

**Plenary – Minutes  
December 9th, 2011**

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

Present: Reethee Antony, Colin Ashley, Marcus Avelar, Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Kyle Bauser, Mikela Bjork, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Emily Clark, Jacob Cohen, Annie Dell'Aria, Michael Denunzio, Anne Donlon, Zane Ferguson, Stephanie Fiorenza, Claire Fontaine, Margaret Galvan, Eva Gratta, Nicole Hanson, George Jackman, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Rebecca Jones, Alice Jones, Stefanie Jones, Sarah Jordan, Svetlana Jovic, Eero Laine, Aramis Lopez, Amy Martin, Benjamin Miller, Evan Misshula, Chrissy Mitakakis, Valia Mitsou, Kristin Moriah, Christina Nadler, Stephen O'Connell, Megan Paslawski, Milinda Perera, Naomi Perley, Ian Pervil, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Lisa Reinke, Shawn Rice, Virtue Sankoh, Antonia M. Santangelo, Cosim Sayid, Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Christopher Silsby, Jared Simard, Patricia Stapleton, Justin Swearingen, Suzanne Tamang, Joanna Tice, Laurel Turbin, Monique Whitaker, Melissa Zavala, Zachary McGuirk

Absent: Flannery Amdahl, Boris Daussà-Pastor, Gregory Donovan, David Elliott, Desiree Fields, Tim Fujioka, Julieanne Guadalupe, Syed Islam, Cassie Lau, Kimberly Libman, Amanda Licastro, Manissa McCleave Maharawal, Leigh McCallen, Erica Meltzer, Deepak Menon, Tony Perri, Lauren Rouse, Lauren Saxton, Melissa WS Wong, Jamie Yancovitz

Annie Dell'Aria calls the meeting to order at 6:10pm

**I. Approval of Agenda**

1. Christen **N. Serrano** Madsen II adds item IVa Ratification of new members
2. Chrissy Nadler adds agenda item IV.e "resolution on Library"

Valia Mitsu motions to approve the agenda. Monique seconds the motion passes unanimously

**II. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2011**

1. Anne Donlon amends the minutes of her report to read Vice chancellor "will" not "wants to"

Monique whitaker motions, Sarah Jordan seconds. The motion passes.  
Stefanie Jones and christopher silsby abstain

**III. Executive Committee Reports**

**1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)**

- a. EL reports that President Kelly has addressed the increased security at the Graduate Center after the DSC Steering Committee sent him a public letter.
- b. EL reports that Distinguished professors are planning on meeting with the Chancellor regarding the events at Baruch on November 21<sup>st</sup>. They will send a group of about five

professors to speak with the Chancellor, who has agreed to meet with them but said he will be bringing two lawyers.

- c. EL reports that Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Health and Insurance met. Kim Libman was elected chair.
- d. EL reminds representatives that there are still a few weeks left to join chartered organizations
- e. EL reminds representative that there will be a party following the meeting

## **2. Co-Chair for Communications (Jared Simard)**

1. JS reports on the Alumni and Trustee Committee. The committee has been tasked with three goals. All of the alumni on the committee are of those who have gone on to work in non-academic careers. The committee has identified three goals: 1) Achieve cultural change regarding attitudes toward non-academic employment. 2) Establish partnerships with New York City businesses and organizations. 3) Design and implement a supplemental training program. This might involve speaker series, alumni mentors, workshops, etc. JS thanks Alanna Valdez for her excellent work advocating for students with the development office.

2. JS reports on the meeting with Student Affairs. The administration has noted the excitement and drive of the alumni on the Alumni and Trustee Committee.

## **3. Co-Chair for Business (Annie Dell'Aria)**

1. AD reports that DSC services are very popular. The free legal services have filled up for the month of December. Movie tickets are also very popular. Yoga is scheduled for the sptinf

2. AD explains the new procedure for check requests

3. AD reports that she is looking into creating an information page for tax resources for graduate students. MW announces that the International Students Office offers advice and software for students. Shawn Rice suggests looking at the tax workshop videos on the DSC website. AD will also post links regarding tax prep to the DSC page. Discussion ensues.

4. AD points out the resolution on space under new business

## **4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)**

1. CN reports that she distributed the application for at-large GTFs and other fellowships that the Sociology program is using.

2. CN invites everyone who has had a negative experience with their fellowships to contact her. She is looking to form a group to discuss these issues with the administration

3. CN reports that level three students are not allowed to enroll and get credit for Certificate Programs. She will be following up on this issue. Anick Boyd suggests that some students have received special permission as long as they paid tuition for the courses. Discussion ensues relating to the nature of certificate programs, time to degree, and the actual cost of tuition paid.

4. CN reports on the most previous USS meeting. There were multiple rounds of elections, which took up most of the meeting. At the upcoming meetings they will be addressing new business such as the policing of Muslim students on CUNY campuses.

5. CN reports that she was invited to have dinner with the Chancellor, the Vice-Chairs, some of the Board of Trustees, and other students. She has circulated a statement to various listservs and will circulate it more widely when it has been edited. CN reports on her surprise at being invited to the dinner after she had spoken at the public meeting on November 17th, where she had told the Board that they should be ashamed of themselves. CN was allowed to ask a question about how they defined public education. CN reports that Board of Trustees Member Benno Schmidt indicated that he viewed public education as training people for future careers and industry. CN indicates he seemed to believe that the purpose of public education was to create a reserve army of workers. CN reports that the sentiment among students seems to be that charges should be dropped for those students who were arrested at Baruch during the protests.

#### **5. UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)**

1. AD reports that the USF has forwarded the many dissenting responses to pathways. The Chair of UFS has encouraged the Chancellor to keep in mind all of the discussion on this issue
2. AD reports that under a new policy, all information sent or received on a CUNY computer resource will be subject to search and monitoring. AD will circulate the draft of the proposed policy.
3. AD will be attending the upcoming meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Schaeffer, which will address this issue and the Board of Trustees' adherence to the Open Meetings Law and other legal issues pertaining to students and faculty.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Ratification of new members**

1. CM presents new representatives Andrew Lucchesi (at-large) and Zachary McGuirk (Mathematics) for ratification

CM motions, Shawn Rice seconds The motion passes unanimously

##### **c. Chartering of the Critical Palestine Studies Association (CPSA)**

1. EL reports that there are not enough members present to vote on this item

##### **b. Chartering of the CUNY Graduate Center Disability Studies Group**

1. Andrew Lucchesi presents the organization

Suzanne Tamang motions. Monique whitaker seconds. The motion passes unanimously

##### **d. Resolution on Pathways: General Education Framework**

1. Anne Donlon presents the resolution indicating that the DSC has taken action on this issue in the past. This resolution addresses recent changes to the proposed General Education requirements at CUNY. Anne Donlon reminds plenary that no duly elected faculty members were involved in designing the Pathways plan. Monique whitaker outlines the implications for Pathways as indicated in the resolution. Anne Donlon reads the resolution. Discussion ensues.

Cosim motions to approve the Resolution on Pathways: General Education Framework with the emendations from the floor. Valia seconds. 33 yays. 6 nays. 5 abstentions. The motion carries.

##### **e. Resolution on Space**

1. AD presents the resolution. Suzanne Tamang motions to approve the resolution. Kristen Bowman seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

##### **f. Resolution on Library**

1. Christina Nadler presents the resolution. Monique Whitaker motions to adopt the Resolution on the CUNY Library Catalog. Evan seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

#### **V. Steering Officer Reports**

##### **a. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)**

1. CA reports that Grants has given \$9,451 thus far. That is 48 percent of the committee's budget. CA presents data from the past three years related how grants are distributed. CA fields questions related to the distribution of Grant Committee resources.

2. CA has met with Polly Thistlewaithe regarding grant databases. He will be circulating information on the trial periods for this type of software.

##### **b. Officer for Governance & Membership (Christen N. Serrano Madsen II)**

1. CM reports on the two new voting members of this body and that three reps have been removed due to non-attendance.

2. CM reports that there will be 6 reps removed after this meeting if they are not in attendance this evening.

##### **c. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)**

1. MW thanks those reps still in attendance for remaining at the meeting

2. MW reports on the NYSHIP workshop and information session. The event was well attended. The Health Issues Committee and the Adjunct Project will be holding more events in the spring.

3. MW encourages reps to visit the Health Issues Blog, which is continuously updated.

4. MW encourages reps to reach out to their constituents that do not currently have health insurance.

5. MW has been meeting with Restaurant Associates and is establishing methods of more direct communication between students and the Head Chef

##### **d. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)**

1. NH reports on the Outreach event at Brooklyn College, which was sparsely attended.

2. NH reports that the event at the Silverman School of Public policy went very well.

3. NH reminds reps that there will be a n event at the Graduate Center relating to Program Student Associations and program governance

4. NH presents the results from the Outreach Survey. There were 316 total responses. 286 completed surveys.

5. NH presents the document on constituent communication and best practices.

##### **e. Officer for Student Life & Services (Sarah Jordan)**

1. SJ reports that the link for the DSC suggestion website will circulated soon. Also, the

2. SJ reports that the housing survey will be sent out at the beginning of the Spring semester

3. SJ reports that there are new dance classes planned as well as boxing classes. SJ is still looking for a self defense instructor

##### **f. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)**

1. PS reports that she has met with Polly Thistlewaithe to discuss issues pertinent to graduate students.

2. PS will circulate an email related to the Technology and Library Committee, which will detail the activities of the committee and information on the library.

3. PS will circulate information on grant resources and databases.
  4. PS is almost finished updating the list of available software. PS will make that list available when it is complete.
  5. PS will be soliciting ideas for the use of Student Tech Fee. PS encourages reps to
  6. PS asks for volunteers to sit on for Student Tech Fee Committee, which will be appointed at a later date.
- Reethee Anthony expresses interest.

#### **VI. Announcements**

1. AD fields a question related to reserving DSC rooms.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Monique Whitaker motions. Stefanie Jones seconds.

Respectfully submitted by Eero Laine