

**Plenary – Minutes
 November, 19th 2010**

Chair: Suzanne Tamang (ST)
 Meeting called to order at 6:43 pm

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| Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services | <p>I. Approval of Agenda</p> <p>Shawn Rice (SR) motions to approve the agenda with the following amendments:</p> <p>a. adding “III. Ratification of New Representatives” and renumbering accordingly</p> <p>b. moving “New Business” before “Executive Officer reports”</p> <p>c. adding “IV.f Amendment to Bylaw 5.3.c OpenCUNY Committee.”</p> <p>Tony Perri (TP) seconds; motion passes (62-2-2).</p> <p>II. Approval of Old minutes</p> <p>Jill Belli requests that the USS Report be changed to the information she provided in advance of the meeting. Ben Miller (BM) requests typographical changes. Anick Boyd (AB) motions to approve the minutes with these amendments; Leigh McCallen (LMC) seconds; motion passes (56-3-5).</p> <p>III. Ratification of New Reps</p> <p>Jared Simard (JS) present three at-large representatives for ratification: Edwin Demper, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, and Velina Manolova. Gregory Donovan (GD) asks how these students were selected. JS replies they were runners-up in the election and have expressed interest in filling the vacant seats. Anne Donlon (AD) motions to ratify these representatives; Carolina Barerra-Tobón (CBT) seconds; motion passes (62-1-2).</p> <p>IV. New Business</p> <p>a. Food Studies Collective</p> <p>Katie Gill (KG) explains the mission statement of the proposed organization. GD motions to charter the Food Studies Collective; Esteban Kelly (EK) seconds; motion passes (57-3-5).</p> <p>b. Thought Club</p> <p>SR explains the mission statement of the proposed organization. TP motions to charter Thought Club; Ann Dell’Aria (ADA) seconds; motion fails (48-8-8).</p> <p>TP motions to reconsider the motion to charter Thought Club; Mike Lubing (ML) seconds; motion passes (55-8-2).</p> <p>TP motions to charter Thought Club; AD seconds; motion fails (48-8-9).</p> <p>c. American Studies Area Group</p> <p>ADA explains the mission statement of the proposed organization. KG motions to charter the American Studies Area Group; Amy Martin (AM) seconds; motion fails (55-8-3).</p> <p>d. Association for Critical Theory</p> <p>Jennifer Corvy (JC) explains the mission statement of the proposed organization. KG requests additional information about membership. JC reports that there are 50 students on the roster and 4 organizers. Monquie Whitaker (MW) motions to charter the Association for Critical Theory; Jeremy Seideman (JS) seconds; motion fails (50-8-7).</p> |
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e. CUNY International Marxist Club

Arto Artinian (AA) explains the mission statement of the proposed organization. ML asks whether money will be used to fund student organizations or political organizations; AA replies that it will not. AB requests clarification of the connection between student riots in France and the Marxist foundations of the proposed organization; AA says rioting is not part of Marxist organizations, which employ signs, agitation, films, and discussion groups. AM acknowledges clarification of club name and thanks AA for accepting feedback from Plenary.

David Heayn (DH) motions to charter the CUNY International Marxist Club; David Elliott (DE) seconds; motion fails; (44-17-3).

Chris Alen Sula (CS) motions to table charter of Thought Club, American Studies Area Group, Association for Critical Theory, and CUNY International Marxist Club; AD seconds. JS notes that tabling is unnecessary since these motions can be made at a later time; CS replies that his motion is symbolic and he would like these organizations to be reconsidered after representatives have fully reviewed the criteria for charter. Motion passes (59-5-1).

f. Amendment to Bylaw 4.3.c

JS presents an amendment to Bylaw 4.3.c that allows for the addition of a second coordinator as a voting member of the OpenCUNY Committee. GD notes that all voting members of the Committee have equal power. JB notes that the current wording may allow non-registered students to be nominated and vote in the election. JS motions to approve the amendment with the following amendment "The voting members of the OpenCUNY Committee shall be composed of the OpenCUNY Coordinators and four members representatives elected annually by and from the voting members of OpenCUNY.org"; Keith Miyake (KM) seconds; motion passes (64-1-0).

V. Executive Committee Reports

a. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)

- i. The Ad-Hoc Fundraising Committee has met and is exploring various options; the next meeting will be held before the December Plenary.
- ii. The hiring process is underway for the Adjunct Project Coordinator for Organization and Planning, with the position beginning Jan 1.
- iii. Program Representatives are requested to link to the DSC website in updates to their program. The website has chartered organization signups; local student specials at the Archive (Mondays all day, \$5 beer and well; \$2 off any wines), Nanoosh (10% off after 2pm, excluding weekends), Talent Thai (10% off dine-in and carryout, including drinks, except lunch specials).
- iv. Two program student governments present their petitions for recognition as Program Student Associations.

Katherine Mendis (KM) presents the Philosophy Students Association. The constitution was ratified Nov 10, 2010, and elections are held every May for student committees and the Student Steering Committee, which has as *ex-officio* the DSC Program Representative receiving highest number of votes (all other student committee representatives are non-voting members). The SSC meets monthly, and voting members also vote on the program's executive committee.

JS presents the Classics Graduate Student Association. The constitution was ratified in Dec 2008, and the Association was organized around internal conflicts in Classics regarding representation on standing program committees, elections, and interest in having the executive committee meet with students (as is required by GC Governance). Since then, the Association has been relationship with faculty, including adding a course in curriculum.

General discussion of PSAs ensues. KG asks about benefits of student associations; EL explains that it adds a level of legality, since current organizations not recognized by any governance document, and further information is available on the DSC website. GD asks about funding for PSAs; EL explains that this provides a mechanism for providing guidance on program reps, CS adds that the DSC can provide financial services to PSAs, and ST notes that the DSC can provide use of VoteNet for PSA elections. Christina Nadler (CN) asks about what level of bureaucracy PSAs involves and whether they place any burden on students leaders in programs (e.g., is there a consequence for not fulfilling requirements); EL explains that the only requirement is annual submission of a list of officers and failure to do so results in automatic derecognition. CN asks how the DSC would support a Sociology PSA; EL explains that issues can be brought to DSC Steering, DSC Plenary and the Structure Committee of Graduate Council, and CS notes that DSC officers cannot currently negotiate with and on behalf of unrecognized student leaders, but PSAs provide a mechanism for recognition. GC asks how a PSA would function in a program with subprograms, such as Psychology; EL volunteers to meet to discuss this unique concern. WJ asks whether PSAs receive funding; CS reports that a programs only receive program allocations from the DSC and that, in cases in which a PSA exists, the PSA presumably decides how the money is spent.

b. Co-Chair for Communications (Kimberly Libman)

There is no report.

c. Co-Chair for Business (Chris Alen Sula)

CS presents a current financial statement with corrections. Andrew Bossie (AB) asks what areas we should encourage spending in; CS says we should encourage grant applications and that programs and chartered organizations should spend their allocations. Valia Mitsou (VM) asks how surplus funds are spent; CS reports that the Co-Chair for Business presents a plan each spring for vote at Plenary. Pamela Proscia (PP) asks about Travel & Research Funding and Health Issues Committee allocations; CS replies that the 25K approved by Plenary has been put toward Travel & Research Awards and that HIC usually spends its money on the Spring Wellness Festival.

d. University Student Senate Delegate (Jill Belli)

- i. There has been one plenary session (Nov 14) since the last report. One candidate for Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs and one candidate for Vice-Chair for Community Colleges withdrew, so the Steering Committee is now complete.
- ii. A Board of Trustees budget hearing was held on Nov 15; the next BoT meeting is Mon, Nov 22 at Baruch at which a 5% across-the-board increase for tuition in Spring 2011 and 2% increase in Fall 2011 will be considered.
- iii. The CUNY Symphony Orchestra is being formed and planning one concert at the end of the year; contact Jill if interested

- iv. Brooklyn College is lobbying for free Metrocards for CUNY Students.
- v. USS is considering forming a Council of Student Government Association Presidents.
- vi. USS passed a resolution opposing the proposed tuition increases.

- e. University Faculty Senate Liaison
AB met with Chair Sandi Cooper, who expressed concern about retrenchment as her highest priority.

VI. Steering Officer Reports

- a. Officer for Funding (Kyle Ferguson)
 - i. The deadline for the next Grant application period is Wednesday, Nov 24. The Grants Committee will meet to review applications on Wednesday, Dec 8.
 - ii. KF has created a funding blog (opencuny.org/dscfunding). KF requests that representatives forward relevant announcements to funding@cunydisc.org.
 - iii. KF requests volunteers for program-specific needs assessment survey.

- b. Officer for Governance & Membership (Jared Simard)
 - i. The Constitution & Bylaws Committee met on Nov 17, 2010 and approved the OpenCUNY amendment and discussed a series of smaller changes to the bylaws.
 - ii. Seven representatives have been automatically removed since the last meeting: 5 At-Large Representatives and 2 program Representatives; the runner up in Physical Therapy has been contacted, and a call for nominations has been issued to Biochemistry students; those seats will dissolve if there is no reply within 10 business days. The Speech, Language and Hearing Science Program Representative has resigned, and JS has initiated procedures to fill the seat.
 - iii. Twenty representatives were absent at the October Plenary, meaning they will be automatically removed as of this meeting if they are not in attendance; a warning email was sent to each of them.
 - iv. A resolution opposing tuition increases is presented. MW motions to approve the resolution; LMC seconds; motion passes (48-0-2).

- c. Officer for Health & Wellness (Leigh McCallen)
 - i. Free flu vaccines (nasal) are available at the Wellness Center.
 - ii. The student health insurance survey is underway. KF asks about privacy protections; LMC says survey is anonymous. ST adds that information is private and a disclaimer on the survey states that no personal information is recorded. Sarah Ruth Jacobs (SRJ) stresses that IP information may be discoverable.
 - iii. The DSC plans to create a framework for student-recommended provider information.
 - iv. The Health Issues Committee met on Nov 19, 2010 and discussed a more holistic approach to the Spring Wellness Festival, including having a nutritionist and acupuncturist.

- d. Officer for Outreach (Boris Daussà-Pastor, presented by Eero Laine)
 - i. The Outreach Committee met on Nov 2, 2010 and decided to postpone its workshop for off-campus DSC representatives to Friday, Feb 4, 2011 from 4–6pm. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be Feb 4, 2010 immediately before the workshop, at which time the Committee will assess its goals for the year.

- ii. The first outreach event was held at John Jay College. Attendees expressed lack of communication between GC administration and JJC, particularly regarding payment of scholarship monies; attendees also expressed interest in forming a PSA.
 - iii. The next outreach event will be held at Queens College on Monday, Nov 6.
 - iv. BDP reports that these events beneficial for off campus students in terms of bringing them information and getting feedback for the DSC.
 - v. A first version of the international students website is done, but not yet public.
- e. Officer for Student Life & Services (Shawn Rice)
- i. The deadline for the fitness survey is Monday. The survey was sent to all students enrolled in classes this semester. A larger survey will be conducted in the spring for next year. VM notes that students taking more than one class may have trouble answering general questions on the survey and suggests revisions for next time.
 - ii. The next Student Services Committee meeting will be held in December. Ideas for additional student services are welcome.
- f. Officer for Technology and Library (Suzanne Tamang)
- i. In light of student concerns about Citrix and WFS, ST met with IT, which agreed to hear student concerns about user friendliness and functionality at a meeting at end of this semester or beginning of Spring. Interested participants should contact ST.
 - ii. The Student Technology Survey is ongoing and closes Feb 1. SR seeks volunteers for writing a recommendation paper based on the data.
- VII. Announcements
- There are no announcements.
- VIII. Adjournment
- JB motions to adjourn the meeting; JS seconds; motion passes (44-0-0).
- Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.
- Respectfully submitted by Chris Alen Sula