

**Plenary – Minutes
February 24th, 2012**

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

Present: Kate Albany, Reethee Antony, Colin Ashley, Marcus Avelar, Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Jacob Cohen, Annie Dell'Aria, Anne Donlon, Desiree Fields, Stephanie Fiorenza, Tim Fujioka, Raymond Funk, Margaret Galvan, Eva Gratta, Julieanne Guadalupe, Mary Hubbell, George Jackman, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Stefanie Jones, Sarah Jordan, Svetlana Jovic, Eero Laine, Aramis Lopez, Andrew Lucchesi, Amy Martin, Leigh McCallen, Erica Meltzer, Deepak Menon, Benjamin Miller, Evan Misshula, Chrissy Mitakakis, Valia Mitsou, Christina Nadler, Stephen O'Connell, Tony Perri, Ian Pervil, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Reena Rahi, Lisa Reinke, Shawn Rice, Lauren Rouse, Virtue Sankoh, Cosim Sayid, Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Christopher Silsby, Jared Simard, Patricia Stapleton, Justin Swearingen, Joanna Tice, Monique Whitaker, Alexandria Wise, Jamie Yancovitz

Absent: Ryan Abrahams, Mikela Bjork, Melissa Dennihy, Michael Denunzio, Gregory Donovan, David Elliott, Zane Ferguson, Claire Fontaine, Nicole Hanson, Rebecca Jones, Alice Jones, Cassie Lau, Kimberly Libman, Amanda Licastro, Zachary McGuirk, Daniel Meredith, Kristin Moriah, Megan Paslawski, Milinda Perera, Naomi Perley, Antonia M. Santangelo, Suzanne Tamang, Laurel Turbin, Melissa Zavala

Annie Dell'Aria calls the meeting to order at 6:09PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

JM motions to add item under New Business VI.b "Child Care Representative."

Evan Misshula motions to add under New Business VI.c "Access to Education for People with a Criminal History."

CM motions to move New Business to follow Ratification of New Members, to become IV.

Shawn Rice motions to move Old Business before New Business.

SJ motions; Shawn Rice seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of December 9th, 2011

JS motions to strike "the motion passes" in IV.b and amend IV.b to read "failing to achieve quorum, the motion does not carry."

Shawn Rice moves to approve; Sarah Ruth Jacobs seconds; the motion passes with one abstention, Stefanie Jones.

III. Ratification of New Representatives

CM presents Ryan Abrahams, Kate Albany, Melissa Dennihy, Raymond Fung, Mary Hubbell, Daniel Meredith, Reena Rahi, and Alexandria Wise to be ratified as new representatives.

Monique motions; Sarah Ruth Jacobs seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a. Pathways Resolution

JS presents the resolution. MW motions to approve the resolution; Evan Misshula seconds; the motions passes with three opposed, and three abstentions. (Carolina Barrera-Tobón; Ian Pervil, Virtue Sankoh, opposed; Marcus Avelar, Toni Perri's proxy, Erica Meltzer abstain.)

b. Chartering of Organizations

MW motions to charter the Critical Palestine Studies Association; Sarah Jordan seconds; the motion passes with five abstentions. (Evan Misshula, Steve O'Connell, Shadi, Ian Pervil, Jake Cohen abstain.) [The motion did not pass because three-fifths of the body was not present to vote in favor.]

V. New Business

a. Bylaws changes

CM presents the bylaws changes to Bylaw 8.

Sarah Ruth Jacobs asks for clarification on the voter turnout stipulation; MW suggests the language be changed "can" to "may take the form of." CM recommends MW motions to change the language when it's voted on in the next plenary meeting.

CA questions the definition of participation of an election, as not voting in an election could be interpreted as participation. Shawn Rice replies that the DSC plenary would be the judge of whether the action constitutes an endorsement of the election.

b. Child Care Representative

JS reports that the bylaws of the Child Care Center stipulate that they would have a liaison to the DSC who would report back to the Child Care Board of Trustees. Because there was some confusion in their bylaws as to who would choose that representative, they changed their bylaws to say that the DSC would appoint a child care representative to their body.

Christin Bowman nominates herself.

Evan Misshula motions to appoint Christin Bowman; Carolina Barrera-Tobón seconds; the motion passes unanimously.

c. Resolution on Access to Education for People with Criminal History

Evan Misshula (EM) presents the resolution. Stefanie Jones asks for clarification on the acronyms. George Jackson asks if this would apply for all types of crime, including sex offenders. EM reports that all CUNY campuses have child care centers, so state law prohibits sex offenders on campus. MW asks whether CUNY already grants access to people with a criminal history. EM reports that the resolution would ask SUNY to come into line with CUNY's policy. Shawn Rice suggests that the resolution's sentence structure and content be revised.

Desiree Fields suggests that the resolution could spell out why the DSC should pass a resolution regarding a SUNY policy. Desiree Fields suggests that the connection be explained within the resolution. Ian Pervil suggests that the resolution point out that CUNY already has this policy. EM provides his email address for students to contact him with suggestions.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

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

EL reports that we didn't have enough people present to charter Critical Palestine Studies group (three-fifths of the body). EL went to the President's budget meeting, where it was reported that there are eight faculty searches underway; the roof deck is going forward. EL reports that the co-chairs met with Student Affairs, and discussed space issues. They will be meeting with other administrators who deal more directly with space issues in the future. He solicits representatives' complaints and stories related to accessing space in the Graduate Center. EL reports that he and Stefanie Jones spoke to Student Affairs about gender neutral bathrooms. EL reminds representatives that DSC nominations are open. EL announces that Japan Studies Group and Turkish Students Association have been dechartered. EL announces that the DSC will be hiring an editor in chief for the Advocate for next year.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Jared Simard)

JS reports that he and Alanna Valdez met with the Alumni Committee, which is made up of GC alumni working in non-academic jobs. They have planned two events for the spring, panels focusing on the humanities and the social sciences. JS reports that there are some updates on the Kentico site, and he now has access to update the events calendar. JS reports that EC met with IT yesterday. Student Affairs will be the guest at the March plenary, and the President will be the guest at the April plenary. JS announces that he will be sending out a digest email after each plenary to encourage best practices to report back to representatives' constituents. JS reminds representatives that program representatives are alternates at Grad Council.

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

ADA reports that there is more revenue than anticipated in the budget that was passed at the end of last year due to a small arithmetic error, and an increase in student enrollment, beyond what was anticipated. Stefanie Jones asks where the error was in the previous budget. Virtue Sankoh asks about the discretionary fund. ADA explains that Steering designates how that is spent. ADA reports that, if there is a surplus, Grants could award more funds, as there have been many applications. ADA reports that additional options might be to increase program allocations to reflect enrollment, allocate some extra funds to medical tests at the wellness center, or updating the cunydisc.org site. ADA informs representatives that the legal consultations schedule for the rest of the semester is now available.

4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

CN reports that USS may consider a bylaw on conflicts of interest that would prevent anyone paid by CUNY to be on the USS Steering Committee. CN reports that the USS budget failed to pass in the first meeting it was voted on. CN reports that Steering controls much of the budget, and that there are not a lot of guidelines regarding how that money can be spent. CN suggests that if reps or the DSC have events that might need funded, they could approach USS for funding. In a January meeting, the budget passed. CN reports that USS LGBT Task Force asked if the Graduate Center would be interested in hosting the Quilt for World AIDS Day. CN reports that USS will consider a resolution on establishing an e-books policy at CUNY. CN reports that the adhoc USS Critical Response Group met and discussed a few steps for going forward, such as compiling documents, and FOIL requests. CN reports that at Grad Council Executive Committee meeting the Provost

stated that he didn't think adjunct issues should be the concern of Graduate Center administrators, and commented that no students had come to his office to discuss such adjunct issues. She informed representatives that his office is on the eighth floor.

5. UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)

AD reports on USS scholarship committee, which is awarding scholarships this year after several years of not awarding any scholarships, but collecting the funds. The Scholarship Committee is using the old scholarship package, which was already approved by the administration, to avoid further delays. The scholarship package includes a merit scholarship and scholarships for international students and students with disabilities. To spend the surplus, the committee is considering awarding multiples of the existing scholarships, and/or creating new scholarships. The USS scholarship selection process still undecided.

AD reports that the first UFS meeting of the semester is next Tuesday. AD reports that on the UFS listserv there have been discussions about Pathways circulated. The AAUP responded to the letter from Barbara Bowan and Sandi Cooper requesting they investigate CUNY, to assess whether the bylaws were violated. AD reports that the listserv articulated some outrage in response to Alexa Logue's document on 'how faculty should teach,' in line with general worry about administrators overstepping bounds and interfering with pedagogy.

VII. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)

AD presented PS's report. (Below.)

b. Officer for Student Life & Services (Sarah Jordan)

SJ reports that the suggestion box is now open, as is the Student Life survey. SJ reports that the dance and fitness classes have hit some road blocks, including accessing space. SJ reports that the committee has been collaborating with Health to advertise services and discounts. She plans to coordinate with Outreach to advertise on other campuses.

SJ reports that one of the suggestions in the suggestion box was to improve student space, and shared space, such as the area next to the cafe on the first floor.

c. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)

ADA presents NH's report. (Below.)

d. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)

MW solicits suggestions for Health info posters. CN suggests including recommendations for healthy restaurants, for instance. MW reports on the proposal with SJ to improve the cafe space on the first floor. MW reports that it is difficult to distribute condoms, so she is looking into installing a dispenser in the bathrooms. MW announces that the Health & Wellness survey will be open during March. MW solicits suggestions for things to be included in the Wellness Festival. MW is also pursuing discounts for students near campus, and near other campuses, and invites suggestions.

e. Officer for Governance & Membership (Christen N. Serrano Madsen II)

CM reports that six representatives were removed due to attendance, and three resigned. CM reminds representatives that they must attend meetings, and secure a proxy if they cannot make a meeting.

f. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)

CA reports that he and PS are organizing a Sociology and Political Science Alumni event with Alana Valdez (FAC). CA reports that at the last Grants meeting the requests for funding totalled approximately \$9000, half of the total budget. CA hopes that the surplus revenue could supplement the Grants budget.

CA reports that he's looked at statistics of grants awards from previous years, and has been considering an expedited approval procedure for conferences. CA reports that start up grants have not been so successful because the amount is not a lot, and often not enough to cover the event, but the award forbids the event getting other funding. CA presents his ideas for an expedited grants process, as well as concerns and issues that have been raised about an expedited process. CA welcomes input by email at funding@cunydisc.org.

EL asks if CA could report on how he got in touch with Alanna Valdez, since it's something other students may want to do.

VIII. Announcements

ADA announces that there are coffee tumblers for representatives to pick up on their way out.

IX. Adjournment

MW motions to adjourn; Stefanie Jones seconds; the motion passes unanimously at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Donlon

Steering Officer for Library and Technology Report for February 23, 2012

1) Tim Fujioka (a member of the STF Committee) and I met with Elaine Montilla from IT on December 21st to take a tour of the scanning facilities currently in the library. This was to gather more information about a suggested move in resources in order to meet students' scanning needs more appropriately. Polly Thistlethwaite (Head Librarian) has suggested repurposing under-used pay copiers into scanners in the library (for the second floor). That proposal has moved up to administration and we are hoping it will be completed before the end of the Spring semester.

2) The new Bookeye Scanner is finally in place on the second floor of the library. Please go check it out!

3) I have been keeping the GC Tech & Library blog up-to-date with recent posts. [First slide]

4) Emails went out recently about the detailed list of available software programs. [Second slide] That can be reached from the blog's homepage.

[Third slide] Representatives were asked to please email this to their departments. If you haven't done so, please do! It's important that I get feedback so I can make the appropriate revisions.

[Fourth slide] Example of what the list looks like.

5) A call for STF proposals went out in January and another reminder about the deadline was sent at the beginning of last week. We have received a few proposals, and they will be discussed at the STF Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday of next week, February 28th.

I have submitted a proposal for qualitative data software that would benefit over a dozen programs at the GC. I am also submitting a proposal on getting a large scanner to be placed in student space outside of the Library (most likely in one of the DSC lounges), and a proposal on training software sessions for students.

6) For that training proposal, I sent out a request for students to take a poll surveying their needs. I will use the information to help plan training sessions with IT. As always, if you know anyone who would be interested in running a training session, please have them contact me.

pstapleton@gc.cuny.edu

7) Changes will be made at the NYPL that will move thousands of books of site to a warehouse in NJ. Several concerns have been raised about the possible impacts that this will have on GC student and faculty research. Polly Thistlewaite (Head Library) sees this more as a positive move, but she welcomes feedback. She encourages DSC reps to attend the library committee meeting on March 9th (details to follow in an email). We also encourage students to reach out to the NYPL during the open feedback period (details on how to follow in an email). Polly has also agreed to arrange a forum with the NYPL leadership and GC members to make sure our voices are heard.

OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2/24/2012

- We need more Committee members, especially international students!!!
- Please email outreach@cunydisc.org ASAP
- Events this semester will be at College of Staten Island and Brooklyn College, dates TBA
- We will hold another PSA Workshop this semester, date TBA
- Outreach Survey Full Report will be on website soon, key findings at next Plenary