility of an appeals system.

The proposal would fund only Level 3 students. The grants could fund this population adequately as well as citing importance of this population's attendance. Also funding Level 2 could create poor CV representation. The submission structure would change so that the applications would be processed three to four times per year rather than on a rolling basis as they are now. There is the question as to whether the DSC will be funding partners for T&R. Either way DSC will remain advisory.

There was discussion from plenary voicing concern about the issue of the EO signature as well as conflicts that may arise under these specifications. Tony Perry suggests that EO replaced by members of advising committee. CS explains that this is possibly a directive to EO's rather than a universal restriction. There is a suggestion for creation of separate fund to ensure there is not diminished representation of the GC at conferences. Programs such as Physical Therapy could be affected because of their shorter degree periods. CS clarifies that Bill Kelly is concerned about the funding scheme. JB points out that interviews are part of conference attendance.

SR indicates that the time for discussion has expired; BDP moves to extend conversation by ten minutes. CS seconds. 13 nays, 2 abstentions, 33 yeas. Motion passes; discussion extended for ten minutes.

The discussion continues addressing concerns of the plenary. Jason Schneiderman asks about removing our portion of T&R monies to make a separate fund. Budgetary complications are addressed. A survey was conducted electronically to record view of the plenary approval of tentative plans for T&R on the following statements.

1. Increase to \$500.
2. Fund only conference presenters.
3. Fund conferences only of significant merit EO signature.
4. Fund conferences only of significant merit with Faculty signature.
5. Fund only Level 3 students.
6. Fund Graduate Student conferences.
7. Fund students going to conferences for job interviews.

c. **Business Report (Chris Sula)**

CS refers to packet with SPS report to be discussed at next plenary. Looking to put together survey options.

d. **USS Report (Jill Belli)**

Jill Belli no new business

e. UFS Report (Anick Boyd)

No new business.

V. New Business

a. Surplus Funds

Referring to plenary packet, CS reports state of the budget and explains plans in regard to cash flow. There is no surplus fund plans, and CS suggests that we move funds to the next year, which is the default method as inscribed in the constitution.

b. Budget

CS presents the budget for next two years. CS recommends an increase in Child Learning and Development Center of \$2000. Motions to approve budget of \$127,000 to be allocated by majority vote of plenary. JJ seconds. One nay. Motion passes.

KL speaks to concerns about the Wellness Center. She explains that \$96,000 dollars as part of our budget is to be considered. The DSC could make an allocation of \$48,000 for fall, then after follow-up information and utilization is received, allocate of the rest of the remaining amount for the Spring. KL motions to amend budget as suggested contingent upon report from Wellness Center, JS seconds. Two nays; motion approved.

Motion to create separate pool of T&R \$31,000, still maintained by Student Affairs, \$300 awards: KL moves to allocate money to T&R with terms to be decided by majority vote of this body once there is a clearer understanding of the terms of allocation of awards. Leigh McCallen seconds. Vote fails.

CS motions to amend budget, allocate \$31,000 to reserve for a special purpose. ST seconds. Vote passes.

c. PSC Contract

CS asks if plenary would like to endorse any special aspects of NYSHIP, TRS, equality of Grad A, B, & C's to adjunct positions and professional development Grants. CS motions to postpone the resolution until next plenary. SR seconds Two nays. Motion passes.

d. Election to College Association. SR asks for candidates. Kristin Margelot nominates herself. ST seconds. Katie Gill (KG) nominates herself as nominates as alternate. ST seconds. ST motions to approve Kristin Margelot and KG to fill the absent seats on College Association. CS seconds. One abstention. Motion passes.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Health Issues

KL speaks to organization of white paper and encourages help from the DSO. She talks about the Wellness Festival and what was successful and unsuccessful at the festival. She announces numbers for services utilized and encourages feedback on the quality. Then she asks plenary about interest in yoga services for the next semester.

VII. Announcements

a. The Steering Committee will be tabling in Dining Commons and Lobby next week for DSC elections.

VIII. Adjournment

Kyle Ferguson moves to adjourn, JS seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourns at 8:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anick Boyd