

Plenary Minutes March 18, 2011

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

Present: Thierry Agbotouedo, Renthee Anthony, Colin Ashley, Jordan Backstrom, Carolina Barrera Tobon Kyle Bauser, Stephen Boatright, Andrew Bossie, Anick Boyd, Susan Brillhart, Jeffrey Broxmeyer, Joost Burgers, Sharina Cabrera, Gina Campelia, Karyn Collie, Boris Daussa Pastor, Annie Dell'Aria, Edwin Demper, Melissa Dennihy, Gregory Donovan, David Elliot, Kyle Ferguson, Desi Fields, Stephanie Fiorenza, Claire Fontaine, Ian Foster, Margaret Galvan, Sonia Gonzalez, Kevin Guzzo, Nicole Hanson, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Wioleta Jaworska, Sarah Jordan, Esteban Kelly, Bijan Kimiagar, Christina Kirkman, Eero Laine, Aramis Lopez, Michael Lubing, Velina Manolova, Rachel Marcus, Kristin Margelot, Tiwi Marira, Amy Martin, Leigh McCallen, Steve McFarland, George Melissinos, Erica Meltzer, Katherine Mendis, Ben Miller, Chrissy Mitakakis, Keith Miyake, Christina Nadler, Naomi Perley, Anthony Perri, Jeremy Rafal, Shawn Rice, Astrid Roldan, Virtue Sankoh, Tatiana Schnieder, Jeremy Seideman, Jared Simard, Patricia Stapleton, Jordan Stokes, Chris Sula, Rachel Suzanne Tamang, Verni, H. Roz Woll, Megan Welsh, Monique Whitaker, Paige Yellen

Absent: Jill Belli, Rachel Brungard, Anne Donlon, David Heayn, Ben Hellwege, Naja Hougaard, Syed Islam, Kim Libman, Rishi Mathura, Edwin Mayorga, Amanda Mentzer, Valia Mitsou, Pamela Proscia, Melissa Zavala

Meeting called to order at 6:20pm.

I. Approval of agenda with amendments

Motion to approve by Eero Laine (EL), seconded by Chris Sula (CS). Motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of minutes from February 18, 2011

The following corrections need to be made: Item 2 Stephanie Jones (SJ), Sarah Ruth Jacobs (SRJ) not listed but was present, Naomi Perley's name spelled wrong page 3 surname missing E item 4, Patricia spelled wrong.

Motion to approve minutes with aforementioned corrections by Mike Lubing (ML), seconded by Keith Miyaki. Motion passes unanimously.

III. Ratification of new representatives

Kevin Guzzo replacing linguistics rep. George Melissinos, first rep, petitioning for Middle Eastern Studies. CS motions to approve, Jared Simard (JS) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. New Business

- a. Chartering Organizations- EL introduces rep. from Udaan committee who offers to answer questions. Motion to charter Bijan Kimiajar motions to approve, Annie Dell'Aria seconds. Motion passes unanimously. Electronic record (61).
- b. Election of at large steering officer-Kristin Margelot nominates Annie Dell'aria, she accepts. Boris Daussà-Pastor (BDP) nominates Monique Whitaker, she accepts. CS gives information about responsibilities of the position. Anick Boyd nominates ML, he accepts. Motion to close nominations by Colin Ashley, BDP seconds. Assignments of letters respective to candidates for secret ballot.

Candidates make speeches as to why they are interested in the position, then leave the room for discussion after being informed that they are welcome to stay if they wish.

Voting opens. Annie Dell'Aria is elected by majority vote.

V. EC Reports

Co-Chair for Communications

Leigh Mcallen reads Kimberly Libman's report. Writing Center proposal has been submitted to Bill Kelly. Problems about GTF to WAC/WF conversion have also communicated to the President's office and the Provost's office. She requests that students affected by this transition contact her via email.

Co-Chair for Student Affairs

EL- There are two new program student associations proposed: Criminal Justice and Political Science. Political Science -Mike Miller (proxy for Patricia Stapleton) speaks about student association and their needs to act as a complementary body to the DSC reps. They will be an association of 5 people, 2 rep.'s of DSC, 1 rep. of master's program, other election comm.

Criminal Justice-Megan Welsh from John Jay, elected Pres. of Crim. Just. Student association addresses plenary presents ratified constitution. 50% student body voted on the constitution. Discussion ensues. Voting will take place at next plenary.

Fundraising committee has met and EL will give more info later in meeting.

Co-Chair for Business-CS will present budget in March. A decision on Travel and Research will be necessary as well as on health issues. CS received a lot of feedback and concern about T&R. Report 1-T&R long term policy necessary. Now currently employing a stop-gap measure. CS gives background on process from previous bodies. 1976-2003 fund was growing linearly around, 2005 became exponential. Monies generally run out around March. As funding doubled, problems arose and when tuition went up resolution passed asking Pres. to cover increased amount and to grow fund 10% and store rollover monies. CS reported that in March the President released a four-point plan which we polled at plenary and we presented this data to him. DSC maintained position that funds needed to be available to students beyond those at level 3. In August we were presented with lottery system which would fund 250 at \$500, only for professional conferences, not graduate student run conferences, over 3 periods. (See attachment for relevant figures.)

CS recommends, as this is not a priority for the administration, that the DSC form long-term policy on how T&R should and can be funded by DSC and student contribution, in general. Christina Nadler voices the problem of confusion over President's Award and DSC award and concern of possibility that one could apply for both and still receive no funds and be unable to attend conference because of this, effecting professionalization. SJ (proxy for Esteban Kelly) brings attention to fact that the total amount at the moment is inadequate for addressing the real need of students and arguing over specifics of DSC awards is a small issue. GD cites, from previous years of experience on DSC on this matter, that DSC once funded this at a figure approaching \$90,000 but at the rate that we are currently able to fund T&R our awards have no profound impact and we should consider no longer funding it with student funds when this is the case. CS reads proposal that this is a fundamental right for students to have this funding. DSC does not have enough resources to restructure this problem. Discussion ensues. Ben Miller (BM) suggests amendment in language about primary responsibility of administration rather than funding as right. BM proposes that this is an integral or vital need and crucial to representation. Susan Brillhart suggests that language be added to reflect that the university is the primary beneficiary of student research and presentation of research and it follows that the university should be the primary funder.

RESOLVED: Reliable access to adequate travel and research funds is a vital need of graduate students for their professional development. The DSC may maintain interim stopgap measures over the next several years to address immediate issues of equity and need. However, because the University is the primary recipient of increased reputation and prestige from these activities, the University should be the primary funder of travel and research awards.

CS moves to pass preceding resolution, BM seconds. Motion unanimously passes.

Student activity fee-previous surpluses. We have maximized efficiency of AP, chartered orgs, etc. How do we maintain growth if enrollment grows? We do not want to raise student activity fee, last change 1992. What's another fundraising stream? Establishment of ad-hoc funding committee report distributed. Demonstrated need for alumni association and outreach. Discussion on fundraising and donors, resources for maintaining contact with alumni guided by programs, system for micro donations, partnerships with businesses, and in kind contributions. This provides an opportunity to work with the institutional advancement office. Starting an alumni outreach initiative. The fundraising committee has brought ideas for exploration. Form standing committee to address these needs. Proposal to create affiliate to address these concerns and needs, Bylaw to establish affiliate will be introduced later.

Health and Wellness-Chart of total expenditures presented from 1992-present (see attached). Funded \$50,000 previously for NP. No data before 1999 for subsidies. In last 3 years large increase in subsidies and NP funded at \$96,000. Present enrollment rates 104,000 expected contribution but actual expenditure around 114,00 bleeding to other parts of budget. Presentation of letter from Bob Hatcher, points to two issues: giving insured students subsidy money and issue of misbilling. Audit program has since been instituted. Collection of 30% has increased greatly. LM speaks about NP from health survey. 167 filled out questions on NP services: 69% satisfied, 72% agreed NP haloed in ways expected. 37% gave satisfied as review of health services. NP data provided in report earlier circulated to plenary rep's. NP is currently here for 25 hrs/wk. Discussion turns to returning to clinic model utilized during

period without a NP, establishing a board to review, similar to media board, to regulate services. SRJ asks for clarification on whether or not students are actually paying more under the current system. CS explains no direct analysis is available but according to meetings with Student Affairs, the clinic model appears to have been less expensive. BDP asks how NYSHIP has changed service. CS clarifies that procurement of insurance has not changed our commitment at all. SA says it could be useful to establish a task force to address this and what our needs are in relation to this. LM requests that plenary have more information about off-site services as there is a possibility of people being dissatisfied with those services, LM also cites problem of ideological differences after discussion of whether students have right to health services on campus. BDP expresses, in his position as outreach officer, the concern over how many students are off-campus and how possibly the current system doesn't serve the student body. LM expresses concern that 620 students were polled and that we should represent those views as they were mostly positive. ST tells plenary that there are review sources for the clinics and mentions that the counseling services are highly rated and wonderful services. CS remarks on what appears to be openness to task force from plenary. CS notifies that he will send out email addressing this after general agreement of plenary.

Stipend levels on budget- nominal impact on budget, AP and OpenCUNY growing. We will vote on this in April and CS encourage rep.'s to email and stop by his office hours.

USS Report- Jill Belli (JB) is absent, ST gives report. There was a Plenary on 2/27. There was no quorum so no official business was conducted (this was a rescheduled Plenary, and Delegates were only given a few days advance notice of the meeting). There will be another Plenary this Sunday, 3/20.

UFS Report-Anick Boyd reports that aside from the hearing on the state budget the UFS issued a resolution similar to those already issued by Baruch College, CCNY and Hunter College in favor of colleges retaining their sovereignty in regards to curriculum and matriculation. AB also communicates the concern over GTF's who have been converted to WAC/WF's and asks plenary to contact her with their concerns.

VI. Steering Committee Officer Reports

ST directs plenary to officer reports from Steering Committee in their paper handouts.

Officer for Governance and Membership - JS speaks more extensively on bylaw revisions. JS directs plenary to distributed packet created by C&B, documents have already been passed at C&B but will be up for vote at next meeting: media board dissolved but added to larger body, AP and OpenCUNY changed to senior employees, addition to appeal process, employment moved to 12 month stipend-amount remaining the same, chartered org. bylaws changes and allocation formulas, OpenCUNY codification of second employee, codified advisory opinion for programs with multiple rep.'s, procedure to real DSC delegates to exterior entities. JS calls for questions. Gregory Donovan expresses concerns about coordinator responsibilities articulated in bylaws for OpenCUNY and requests that he may be able to submit to Steering suggestions for language as he will be unable to attend the next C&B meeting. The following, in quotation marks and italics, is from an email submitted by GD 3/21/11 and include the language he wishes to be included:

"Concerns

- 1. The development of site templates is a redundant requirement. We're dealing with open-source software - conditions are constantly changing. Setting up a template feature this semester is already in the works, but who can say that next year someone might invent a newer/better/different plugin that achieves this goal, or wordpress might issues a new upgrade that renders this feature useless/pointless? Codifying this would hamper our ability to evolve. This is already covered with the "assessing developments in free and open source software, with the aim of identifying new services to offer" and makes more sense as something worked out specifically in the quarterly/yearly goals.*
- 2. "Resolving server security issues and investigating SSL certification" also doesn't make sense as a requirement. Further, it's a huge responsibility to place in any one position. Security issues almost always require coordination between multiple parties, and in many cases it will be an issue a coordinator will have no real control over or expertise in. Any server-side security issues, whether via OpenSourceHost, GC, or AWS, is something a coordinator will not be able to take responsibility for. You'd be setting this position up with a requirement they couldn't possibly meet.*
- 3. SSL - an I issue I first raised and that Maggie and I are currently pursuing - is another example of something that should be worked out specifically in the quarterly/yearly goals. Further, we don't deal with information that really needs to be secured at such a level (unlike cunydisc.org which does). The idea has been to offer some sort of limited SSL service to students who want to do IRB approved research (which calls for SSL) via OpenCUNY. Thus, it's a goal we're trying to achieve, and once achieved (if possible) ... there isn't much needed to keep investigating it just for the sake of investigating it. Also, the IRB is currently being restructured CUNY-wide so this requirement might change by fall and we may need to adhere to different requirements in order to support student research.*
- 4. The changes proposed by the Bylaw Committee (as is currently written) places significantly more work under the domain of the Planning and Development Coordinator, a position which is meant to be equal with the other coordinator position.*

Proposed Changes

- 1. Remove the vague and complex requirement of "resolving server security issues."*

Requirements such as SSL and templates should be removed as specific requirements for an individual coordinator and instead worked out on a case-by-case basis with the Steering Committee as yearly/quarterly goals."

JS refers to other two documents: new bylaws not yet through C&B and will be decided at next C&B meeting. Bylaw 4.4 alumni outreach and fundraising affiliate introduced by EL. ST reminds plenary that they can email JS about concerns. Bylaw 6.1E CS would like to extend to chartered orgs, etc., Bylaw 6.2B, 7.1 already ratified by C&B to be voted on next time by plenary- UFS Liaison will not be USS alternate but that position will be elected.

JS-8 absences no removals, last plenary. Proxies encouraged. 2 new people: Social Welfare still open and no nomination yet.

Officer for Technology and Library - ST gives important dates for upcoming events: April 29th OpenCUNY get your 1-4 room 5409. Student tech fee meeting will be March 25th full report on student tech survey is complete and will be sent to IT.

Officer for Health and Wellness - NYSHIP event LM with student affairs April 27 3-5pm in Proshansky, LM informs that event will be videotaped for students unable to attend.

Officer for Outreach - BDP announces for Outreach: Hunter, 12th, 13th, 14th at CCNY and another bootcamp April 15th for reps.

VII. Announcements

SJ gives update on AP and state budget, upcoming workshops and protests.

BK announces that there was a conference on cultural climate change, featuring collaboration between DSC and several programs. Highly successful because of collaboration and they have produced green map of restaurants on OpenCUNY.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourns at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anick Boyd.