

**Plenary—Minutes
March 23rd, 2012**

Plenary	Present: Adanna Alexander, Colin Ashley, Marcus Avelar, Mikela Bjork, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, Annie Dell'Aria, Melissa Dennihy, Michael Denunzio, Scott Dietrich, Anne Donlon, Desiree Fields, Stephanie Fiorenza, Claire Fontaine, Margaret Galvan, Eva Gratta, Julieanne Guadalupe, Nicole Hanson, Mary Hubbell, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Alice Jones, Stefanie Jones, Sarah Jordan, Svetlana Jovic, Eero Laine, Aramis Lopez, Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Fabio Mattioli, Leigh McCallen, Zachary McGuirk, Erica Meltzer, Deepak Menon, Daniel Meredith, Evan Misshula, Valia Mitsou, Kristin Moriah, Christina Nadler, Stephen O'Connell, Megan Paslawski, Naomi Perley, Tony Perri, Ian Pervil, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Reena Rahi, Shawn Rice, Lauren Rouse, Virtue Sankoh, Antonia M. Santangelo, Cosim Sayid, Christopher Silsby, Jared Simard, Patricia Stapleton, Suzanne Tamang, Monique Whitaker, Alexandria Wise,
Executive Committee	Jamie Yancovitz, Melissa Zavala
Steering Committee	
Constitution and Bylaws	
Grants	Absent: Kate Albany, Reethee Antony, Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Jacob Cohen, Anne Donlon, Zane Ferguson, Tim Fujioka, Raymond Funk, George Jackman, Andrew Lucchesi, Amy Martin, Benjamin Miller, Chrissy Mitakakis, Milinda Perera, Lisa Reinke, Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Justin Swearingen, Joanna Tice
Health Issues	
Media Board	
Outreach	Eero Laine calls the meeting to order at 7:02PM
Student Services	<p>I. Approval of Agenda Anick Boyd motions; Stefanie Jones seconds. The motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>II. Approval of Minutes of February 24th, 2012 Monique Whitaker says that 'from' is missing from the second line of bylaws changes. Desiree Fields motions; Toni Perri seconds. The motion passes with one abstention (Kristin Moriah).</p> <p>III. Ratification of New Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Adanna Alexanderb. Fabio Mattiolic. Jagadisa-devasri Dacusd. Scott Dietrich <p>Christen Serrano motions to ratify new representatives; Monique Whitaker seconds. The motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>IV. Executive Committee Reports</p> <p>1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine) EL reports on chartered organizations that are being dechartered (Eastern European Studies Group,</p>

Campus Coalition for Sexual Literacy, Language Documentation and Advocacy Group (LDAG), Feminist Studies Group, Ethnobiology Study Group). He has sent out the notification and there has already been interest in restarting Eastern European Studies and Feminist Studies, would like to see more interest in the other organizations. The Advocate Editor-in-Chief position is open, EL reports that people should apply for this position.

The Executive Committee of Graduate Council raised issues about the impact of Pathways on GC Students. EL suggest an Ad-Hoc committee to look into the possibilities of how that might affect us. EL requests motion creating ad-hoc committee Toni Perri motions; Anne Donlan seconds. The motion passes with one abstention (Kristin Moriah).

Space issues were raised with President Kelly in a meeting with the EC. We still have not received report from him, EL recommended him to look at the DSC way of reserving space. President Kelly said will form an ad-hoc committee which will explore this issue. The discussion and committee will be mostly about reserving space but not allocating different spaces. MW asks if people who have paid will get refund. EL responds that this is something that needs more discussion.

Final part of report is open letter by Zoltan Gluck. This is entered into the official DSC record.

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

EL reports for JS:

Hello Plenary.

First, Nominations are over. Nominees have been notified. Elections are set to run April 1 to May 1. Please forward the email when I send it out at the end of March.

We've had a number of meetings I would like to inform you about.

Wed: 2/29 1-2PM I attended the Outcomes Assessment Committee. This committee is tasked with the outcomes data from Middle States, and is currently revising the templates for programs. You should take a look at your program's report, contact your APO or EO.

Thu 3/15 Lunch with President Kelly. A number of issues came up, including several aspects of Space. We can report we have succeeded in Bill forming a task committee on space to hopefully resolve the ongoing issues and discrepancies between stated policies and reality. Eero mentioned at the meeting that perhaps they should take a look at the DSC's website since we handle our rooms quite well.

Bill reported the 9th fl and rooftop spaces are being developed or will start soon. Parts of the 9th fl were unfinished from the 1999/2000 renovation when the GC moved to this condominium from 42nd st. A new large gathering space will be built on the 9th fl with access from that room to a rooftop space and perhaps bar.

I asked Bill about SYBIL public lib moving out and if the GC had engaged to purchase that condominium as well to alleviate some of our growing cramped conditions. He said he had tried several times but when it comes to space budget at 80th st, they reply to Bill that the ceiling is leaking at Brooklyn college and the GC is the nicest building in the system. OUP who also shares the upper floors on the Madison ave suite might also be moving out, but don't hold your breath, it is unlikely Bill will be able to get us additional space.

Bill also mentioned the dorm project for Long Island City is being re-investigated. Possibility of another dorm.

We also spent time discussing Ed Psych School Psych subprogram closure, which since the Provost has already spoken, I'm assuming that issue has been addressed.

Thu 3/22 11am we met with Provost Robinson, I raised the issue of Ed Psych again, since many folks had given me varying responses. We also talked about his offices' budget, and he mentioned he and Louise are working on a new form of funding for 2nd/3rd years separate from the packages. We also got him to agree to a community meeting with students, on par with Bill's community meetings. I will be in touch with his office to arrange something for the end of April. He also mentioned the possibility of a new post-doc line in Digital Humanities, funding for which is coming from 80th st.

I've distributed copies and to display of Alanna's flyer for the alumni event. She and I have worked with the Alumni to get this event off the ground and the alumni hope students attend. The event is Wed3/28 4-6 in C197 and Thu 3/29 3-5 in room c198 discussions will center around how the alumni transitioned to careers outside academia.

I final report: I also met with the EO of Ed Psych Mario Kelly on Wed to discuss the subprogram and have been in communications with school psych students about all of my meetings and any information I have gathered from meeting with Pres Kelly, Provost Robinson, and EO Kelly. These discussions have already born some helpful fruit to those students.

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

EL reports for AD:

Greetings from Boston! The EC had some interesting meetings with both Provost Robinson and President Kelly, which I'm sure you've heard about from the other co-chair reports. I'm particularly excited about the creation of a committee on space reservation policies at the GC and look forward to being a part of that, as this seems to be a huge concern for all of us.

Our services are popular as ever – CLRN and movie tickets are going well, and we've added an additional Pilates class for May. Our rooms have been filling up with activities, so I encourage you to keep reserving them. On a related note, if anyone has information about who maintains the plants in 5414, there have been some complaints about bugs, and I'd like to find out who maintains them in order to see if we can replace the problem plants. Email me with any information.

I'm presenting you with a draft budget for the 2012-2013 school year. This is just for presentation, and we will vote on approving it at April plenary. I have explained the changes and increases in the margins. My estimate on increased enrollment is fairly conservative and based on projected increases from previous years (which were lower than the actual enrollment increases).

a. Discussion: SJ asks if we are supposed to discuss the budget, EL says he can't answer direct questions because he just saw budget for the first time. CM says that the issue is that we are supposed to pass this at the next meeting without having discussion. EL says concern in room should be noted. Shawn Rice says to make suggestions to give to AD Next Time. TP says that we should delay this because Steering hasn't seen budget yet. EL says that AD is informally presenting it so we will discuss next time and vote in May. CM says to talk to a steering officer about concerns and then they will bring it up at the steering meeting.

The only new line is for the New Student Orientation (which was a big success last August), and the most substantial increase was in Web Hosting/Consulting. This is to hire a professional to maintain the backend of our Drupal site, which doubles as our record keeping database for finances, membership, and chartered org information. I'm anticipating paying a professional up to \$50/hour for this advanced work and having them on call for no more than 10 hours per month (hence the projected \$5000 increase).

a. Discussion: SR says that because Chris Alen Sula is no longer a co-chair doing this work so that we need to hire someone.

You may notice that this budget is operating in the black, meaning we could have a surplus to spend as we choose or to transfer to reserve funds. I did this also because I wanted to protect us in case enrollment decreased, unexpectedly. I am open to hearing suggestions for other new lines or increases (as long as they are in keeping with our bylaws). Please email me with any ideas.

The grants deadline is midnight today, and, after speaking with Colin, it seems there will be a lot of late applications. If you recall from last plenary, I am projecting a surplus for this year (2011-2012) of around \$15,000 due to increased enrollment and some arithmetic corrections. We have currently allocated most of our money for grants, with one wave of applicants still out there, and a number of other grants we were only able to partially fund awaiting a possible increase. With the Grants Committee meeting coming up April 6th, I would like to entertain a motion to increase THIS year's grant line to an amount determined by applications not to exceed \$5000 to meet the needs of the committee. This is a rather high estimate, so the exact number will most likely be substantially lower. This increase will allow the Grants Committee to review applications based on merit with confidence that we can support events that meet our criteria, so please support this! Colin can help clarify any concerns or questions.

a. Discussion: SR moved to increase the grants budget not to exceed \$5000 to meet the needs of grants TP seconds. Passes unanimously.

Steering will brainstorm ideas for the use of the rest of the surplus, which will be voted on by a simple majority by plenary (Article VIII.4.1).

Lastly, everyone have fun at the party, and please, someone buck up and do a keg stand in my absence. This would make it four parties in a row!!

4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

CN Reports that at 2/26 meeting the USS create an ad-hoc audit and ethics committee. CN chair of Audit Committee and Colin Ashley is also on it. CN met with Dean Rosa to discuss how the Audit committee will work; he is going to put her in touch with Bill Fox, the treasurer of CUNY. CN also shows that she made a website for USS because they still do not have a site. The site is opencuny.org/uuss.

5. UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)

UFS law suit has been filed to protect the bylaws of shared government protecting previous decision from the 1990s. The second lawsuit will say that this diminishes quality of degree and is racist. Desiree Fields asks who is filing student lawsuit. AD says PSC is filing it on behalf of students. AD announces that the PSC faculty petition against Pathways has more than 3000 signatures

Report from March UFS meeting:

UFS passed a resolution on Common Core, strongly opposing the Pathways resolution.

They also passed a resolution endorsing New York State Legislature bill, S-5321-2011/A-159-2011, which would create 11- member non-partisan commissions to interview, evaluate, and recommend trustee candidates to serve on New York State higher education institutional boards, including a commission for the CUNY Board of Trustees, and would also prohibit, except for the chair of the University Faculty Senate and the Chair of the University Student Senate, who are ex officio members, any member of the CUNY Board of Trustees to be the employee of, or under the supervision of, the Governor or the Mayor.

Report from University Affirmative Action Committee, mentioned an Ad Hoc Committee has been appointed by Chancellor Goldstein to review the Faculty Diversity Study Report and present the action plan in spring 2012.

The Open Access Scholarship Project (that UFS endorsed) is underway.

Complaints were voiced about how technology decisions are made. There is little bridge between IT Steering Committee (which is all admin-appointed, doesn't post minutes, doesn't answer to the Board) and Committee on Technology.

Report on CLA Exam pilot at Brooklyn College (with incentives for participation).

Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matthew Sapienza gave a report and said: The governor's executive budget doesn't increase TAP; Enrollment at colleges will be capped next year; Masters enrollment has dropped; TRS retirees have not been receiving their payment; and CUNY committed to elected faculty representation on budget committees.

There are now reports from every campus present on Pathways/Common Core implementation process. There are many complaints and some moves toward non-compliance; most have expressed objection to Common Core while also making efforts to prepare for the changes.

Christopher Silsby asked about Bronx Community College being non-compliant. AD says she will check.

Zachary McGuirk asks what is wrong with pathways. AD gives brief summary including problems with the common core.

AD also reports on the Proposed Changes to NYPL 42nd Street. She met with Ann Thornton, Director of New York Public Libraries. She wants to meet with CUNY students. So far low response. Requests that we please forward Jared's email to constituents, encourage people who have voiced concern to participate. Ann Thornton mentioned improvements to offsite delivery, possibility of expediting GC access to borrowing NYPL, catalogue improvements. The stacks will be demolished; some books moved to storage space below Bryant Park, something like a million volumes will be moved to the storage facility in New Jersey

Evan Misshula asks who is taking over space of the NYPL on 34th and Madison. AD responds that it is going to be the main offices of the [Episcopal] Church.

AD reports on the USS Scholarship Committee. There was no quorum at last meeting. In 2008-2009 scholarship winners were not paid, yet they received plaques. There was a proposed scholarship for graduate students. The selection process is under discussion.

V. EL asks for a motion to add Chemistry Doctoral Students PSA to New Business.

SJ motions; Christopher Silsby seconds. Motion passes with one abstention (Kristin Moriah).

VI. Old Business (1)

a. Chartering of Organizations

There are only have 48 people here at this point, two more people walk in. In straw poll two people said they would abstain from voting to ratify the Critical Palestine Association, which would need 49 people to vote yes to be ratified. SR says go over the criteria for voting yes. SJ calls order of the day.

SR motions to postpone chartering; TP seconds. The motion passes with one abstention (Zachary McGuirk)

VII. New Business (1)

a. Resolutions

Dream Act

CN presents the resolution. Toni Perri motions; Evan Mishula seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Lactation Rooms

CN presents the resolution. Stefanie Jones suggests "given the same rights regarding such access that the Federal..." Evan Misshula motions. Suzanne Tamang seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

CN presents the resolution. Stefanie Jones suggests "to provide accessible gender neutral bathrooms" in the Finally Resolved. – points out in a typo in the Executive Summary. Shawn Rice suggests that citing the schools in the Resolveds may be unnecessary. V suggests that guides for the blind. Christopher Silsby suggests explicitly including faculty, staff, and guests. CM suggests "individuals requiring assistance." Evan Misshula motions; Megan Paslowski seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Old Business (2)

a. Bylaws Changes

CM motions to capitalize all instances of Program Student Association for uniformity; SR seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

CM explains that these changes are about adding language to clarify about what majority election was needed (only needed for the first election) and the second one was to clarify how that might be done.

SJ moves to have this voted in a block. Christin Bowman seconds.

MW makes a friendly amendment to make it say 'may take the form of' instead of 'can take the form of'.

SJ seconds this amendment. The motion passes with two opposed TP and CM oppose.

TP says historically this is coming up because of organizing Chemistry, which is a large program, and that we should think about how hard this is at schools not housed at the GC. This is creating a barrier for students who are consortially based to be able to ratify their PSA. MW says that her friendly amendment was to help with this issue. SJ asks to clarify how this comment is in relation to the current change. TP says it is still unclear what Majority means, but that most people think that it is the full program.

There is an amendment to the amendment to read 'may take the form of, among others,'. The motion passes, with one abstention (Tony Perri).

IX. New Business (2)

Tony Perri Reports on Chemistry PSA. It will be hard to ratify because there are so many students in the program and there need to be a majority

At this point Quorum was lost.

Blood Drive Resolution was not discussed or voted on.

Steering Officer Reports were not read but will be emailed out to Plenary.

a. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)

Follow up on Anne Donlon's report - we plan on meeting with Ann Thornton on Monday morning to discuss the NYPL changes and to continue to plan on the open forum. Please contact us if you are interested in participating. (Anne: ufs@cunydisc.org; Patricia: pstapleton@gc.cuny.edu)

IT has recently announced progress on the update to Blackboard 9.1.

The STF Committee will be having another meeting on Wednesday, March 28th, to discuss possible budgets cuts and what that might affect in terms of IT resources.

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

The housing survey will be closed soon, 03/31/2012. Approximately 120 respondents have replied to the survey. The 365 cafe lounge project will not be moving forward. An email was received from Ray Ring at facilities informing me that facilities is in the process of repainting this lounge and will the hang up artwork once this is complete. Those who offered to display their artwork were contacted and informed of this. The Student Services Committee is continuing to seek out new GC student discounts, so far with little success. The Committee also seeks members from non-senior campuses. Any interested reps should contact Sarah Jordan (sjordan2@gc.cuny.edu).

c. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)

Outreach Committee needs more people. We are out of compliance with DSC Bylaws, as our international student resigned; any interested reps should contact Nicole Hanson at outreach@cunydisc.org. The PSA Workshop this semester will be held April 27th from 2-4PM in 5409; a flyer will be emailed soon. The Outreach Events at Brooklyn College and the College of Staten Island are being planned with assistance from those who research or teach there - if you are affiliated with either of these colleges and would like more info or have advice, please email Nicole. Finally, the Outreach Survey Crosstabulated Charts are available on the DSC website as a report. An Executive Summary will go out soon as well.

d. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)

The list of NYSHIP Recommended Providers has been added to the Health & Wellness blog, and we continue to very much welcome new recommendations and encourage reps to let their constituents know about this resources. We've already had a number of new suggested providers who will be added to the list in the coming week.

This is the last week that the DSC Grad Student Health & Wellness Survey will be available, and it's really important for us to have as many students as possible take the survey, so that we can accurately and effectively represent students' interests. Reps, please encourage your constituents to participate. I've been working with the GC Wellness Center's new Health Education Co-ordinator to help plan and organize some of the upcoming GC Wellness Festival, this April. We're looking especially for a recommended local massage therapist(s) and a nutritionist. If any students have someone they can suggest, please do let me know (Monique: health@cundsc.org).

f. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)

This meeting was between two grant committee meetings so there is nothing new to report in terms of grants awarded. Annie recommended that we add "no more" than \$5000 to the grants line which

was awarded at plenary (thanks all!) This amount will allow us to fairly judge all of the grant applicants for the last round of the year. Complete totals will be reported at the next meeting. The other big news is that Patricia and I have continued to work with our FAC coordinator on the upcoming Political Science/Sociology Alumni event. This will hopefully allow us to further student/alumni relationships for other programs and set a precedent for student involvement.

X. Announcements

XI. Adjournment

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Christina Nadler

Open Letter to the CUNY Community regarding the police violence against Occupy Wall Street demonstrators on March 17th, 2012

Dear CUNY community,

Last Saturday, March 17th, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators convened in Zuccotti Park to celebrate the six month anniversary of Occupy Wall Street. The gathering was joyous event, a reunion for many, filled with song, dance, a general assembly and lively conversation.

At around 11:30pm, with very little warning, hundreds of NYPD officers charged and violently dispersed the peaceful gathering, injuring many and arresting more than 70 people. Those arrested were thrown to the ground, many were beaten with clubs, I saw friends whose faces were stepped on by officers while being held down. One friend had his thumb broken and was bleeding from his ear. Another had two ribs broken. One OWS medic had his head smashed into a plate glass window by a police officer (this was captured on video by bystanders here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82l2lxvvi-c&feature=related>).

But perhaps the most horrific display of sheer malice, brutality and negligence of the NYPD was in their handling of New School student, 23 year old Cecily McMillan, who, after having been tackled and beaten by a group of police officers fell into a violent seizure (most likely triggered by the intense pain of having two ribs fractured by the police). I watched in horror as my friend Cecily, still in handcuffs, went into violent convulsions on the ground in the middle of Broadway. The police standing around initially did nothing to assist her, they did not even remove the handcuffs for the first few minutes. Dozens of licensed EMTs were on site, but the NYPD would not let them treat her. This is not only illegal, it is also a form of wanton negligence bordering on inhumanity. Cecily lost consciousness, her body went limp, and eventually a few officers were ordered to move her to the sidewalk, handling her clumsily. It was over ten minutes before an ambulance arrived (seen in video at minute 8:50 -- the video starts well after the first full minute of Cecily's seizure).

Video: (Trigger Warning: this video contains disturbing images of police violence): http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=An8OCm-Gl2U#!

After being discharged from Bellevue hospital, Cecily was taken to Midtown South Precinct and held in police custody until Monday afternoon, a full 40 hours after her violent arrest. Many other demonstrators were held for even longer hours. Now we find out that the courts have dropped nearly all the charges against the 70+ arrested on Saturday. This raises serious questions about the legality of the police raid. It also evidences what we've long known: that the small infractions which Occupiers are charged with are merely foils and pretexts for silencing our protest and violently suppressing dissent. Cecily herself is being charged with the more serious crime of assaulting an officer. Not only can this charge not be allowed to stand. We cannot stand for the direct assault against our civil liberties, our rights

to protest, our friends, our bodies, our ideas, our desires and real efforts to build a better future.

Occupy Wall Street has been an entirely peaceful movement, yet it is repeatedly met with

wanton police violence. The frightening pace of heightening militarization of the NYPD just this year is something that directly effects CUNY as a whole. These are the people that our administration allows to spy on Muslim student groups on our campuses. These are the people who Stop and Frisk CUNY students on their way to school everyday. These are the people who shot and killed the unarmed teenager, Ramarley Graham, this year in his home. These are the people who CUNY invited onto Baruch Campus to help violently suppress protests during the Board of Trustees meeting on November 21st.

OWS is now asking people to sign a petition demanding an independent investigation into the police brutality of Saturday night. To my mind this is a bare minimum: <http://signon.org/sign/investigate-nypd-violence.fb1>

We should also all take this opportunity to reflect on how the brutal suppression of a peaceful social movement affects all of our lives. We should hold meetings on our various campuses to collectively ask how we would respond if one of our own students was so brutally mistreated for voicing dissent. We should remember that this incident is in only the latest in a long litany of abuses and a long history of wanton violence and impunity. And we should at the very least call for the immediate resignation of Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

I am under no illusion that Raymond Kelly's resignation would solve all the problems of endemic racism, islamophobia, homophobia, sexism, impunity, negligence, and cruelty in the NYPD. But demanding this would at least send a strong and clear message that we as CUNY students and educators will not stand for it any longer.

Sincerely,

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