

Plenary – Minutes
April 27th, 2012

Present:

Hector Agredano, Kate Albany, Reethee Antony, Colin Ashley, Marcus Avelar, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Jacob Cohen, Annie Dell'Aria, Scott Dietrich, Anne Donlon, Stephanie Fiorenza, Claire Fontaine, Tim Fujioka, Raymond Funk, Margaret Galvan, Eva Gratta, Julieanne Guadalupe, Nicole Hanson, Mary Hubbell, George Jackman, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Alice Jones, Stefanie Jones, Sarah Jordan, Svetlana Jovic, Eero Laine, Amy Martin, Fabio Mattioli, Zachary McGuirk, Benjamin Miller, Evan Misshula, Chrissy Mitakakis, Valia Mitsou, Kristin Moriah, Christina Nadler, Stephen O'Connell, Megan Paslawski, Tony Perri, Ian Pervil, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Reena Rahi, Lisa Reinke, Virtue Sankoh, Antonia M. Santangelo, Cosim Sayid, Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Christopher Silsby, Jared Simard, Patricia Stapleton, Suzanne Tamang, Joanna Tice, Monique Whitaker, Jamie Yancovitz, Melissa Zavala

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

Absent:

Adanna Alexander, Carolina Barrera-Tobón, Mikela Bjork, Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, Melissa Dennihy, Michael Denunzio, Desiree Fields, Abigail Kotowski, Aramis Lopez, Andrew Lucchesi, Leigh McCallen, Erica Meltzer, Deepak Menon, Daniel Meredith, Naomi Perley, Shawn Rice, Lauren Rouse, Justin Swearingen, Alexandria Wise

Christina Nadler calls the meeting to order at 6:56PM.

I. Approval of the Agenda

Christin Bowman moves all new Business that requires a vote to the beginning of the agenda.
Joanna Tice motions to approve the agenda with said emendations.
Evan Misshula seconds the motion.
The motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 23, 2012.

Sarah Jordan (SJ) motions to approve the minutes.
Eero Laine (EL) seconds the motion.
Annie Dell'Aria (ADA) abstains and the motion passes.

III. Ratification of New Representatives

Christen Serrano Madsen II (CSM) presents two program representatives for ratification.

CSM motions to ratify the representatives.

Tony Perri seconds.

The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Old Business

a. EL presents the Palestinian Studies student group to be chartered.

Christin Bowman motions to charter the organizations.

Stefanie Jones seconds.

Evan Misshula abstains and the motion passes.

b. CN presents the Blood Drive/FDA resolution.

DSC representatives raise some concerns about the language of the resolution and the possible effects the resolution might have on city blood drive outcomes. Discussion focuses on the language in the last "resolved" section of the text.

CSM motions to create an ad-hoc committee and to defer the discussion and possible changes to that ad-hoc committee.

Stephanie Fiorenza seconds.

The motion fails (23 yeas, 27 nays, 1 abstention).

Discussion on the resolution continues. CN calls a straw poll to see if the resolution would pass as is or if it would pass with emendations removing language that calls for blood drives to not be held on CUNY campuses until the FDA changes its recommendations. The resolution would not be passed.

Discussion returns to the creation of a committee to research possible effects of prohibiting blood drives at CUNY.

Nicole Hansen, Sarah Jordan, and Kristin Moriah volunteer to work with CN on the resolution.

EL makes a friendly suggestion to the chair (CN) that Plenary turn to New Business.

V. New Business

a. EL presents the Chemistry PSA for ratification by the Plenary with the condition given that the Chemistry PSA must submit the minutes of its meeting within 15 business days to EL.

EL motions to ratify the creation of the Chemistry PSA.

Christin Bowman seconds.

The motion passes unanimously.

ADA presents a budget increase of movie ticket purchase for the 2011-2012 budget. The increase is for \$3,039, for a revised budget line of \$12,039.

ADA motions to approve the increase.

Evan Misshula seconds.

The motions passes unanimously.

Evan Misshula presented a resolution addressing SUNY practices that have increasingly denied admission to SUNY schools to students with criminal histories, and an appeal that CUNY refrain from adopting those practices.

The Plenary discussed the language in the resolution and concern over ensuring that the resolution reflected support for CUNY and SUNY to be able to make decisions to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.

Tony Perri motions to approve the resolution with emendations.

Sarah Jordan seconds.

Sarah Ruth Jacobs and CSM abstain; motion passes.

VI. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)

Patricia Stapleton (PS) reported that she met with the Student Tech Fee (STF) Committee on March 28th. She reports that updates for Endnote licenses will end. An email will be sent out to DSC reps with specific information and the announcement will also be posted to the Tech & Library blog.

PS reports that with her approved grant she will hire student instructors to teach seminars on using other citation manager programs as alternatives to EndNote.

PS reported that the proposal for the social sciences and humanities software grant was approved. Provalis QDA Miner with WordStat and SimStat has been installed on five computers in room 5487.

PS reported on the open forum held on April 26th about the proposed Central Library Plan at the New York Public Library. The forum was a success, and she asked that students continue to contact her with feedback or concerns.

PS reported that she is working with student members from STF committee to discuss an educational campaign for students on their paper usage. More money from student tech fee is going to paper and toner, and STF wants to be sure that students understand how STF is being spent.

IT has also asked for feedback on what to do with seven Linux computers that are deployed in the building, but that are rarely used. PS reported that she will create a survey to determine student need, and whether the computers could be better located or whether those stations might be more frequently used if they were repurposed.

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

Sarah Jordan (SJ) reports on the findings of the student housing survey. Two hundred students completed the survey, of which 18 were residents in the GC apartments. Compared to non GC apartment residents, the GC apartment had a high proportion of international students and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students. The results showed that the main reasons for deciding to apply to the GC apartments were being new to NYC and it being easier than looking for other apartments. The main reasons for ultimately deciding not to apply included the price and location of the apartments, the length of the lease, the policy on pets, and fear or dislike of dealing with GC administration. In regards to overall satisfaction, non residents tended overall to be highly satisfied, while GC resident responses were more disparate, with responses tending toward very high or very low satisfaction.

Overall GC apartment residents are not different from students residing elsewhere on measures of the style of the apartment and the space available, the security of the apartment, the commute to campus, sense of community in the building, trash/recycling removal, effectiveness of repairs and maintenance, and response to complaints. GC apartment residents tended to be less satisfied in terms of the neighborhood, amenities available, and the value of the apartment for the rent they pay.

SJ reported on the data from the Graduate Student Loans survey. Overall, the data showed that GC students would be significantly affected by the termination of federally subsidized loans for graduate students.

Plenary discussed what the data shows and how that data might be shared with administration to illustrate student concerns and interests.

c. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)

Nicole Hanson (NH) reported on the survey on DSC services. She noted that the results of the survey can be found online. NH also reported on the success of two recent outreach events: at Brooklyn College on April 17th and attended by approximately 9 people, and at the College of Staten Island on April 18th attended by approximately 20-25 people.

NH noted that the success of these events indicates the continued need for future, targeted outreach work and the importance of contacting interested EOs on other campuses.

The scheduled PSA workshop was cancelled due to lack of student interest. However, more effort and resources are being put into new representative orientations. NH has worked with others to create an orientation packet for the May Plenary, and she requested that DSC representatives share with her any information that they think should be included.

The last outreach committee meeting was held, and NH expressed thanks to the committee for all of its hard work.

d. Office for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)

Monique Whitaker (MW) was absent from the meeting due to illness; CN read her report.

MW reminded Plenary to send out information about the Health and Wellness blog to their departments. MW has updated links on the blog and also provided information about the new vision provider under NYSHIP.

There is a new section on how to avoid NYSHIP pitfalls. MW reports that labeling has been increasing for the food and that the forum for the head chef will launch soon.

MW reported that the Health Issues Committee helped sponsor the Wellness Festival, on April 26th and that it was a success!

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

Christen N. Serrano Madsen II (CSM) reported on the Constitution and Bylaws meeting. The committee has decided to pull the proposed changes that were presented at last plenary. CSM presented new changes to Bylaw #3 related to grants.

CSM also mentioned the survey results on attendance and thanked Plenary for their participation.

f. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)

CA reported that the last Grants meeting occurred. CA reported 10 total start-ups (\$1,110) and 34 (\$19,041) regular grants were funded, and that additional money was spent (\$905 from the budget increase from the last meeting), for a total of \$20,151. CA also that he was creating a FAQ for Programs and chartered organizations on how to put together a conference.

CA raised the issue of the new IRB Protocol, and said he had heard from some students that there were issues. He asked that the reps let students know to contact him about any problems they are having. He will try to put together a report.

VII. Executive Committee Reports

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

Eero Laine (EL) followed up on a reminder email that went out from Louise Lenihan regarding the doctoral experience survey. He encouraged Plenary to take the survey and to remind their programs to do so as well. EL also announced the final call for applications for the editor-in-chief position for the GC Advocate. The application deadline was 11:59pm, April 27th.

EL introduced the Text Textile Texture Studio (T3S) organization to be considered for chartering. T Meyerhoff spoke briefly about the purpose of the organization and answered questions.

EL reported on the Executive Committee's meeting with President Kelly and their discussion on space in the building. EL reported that there is a commitment from the President to allow students to reserve classrooms that are not in use. Currently, there is work being done to determine how to schedule or reserve those spaces, but hopefully it will be through DSC room reservations.

EL also reported on the announcement of the 2-year Mid-Career Fellowships that are being offered. Plenary discussed the possible impacts of future changes in the student body (i.e. reduction in number of PhD students, increase in MA students). CN suggested that Plenary try to get information about these upcoming changes out to students now.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Jared Simard)

JS reported that elections will end May 1st at midnight. JS also reported that the DSC is currently on track for having the highest turn out for elections. JS also reviewed the process for making sure that Programs have representation for the upcoming year.

JS reported that the Fundraising and Alumni Coordinator (Alanna Valdez) will be leaving at the end of this year. JS gave thanks and appreciation for all of Alanna's hard work and successful projects during the year.

JS reported on his continued project to have the DSC archives digitized, in order to build institutional memory. The files are from 1968 onwards and will be searchable. JS will also be sending out new representative reporting forms so that program reps can share the details of plenary with the students in their departments.

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

Annie Dell'Aria (ADA) reminded plenary that all check requests must be in by June 1st and that no more than 25% of an allocation can be used to purchase gift cards.

ADA presented the 2012-2013 budget for Plenary's consideration:

Many budget items reflect increased enrollment, such as program allocations and medical tests. Grants are increased based on previous demand. Fitness activities will be moved to Wellness and no longer listed under Student Activities. The meetings budget will increase by \$800 to account for desserts. An increase will be included in the budget for the purposes of employing an on-call consultant for maintenance of the website. The Executive Committee will have a discretionary fund of \$2,000. The Wellness Center item line will be split into two lines: one for Fall 2012 and one for Spring 2013 of \$48,000 each. In addition the Spring line must be voted and approved at the December 2012 Plenary. An Ad Hoc Health Issues committee will be created to find out clarification on how/if Wellness Center funds are earmarked. This committee will meet no less than four times and it will propose a solution on this by the November 2012 Plenary.

ADA answers questions regarding the budget. A vote on the budget will be held at the next Plenary meeting.

4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

Christina Nadler (CN) reported on the latest USS meeting, where not much was accomplished. The USS resolution on "Pathways" was not passed. CN has posted a packet providing information on "Pathways" to the "unofficial" USS website. CN also reports that there may be upcoming changes to the USS bylaws.

CN also noted that she added a subscribe function to the "unofficial" USS site, which can perform site stats. Since adding this, CN reports that there have been 90 hits on the webpage.

CN has tried to form an ad hoc committee to speak with the CUNY treasurer, but has received no returned calls or emails.

CN reported that she submitted FOIL requests:

- 1) Line item budgets for the USS for the past five fiscal years;
- 2) The USS expenditures for the past five fiscal years;
- 3) Approved Minutes of the Steering and Plenary meetings of the USS for the past five fiscal years;
- 4) All official correspondence during the past two calendar years between (to and from) CUNY's Office of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellors and CUNY's Central Office including the Central Office of Student Affairs and the Chair, Steering Committee and Staff of the USS related to budget in addition to any documentation that contains the following keywords: finance, reimbursement, subsidy, stipend, scholarship, allocation, expenditures, expenses, concert; and
- 5) All official correspondence during the past two calendar years (2012, 2011) between (to and from) CUNY's Office of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellors and CUNY's Central Office including the Central Office of Student Affairs and the Chair, Steering Committee and Staff of the USS related to the Pathways Initiative in addition to any documentation that contains the following keywords: learning outcomes, faculty, governance, student support, time to degree, resolution, curriculum.

The deadline for receiving that information passed and CN reported that she intended to move forward by sending an appeal, immediately following the DSC Plenary meeting.

5. UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)

AD reported that the meeting was held April 17th and Chancellor Goldstein was the guest. AD reported that Goldstein said that PhD programs will be getting more money and more reasonable teaching loads, yet programs are to reduce enrollment, while enrollment in the Masters programs will be increased. Dobrin and Cohen from CIS also spoke about CUNYfirst and Blackboard. The meeting also addressed questions about the IT Steering Committee.

AD also reported that ARC will be hiring five doctoral students. AD also reported that the next meeting will discuss the new CUNY policy on sexual harassment.

NH adds that the policy originated at John Jay because of serious issues that were brought to light involving faculty harassment of students. Comments are allowed on the proposed changes through May 1st, but the comments must go through unions or governing organizations or structures. AD told Plenary to send her any comments.

VI. Announcements

AD announced that there will be a viewing of Higher Ed in Prisons (a film).

VII. Adjournment

Stefanie Jones motions to adjourn. Evan Misshula seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourns at 9:28PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patricia Stapleton, Officer for Technology and Library.