

The Doctoral Students' Council
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Plenary Minutes December 14th, 2012

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Outreach

Student Services

Student Tech Fee

Present: Flannery Amdahl, Reethee Antony, Colin Ashley, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Justin Bracken, Hillary Caldwell, Priya Chandrasekaran, Emily Channell, Jennifer Chard, Mia Chen, Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, Annie Dell'Aria, Anne Donlon, Chris Eng, Desiree Fields, Rachel Futtersak, Maggie Galvan, Nicole Hanson, Tristan Husby, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Stephanie Jones, Svetlana Jovic, Laura Kane, Eero Laine, Jacqui Levin, Rachel Liebert, Christen Madsen, Amy Martin, Jessica McCurdy, John McMahon, William McNally, Deepak Menon, Benjamin Miller, Evan Misshula, Valia Mitsou, Christina Nadler, Dominique Nisperos, Stephen O'Connell, Megan Paslawski, Tayfun Pay, Tony Perri, Derek Petti, Katarzyna Platt, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Jennifer Prince, Ashish Punia, Christina Ramos, Nancy Roecklein, Rebecca Salois, Jared Simard, Anna Simonson, CalvinJohn Smiley, Christine Smith, John Spear, Lauren Suchman, Jen Tang, Louisa Thompson, Carissa Veliz, Christina Ventura-DiPersia, Monique Whitaker, Emily Williamson.

Absent: Kelly Aliano, Kelly Aronowitz, Paul Fess, Joseph Kramer-Miller, Amanda Matles, Zachary McGuirk, Kristin Moriah, Darin Saloum, Virtue Sankoh, Elizabeth Sibilia, Josiah Sugarman, Jungmee Yoon.

Guest Bob Hatcher (BH), Director of the Wellness Center

- BH presents a Powerpoint presentation on the Wellness Center.
- Questions:
 - Q: Who are the uninsured students who come to the Wellness Center? BH can look at the data, but suggests that these students are likely very much like the other students. BH discusses the need for more comprehensive medical tracking software. All patient tracking is currently done by hand in Excel.
 - Q: Is the list of mental health providers readily available? BH explains that the list frequently changes and would like to hear from students regarding their preferred providers, especially those who accept NYSHIP. BH explains that the Wellness Center regularly meets with providers to screen them.
 - Q: What are the roadblocks to implementing a electronic medical records system? BH explains that the least expensive system for electronic medical records is roughly \$10,000 per year. BH discusses the benefits of an electronic medical record system.
 - Q: Of the people that attend the counseling center, how many are referred elsewhere? BH does not have the exact numbers but would estimate that it is likely about one quarter. The decision to refer the person elsewhere is decided with the student and the Wellness Center based on the complexity of the issue.

- Q: What is the relation between the Wellness Center and the health based disciplines at the Graduate Center? BH explains that they are friendly and is looking for further ways to connect.

SAJ calls the meeting to order at 6:27pm

I. Approval of agenda

- Amy Martin motions to approve the agenda. Reethee Antony seconds. EM offers a friendly amendment to include item IV.6. Presentation of the proposed chartered organization The Internet Research Team.
- The motion carries unanimously.

Plenary

II. Approval of Minutes from November 16th, 2012

Executive Committee

- SAJ explains that the minutes from November 16th, 2012 are not available for approval because the attendance records have not been updated.

Steering Committee

III. Executive Committee Reports

Constitution and Bylaws

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

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- EL reports students can now request tables to distribute flyers, petition, and promote events in the 8th floor Dining Commons. The requests will be cleared by the Office of Student Affairs. Contact the DSC if you are interested. EL thanks Dominique Nisperos for her work with the Student Life and Services Committee and for raising the suggestion.
 - EL reports that The Graduate Center has hired a director for the Career Planning and Professional Development Office. Jennifer Furlong will begin as the director of the Office beginning in February.
- ### 2. Co-Chair for Communications, Anne Donlon (AD)
- AD reminds the body of the DSC listserv and encourages representatives to join. There is also a DSC Announcements listserv for announcements only.
 - AD encourages everyone to stay in touch with the DSC via Twitter and Facebook
 - AD reports on the Town Hall hosted by the DSC and the Adjunct Project. Notes area available on the DSC listserv.
 - AD reports that the Provost held office hours. Minutes are available on the DSC listserv.
 - AD reports on the President's community meeting. Bill Kelly discussed that the GC housing is generating income. Provost Robinson announced that ARC will have offices on the 5th Floor--they will be Neighbors of the DSC
 - AD reports on the DSC's meeting with the NY Blood Center regarding moving the GC blood drives off campus. Discussed were ideas regarding moving the drive off campus and providing literature protesting the ban.
 - AD reports on the DSC EC meeting with President Kelly. He acknowledged the fact that the discrepancy between incoming and current students is unjust. Provost Robinson agreed with the sentiment during his office hours. Also discussed was the parental leave policy. Kelly also indicated that there will be gender neutral bathrooms on the first floor and the fifth floor.
 - AD reports on the Parental Leave Working Group. There is a meeting coming up with the administration
 - AD reports that the costs related to NYSHIP coverage will be increasing. Scott Vorhees indicated that he was following up on the matter.
 - AD reports on the behavioral intervention team. Vise-President for Student Affairs, Matt Schoengood indicated that it was a group that can be contacted by students for support and resources. The group is confidential except for what must legally be reported by law

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- AD reports that the DSC EC met with Bob Campbell in IT. GC students will have new email addresses beginning next year. There will be a transition period between the old email and new email. Campbell is looking for suggestions on how best to improve GC emails and functionality. The reason for this move has to do with moving student email records to the cloud.
- AD reports that the College Association met.
- AD reports on the meeting with Jane Trombly in the Communications office regarding the digital signage project at the GC and presents pictures of the screens that will be installed throughout the GC in 2013. The DSC will have ownership over the three screens on the fifth floor. AD expresses concern regarding the easels for posting. Trombly indicated that she would not allow anonymous posting but would not censor or otherwise police the postings.
- AD reports on the correspondence with Associate Provost Louise Lennihan. Lennihan indicated that GC governance was discussed with the EOs. AD reminds the body that all committees at the GC are governed by the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order.
 1. Q: Will we be following up on the cork boards? AD: We'll be seeing how things go forward.
 2. Q: Is there a benefit to less teaching with the new fellowships? SAJ suggests that this could be best discussed in an ad-hoc committee, which was being formed later in the meeting.
 3. Q: AD is asked to repeat her point regarding Kelly's discussion of time to degree. AD clarifies that Kelly suggested that Stanford's model of five years is better than 9 or 10.
 4. Q: What is Bill Kelly's position on pathways? SAJ reports that Kelly mentioned he was unhappy with the way the Pathways was implemented.
 5. Q: CA calls for a straw poll regarding how many people have heard from their faculty regarding governance. Three representative have heard.

3. Co-Chair for Business, Colin Ashley (CA)

- CA reminds reps that that program allocations roll over from fall to spring
- CA reminds reps that chartered organizations must be active in order to receive their allocations
- CA announces that movie ticket prices will go up to \$6.50. AMC is raising the price
- CA notes that the free legal services are currently under utilized and encourages reps to remind students in their programs to use this valuable service
- CA reminds reps to contact facilities if they are reserving the DSC rooms and need the rooms set up
- CA will be reallocating the lockers that are currently not being used
- CA announces that ad-hoc committees and working groups will be announced via the DSC listserv
- CA reports that the DSC ad-hoc Committee on the Website will be meeting electronically to gather feedback
 1. Q: Do the legal services encompass any legal work? CA: Clarifies that the lawyers recommend describing one's issue before attending a meeting
 2. Q: If the legal services are underutilized, can we get tax prep services? CA clarifies that many of the services the DSC has looked into in the past have not met the needs of GC students. CA will follow up on possible solutions.

4. USS Delegate, Christina Nadler (CN)

- CN reports that a Twitter campaign was started (#Our330K, #USSFAIL) encouraging people to "Tweet @CUNYDSC what you would do with #our330k" CN encourages reps

to tweet about how the USS budget might better be spent. For instance: CUNY-wide health insurance.

- CN reports on the new USS website, which has many dead links. Also, some of the content has simply been cut-and-pasted from CN's Unofficial University Student Senate website
- CN reports that USS passed a budget. The major difference from last year is that the "Co-Sponsorship" line has been increased, which is problematic because there appears to be little to no oversight of that line.
- CN reports that USS is working on passing a resolution on Hurricane Sandy
- CN reports that USS is also working on establishing intramural activities
- CN and Monique Whitaker (MW) will be writing an article about USS and the many misuses of funds such as using USS funds to fund international trips for board members

Plenary

5. UFS Liaison, Stefanie A. Jones (SAJ)

Executive Committee

- SAJ reports that UFS met last week. The UFS Resolution Calling for a Review of and Moratorium on Pathways was passed.

Steering Committee

- SAJ reports that Chancellor Goldstein was the guest at the UFS meeting. Goldstein reiterated the problems of the Hurricane Sandy, The Black Male initiative has been deemed non-discriminatory, also the New Community College has received accreditation. SAJ quotes Goldstein: "If strengthening our programs means reducing the number of students, I have no problem with that."
- SAJ reports that Bob Hatcher has contacted the DSC regarding moving forward with a program or workshop related to mental health and racism.

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1. Q: Will there be a workshop related to gender discrimination? SAJ: Currently, no, but it is a possibility.

Student Services IV. New Business

Student Tech Fee

1. Ad-Hoc Committee on New GC Fellowships

1. NH reports that at the workshop on student organizing, there was a request to follow up on the new fellowships in various ways. There will be a Google Doc created regarding how the new fellowships will impact current students, among other initiatives. In the end, however, an ad-hoc committee was requested.

1. NH motions to form an Ad-Hoc Committee on New GC Fellowships

2. Tony Perry seconds.

3. The motion passes unanimously

2. Bylaw amendments to 2.3.c, 3.3, 3.3.a., 3.3.b., 3.3.c.

1. SAJ presents the proposed changes

1. Valia Mitsou motions to approve the changes to Bylaw 2.3.c, 3.3, 3.3.a., 3.3.b., 3.3.c.

2. Nancy seconds

3. The motion passes unanimously

3. Bylaw amendment to 4.2.e.

1. SAJ Presents the proposed changes

1. Christen Serrano Madsen II motions to approve the changes to Bylaw 4.2.e.

2. Priyya Chandrasekaran seconds

3. The motion passes unanimously

4. Bylaw amendment to 3.6.

1. SAJ presents the proposed changes

1. Amy Martin motions to approve the changes to Bylaw 3.6.

2. Ben Miller seconds

3. The motion passes unanimously

5. DSC Budget

1. CA reports that last year plenary voted to split the budget line in order to ensure that the discussion of the Wellness Center would happen at the December plenary meeting
2. CA reports that the Ad-Hoc Wellness Center Committee recommends that the body vote to approve the budget line and to find ways to increase student wellness services and to find ways to shift the funding responsibilities to the administration
3. Q: Historically, this issue has been contentious. Has the Health Services Committee considered possibilities that did not include funding the Wellness Center with student activity fees? CA reports that this is an issue that the Ad-hoc committee will take up in the future. Discussion ensues.
4. CA encourages all reps to reach out to the ad-hoc committee.
 1. Tony Perri motions to approve the budget line for the spring semester for the Wellness Center
 2. Bill McNally seconds
 3. The motion passes unanimously.

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6. Proposed Chartered Organization

1. EL presents the Constitution and Statement of Purpose for the proposed DSC chartered organization: The Internet Research Team (IRT). Collette Sosnowy describes the proposed organization. Discussion ensues.

V. Steering Officer Reports

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1. Officer for Student Life and Services, Dominique Nisperos (DN)
 1. The membership of the committee has been settled
 2. DN reports on tabling in the cafeteria area
 3. DN reports that on the room reservations policy. Orgs and Programs will be able to reserve DSC space up to a year in advance and can reserve 5409 04 5414 for two consecutive days
 4. DN reports on the limitations to expanding the fitness classes
 5. DN reports on the upcoming Student Life survey, which will be online and on postcards. Also, prizes will be awarded for participation
 6. DN reports on finals comfort stations during finals week, which include an info table with tips on reducing stress, relaxation stations including massages and nap stations
 7. DN reports that in the spring the committee will be hosting a Friday Snacks and Discussion regarding student organizing
2. Officer for Outreach, Nicole Hanson (NH)
 1. NH reports that the Outreach Committee met
 2. NH reports that in the upcoming semester events will be held at Hunter and Baruch-- also, there will be a meeting specifically related to international students
 3. NH reports that the event at CCNY was well attended
 4. NH asks reps to extend an invitation to all international students from the Outreach Committee
3. Officer for Health and Wellness, Monique Whitaker (MW)
 1. MW reports that new stent health posters are almost complete, the posters will be launched in the new year
 2. MW reports there will be a student-led NYSHIP workshop in March 2013, input is welcome
 3. MW reports that the Health and Wellness Committee is looking to identify and reach to students who are currently uninsured, especially those who are not based at the GC
 4. MW reports that the Health and Wellness blog will be updated soon
 5. MW announces that the Wellness Festival will be on April 15th, 2013. MW requests input for suggestions related to Wellness Center content

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6. MW announces that a petition will be circulated regarding changing the design of the GC
4. Officer for Governance and Membership, Maria Cristina Garcia
 1. No report was received
5. Officer for Funding, Jennifer Tang
 1. No report was received
6. Officer for Technology and Library, Evan Misshula (EM)
 1. EM reports that the reason the GC email addresses are changing relate to the possibility of litigation. They will allow students to maintain their email
 2. EM reports that the Student Tech Fee Committee met. Reethee Antony and Sarah Ruth Jacobs are also members. The purchase of ten new Macs were approved. Wifi radios will also be improved at the GC and paid for using Student Tech Fee
 3. EM suggests that Student Tech Fee should go toward special projects as opposed to maintaining technological infrastructure
 4. EM reports that there will be courses offered on various free software available to students. These courses will be taught by GC students. EM will forward more information and a schedule of classes.
 5. EM reports that the student members of the tech fee committee are committed to maintaining unlimited student printing.
 6. Question: SAJ asks Shouldn't there be a push to get rid of the tracking system? Ben Miller responds that it is important that we have the data and the current system is already better than the previous system which was incredibly wasteful.

VI. Announcements

1. EL reminds everyone to stay for the party
2. BM announces that the ITP Certificate Program offers classes on core digital and technological skills. Also the Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy has released its second issue. Have a look!

VII. Adjournment

1. Tony Perry motions to adjourn the meeting
2. Anick Boyd seconds
3. The motion passes unanimously

The meeting Adjourns at 8:17pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eero Laine.