

Plenary – Minutes September 21, 2012

ABSENT

Kelly Aliano, Kelly Aronowitz, Vicky Barrios, Annie Dell'Aria, Gregory Donovan, Rachel Fattersak, Joseph Kramer-Miller, Dominique Nisperos, Ashish Punia, Darin Saloum, Elizabeth Sibilia, CalvinJohn Smiley, Louisa Thompson

PRESENT

Plenary	Flannery Amdahl, Reethee Antony, Colin Patrick Ashley, Christin Bowman, Anick Boyd, Justin Bracken, Hillary Caldwell, Priya Chandrasekaran, Emily Chanell, Jennifer Chard, Mia Chen, Jagadisa-devasri Dacus,
Executive Committee	Anne Donlon, Christopher Eng, Paul Fess, Desiree Fields, Margaret Galvan, Maria Cristina Garcia, Nicole Hanson, Tristan Husby, Sarah Ruth Jacobs, Stefanie A. Jones, Svetlana Jovic, Laura Kane, Eero Laine,
Steering Committee	Jacqueline Levin, Rachel Liebert, Andrew Lucchesi, Christen N. Madsen, Amy Martin, Amanda Matles, Jessica McCurdy, Zachary McGuirk, John McMahon, William McNally, Deepak Menon, Benjamin Miller,
Constitution and Bylaws	Evan Misshula, Valia Mitsou, Kristin Moriah, Christina Nadler, Stephen O'Connell, Megan Paslawski, Tayfun Pay, Tony Perri, Derek Petti, Katarzyna Platt, Fatemeh Pooyaei Mehr, Jennifer Prince, Christina
Grants	Ramos, Nancy Roecklein, Rebecca Salois, Virtue Sankoh, Jared Simard, Anna Simonson, Christine Smith, John Spear, Lauren Suchman, Josiah Sugarman, Jennifer Tang, Carissa Veliz, Christina Ventura-DiPersia,
Health Issues	Monique Whitaker, Emily Williamson, Jungmee Yoon
Media Board	Guest: Bob Campbell Vice President for IT
Outreach	Eero Laine (EL) calls the meeting at 6:51 pm
Student Services	EL begins the meeting explaining that we are a decision making body and that reports from officers are supposed to be short and allow time for questions. He also explains how important it is for reps to send info to their program. EL explains the voting process (viva voce) and the "why" of the clickers (to maintain transparency and easily provide information as dictated by the freedom of information law (FOIL)). He reminds the body that we use Roberts Rules and that if folks need a refresher they should refer to the report compiled by Nicole Hanson for the Spring meeting in which new reps were ratified.

I. Approval of Agenda

EL motions to amend the agenda with new business item

4: Formation of Ad Hoc USS committee.

Evan Misshula (EM) moves, Monique Whitaker (MW) seconds, passes unanimously

II. Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2012 (5:00 P.M.)

EM moves, Ben Miller (BM) seconds, passes unanimously

III. Approval of DSCE Minutes of May 11, 2012 (6:00P.M.)

Megan Paslawski (MP) motions, MW seconds, passes unanimously

IV. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs

EL contextualizes Bob Campbell's talk by explaining how the tech fee works and that student

members are the majority of the committee. He introduces EM and Reethee Antony as members. EL reports on the success of the new student orientation and encourages reps to reach out to new students.

EL goes over chartered orgs and how to sign up.

EL updates plenary about the upcoming new ability to reserve rooms throughout the GC and that this service should be available soon through the website. (He also reminds everyone about the need to use Restaurant Associates for those rooms)

EL reports that he is on the hiring team for the new career office and that a new space will be found for this office (not sure where). This office emerged out of DSC work from previous years that sought the creation of a writing center. BM asks for clarification about writing center. EL explains that writing center will be within the career office. He also clarifies that the career office will be about CV workshops, career counseling, and will probably work close with alumni. Administration hopes to have someone in place 'very soon.' EL responds to questions from the body and notes that this office is heavily concerned with Doctoral students but will consider needs of Masters students and possibly Immigrant students. EL announces that there should still be Grad Bs, Cs, etc., available to students for positions in the writing center. Not sure when the announcement about these will happen.

2. Co-Chair for Communications

Anne Donlon (AD) reports on responsibilities of sending emails on to constituents and also getting feedback from them and informing them about what actions were passed in the DSC meetings. She discusses email about Joe Heissan (FAC coordinator) and reminds folks to fill out his survey. She asks if anyone knows of any recent Humanities alum for Ad Hoc alumni.

She covers the executive committee's meeting with Jane House from Communications. Doctoral Candidates can request business cards through their APO (\$17 for 250). The 'new' screens and the future of the easels were discussed with Jane. (More on this to come later in this report.)

AD reported on the executive committee's meeting with John Flaherty, head of security. Discussed was the change in uniform. The EC also voiced concern about folks being policed in hallways: being asked for ID beyond the initial ID check at the entrance. John Flaherty wants students to pass more info along if it comes. JF also discussed the events of 8/24; he acknowledged that the announcements should have been handled differently and that he has since cleared up issues surrounding the chain of command for such announcements.

AD reports on the Executive Committee's meeting with Linda Merians, the new VP of directing. Linda's priorities for funding are

- (1) ARC
- (2) Fellowships
- (3) Get endowed fellowships that haven't been given out in a while (!) up and running
- (4) Seek money from Alumni
- (5) Seek out Corporate Sponsorships that would have internship opportunities for students.

Linda was asked about the possibility of having a student on the Foundation board (each member is required to give \$25, 000). She was hesitant but would bring it up.

AD reports on the meeting with IT and that it pretty much included everything that Bob Campbell reported at this meeting.

AD added that GC emails will change but we can keep them as alumni. AD goes into further detail about the screens that will be all over the building and in the halls. There are still questions about content ownership as well as screen ownership. As of now it seems as if floor specific announcements will be on the screens based on their location. Events on the GC calendar will go on the screen (through APOs or

through AD and the DSC if DSC related). The executive committee will continue to fight to keep easels.

AD reminds plenary of resolution passed on blood drives and announces the success of tabling in July. Requests for meetings both times with Robert Biondi did not pan out. There is currently a question of who will be organizing the drives in the future. Student Affairs will look into vans and who is responsible for the drives next meeting.

Christina Nadler (CN) asks about how the screens came about and AD clarifies that the screens were gotten through capital improvements prior to our tenure and therefore they are a done deal. Plenary asserts the need to keep easels to announce non-GC events and for things like housing posts.

3. Co-Chair for Business

Colin Ashley (CA) follows up on the email he sent out about DSC services. He checks in to make sure that reps are getting the emails. There seems to be some folks who aren't. He reminds the body that locker requests are due today. He also wants reps to sell DSC services to their constituents—especially the free legal services.

CA goes over the procedure for check-requests and reimbursements. He clarifies that receipts need to be given to him as hard copies unless they are electronic. Electronic receipts can be uploaded to the check request form.

CA reports that he solicited 3 bids from various companies to re-do the website. Two of the companies backed out but the other one looks very promising. They would re-do the website in Drupal 7 and then migrate everything over. CA has had problems getting the go ahead from the GC business office because of concerns about how to do bids but he is working around that. By next meeting he hopes to have more concrete information on where the website overhaul stands.

CA explains that he is waiting for accurate program numbers before he presents the budget as it will need to be edited to reflect the actual numbers. Preliminary numbers show that we are lower than expected in terms of enrollment. This will most likely correct itself in the budget in the program allocation line. Today was the deadline to add/drop/withdraw so he expects finalized numbers next week. When these numbers arrive he will also be sending out an email to reps with their program allocations and more information about check requests.

4. USS Delegate

CN reports on the All CUNY student summit. She also explains why she did her website and how to read through it to see the audit report she created. CN reports on newfound corruption in the USS and why she will not run for chair. Her new goal is to work on GC concerns through the USS from the outside. She explains the process of trying to get the audit done and the hurdles she has faced while pressuring CUNY central to come through. The treasurer—Bill Fox, has explained that bids have been solicited but 2 of the companies refused to bid based on the lack of records available to even audit. She explains the possibility of a lawsuit or articles in the advocate as possible routes to go based on what the (to be created) Ad-hoc committee wants.

5. UFS Liaison

Stefanie A Jones (SAJ) reports that the first UFS meeting was mostly about Pathways. Primarily there were reports from campuses on how they are responding to pathways. There are a couple of lawsuits against pathways that are still in process. There is a conference on October 12 on possible ways to think up a transfer system that folks should attend if they are interested.

SAJ explains the need to hold a Town Hall meeting on gender-neutral bathrooms and passes around a sign-up sheet.

V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Representatives

Christina Ramos from MALS is up for ratification
MC motions, MW seconds, passes
unanimously.

2. Bylaws Change

This bylaw change is presented to this body for first time and will be voted on next meeting. This change would go into effect next year if passed. The bylaw change would raise the USF stipend. The proposed bylaw change is below:

6.2.a.v. University Faculty Senate Liaison: ~~<one-third>~~ **one-half** of the minimum salary for the title of Graduate Assistant B

3. Election of Research Foundation (RF) Board Representative

AD explains that the last representative resigned. The position is for 2 years with reelection at the end of odd numbered years. (So the newly elected rep would only serve this academic year unless reelected.) EL explains that the RF is the big financial manager of the GC. The board meets about twice a semester and consists of 17 members.

EL opens the floor to nominations

EM nominates self

MP nominates self

The nominees speak to their desire/qualifications for the position. EL suggests that the body moves to vote unless folks want to speak to the candidates' credentials. The vote is held.

Megan Paslawski is elected

4. Formation of Ad Hoc USS committee

EL explains importance of this committee, CA comments on the potential of this committee to take on CUNY wide issues of relevance to the DSC

SAJ motions to form committee, AD seconds, passes unanimously

VI. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding

Jen Tang (JT) explains role of her Office and what the Grants Committee does. Deadline is next Thursday and \$750 is max but can apply for more and if you are applying for less than \$150 you can go through expedited process. She covers a few of the current applicants and fields questions about general requirements for applicants. She clarifies that the grants are solely for student led events.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership

Maria Cristina Garcia (MCG) explains that the committee hasn't met yet but reminds folks that they can get booted if they miss two meetings in a row. Reps can request a proxy through the website.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness

MW goes over the goals of the Health and Wellness committee for the upcoming year:

(1) Ameliorate problems with NYSHIP

(2) Promoting options for those w/o any health insurance

- (3) Improve access to services for those who aren't at the GC
 - (4) Spread the word about free services that are available
 - (5) Improve general space and wellness at the GC
- MW also goes over anticipated projects for the year to come
- (1) Annual survey will be done and last year's results are on blog
 - (2) Continue with NYSHIP workshops and publicize online
 - (3) Work with programs to see if barely eligible students could be made eligible
 - (4) Expand section on how to avoid overbilling
 - (5) Put forth a proposal for environmental improvements at the GC
 - (6) Contact wellness centers at campuses where folks teach and do research and clarify their policies on coverage of grad students and get them covered if not
 - (7) Create pamphlet for grad students

A representative from the body comments that there needs to be more information about services for students with disabilities. Another representative adds that students can be paid for providing services to students such as taking notes.

4. Officer for Outreach

NH reports on possible outreach events for this year

- 1) City College
- 2) Lehman
- 3) Early workshop in November about Program Student Associations and making sure students are being elected to standing committees.
- 4) Converting office hours to mentoring hours for 1 on 1 info about fighting EOs to get on committees

NH also reports on the difficulty maintaining compliance with constitution and bylaws because the committee doesn't have an international student. She polled the body for possible folks willing to join. There were no volunteers.

5. Officer for Student Life & Services

Dominique Nisperos (DN) (out of town) informed steering that she had nothing to report yet as her committee has yet to meet.

6. Officer for Technology & Library

EM tells the body that if they have any problems with printing or tech issues they should contact him. He reports on the usefulness of MaRLI and tells the body that they should apply for it if they haven't. It gives you access to NYU library, CU library and the NYPL. You also get electronic access when you are at one of those spaces.

There is a discussion on the process of obtaining the card and the possible difficulty in obtaining one. Some representatives provide suggestions for obtaining a card fairly easy.

VII. Announcements:

JT announces last day of Free University in Madison Square Park is tomorrow.

AD announces DSC party for next plenary.

EL announces that representatives should also be soliciting feedback from their constituents and bringing it to us.

VIII. Adjournment

CA motions to adjourn, EM seconds, Passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted by
Colin Patrick Ashley