

**Plenary  
Minutes  
October 24, 2014**

**Plenary**

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Governance Task Force

Student Tech Fee

**Present:** Yuval Adams, Ashna Ali, Colin Ashley, Hilarie Ashton, Aysenur Ataman, Reethee Atony, Balthazar Becker, Robert Bell, Jonathan Ben-Benjamin, Kyla Bender-Baird, Marc Berman, Anick Boyd, Drew Bucilla, Jennifer Chmielewski, Vivan Chou, Teresa Curmi, Michael Dorsch, Kenneth Ezirim, Allison Faris, Riccardo Ferraresso, Tonya Foster, Dimitrios Giannakoudakis, Drew Green, Sean Griffin, Richard Gustavson, Kristen Hackett, Barbara Hubert, Laurie Hurson, Emma Jacobs, Brian Jones, Stefanie Jones, Kristen Leitterman, Christen Madsen, Jessica Mahlbacher, Amy Martin, Melissa Marturano, Zachary McGuirk, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Samantha Morgan, Sumit Mukherjee, David Nagy, Nicole Neil, Dominique Nisperos, Turkan Ocal, David Rosas Ortiz, Jennifer Ortiz, Alison Parks, Naomi Perley, Jen Prince, Aleksandra Rayska, Rebecca Salois, Cecilia Salvi, Cosim Sayid, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Chiashin Shih, Hamad Sindhi, Joana Siwiec, Claire Sommers, Lauren Spradlin, Elise Steenburgh, Jen Tang, Cihan Tekay, Charlotte Thurston, David Topel, Stephanie Vella, Jet Vonk, Ruth (Rachel) Weintraub, Thomas Whitney, Allan Zelene

**Absent:** Zachary Aidala, Jagadisa-devasri Dacus, Amelia Greene, Ian Haberman, Anthony Perri

AM calls the meeting to order at 2:08 pm.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Dominique Nisperos motions to approve the minutes with the emendation to drop from the agenda the New Business Items Mina Rees Library Resolution, and Approval of the Minutes; Zach McGuirk seconds.

Cosim Sayid makes a subsidiary motion to amend to the agenda to move New Business items 1. Chartering of Student Organizations, and 2. Chartering of Student Association before Executive Committee Reports.

DN points out that the majority of EC reports are available via writing and thus will not take too long.

Vote on subsidiary Motion:

Nays: Dominique Nisperos, Rebecca Salois, Stephanie Vella

Abstentions: Brian Olson for Sunit, Zach McGuirk, Cihan Tekay, Jet Bonk, Hamad Sindhi

Motion carries.

Vote on original motion with emendations: Motion carries unanimously.

## II. New Business

### 1. Chartering of Student Organizations

- a. Mentoring Future Faculty of Color Group
- b. GC:ISO
- c. Students of the State

CS motions to approve all three Chartered Organizations; David Nagy seconds; motion carries unanimously.

### 2. Chartering of Student Association

- a. Computer Science Student Association

Allen Zilner motions to approve; Kenneth Ezriem seconds; Zach McGuirk abstains; Motion carries.

### 3. Resolution for the Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions

Connor McPherson proxy for Christian Madison motions to approve the Resolution with the emendations that were sent to reps in advance.

Cihan Tekay seconds.

AM limits discussion until 3:55pm

Cosim Sayid: Asks for clarification about whether we are voting on the resolution or the amendment.

AM: Clarifies that the motion on the floor is for the amended resolution.

Discussion:

ZM asks what would this boycott actually do now that the amendments have been clarified. What is actually being boycotted?

CT gives Sean Kennedy time: the resolution only constrains the DSC to adhere to the boycott of academic institutions and companies. It would not affect individual students.

ZM requests further clarification.

Sean Kennedy clarifies that the DSC could not partner officially with any Israeli academic body, students from two academic bodies could still meet and form partnerships.

Naomi Perley comments that she had interpreted the resolution as also including DSC funding and DSC support.

Hillel Britter: Asks what companies might be included in the call for divestment.

DN requests that the chair recognize students who have not yet spoken. Comments that the DSC does not currently have investments, and thus would not be divesting personally, rather the vote would be symbolic. The DSC leadership could decide to create rules for how the resolution would be enforced, but this would not mean that grant funds would not be provided for an Israeli speaker.

AM limits speaking time to two minutes.

CT: points out that the boycott does not apply to individual scholars or individual funding that a school would receive. The resolution responds to a Palestinian call. The Palestinian call also includes this language. The rights of Israeli and Palestinian academics is being stifled. Our voices as academics is also being silenced, insisting on having the conversation is our generation's testament to our academic freedom.

SK: The English Students Association just voted to endorse and support the passage the BDS resolution on the table. The English program represents 300 diverse students and this is a strong statement. This is a result of the conversations that have continued since the delay in the last vote. The changes to the resolution were made based on conversations with people over the last 6 weeks. The 25 and 30 people who have been working on the resolution have used their own labor to create a FAQ so it is disingenuous to claim to not have enough knowledge.

Yuval Abrams: From Connor's claim that the resolution would only eliminate the DSC's collaboration with Israeli Institutions, seems to be contradicted by the condemnation of the collaboration with Baruch

Hamad Sindhi: Point of clarification: is the removal of the word Zionist included in the emendations?

Connor passes around the amended resolution (projector is broken).

Brian Olson: Expresses concern that this sudden amending of the resolution makes it difficult to represent students.

AM clarifies that resolutions are often amended at plenary.

Sean Griffin: asks whether or not the DSC has ever passed a boycott of foreign academic institutions, specifically Israel.

AM: Clarifies that the DSC has not passes any previous resolutions about Israel.

Aysenur Ataman: Understands the frustration that many people who have been working on the resolution feel, but thinks that we should welcome questions. Back to the practical questions about funding in relationship with Baruch college and the pragmatics of future

action. What do we mean by Israeli Universities? Are they independent of the government? Are we also talking about private universities?

Ben Zweig: Has there been any DSC proposals boycotting other countries and resolutions. AM believes that the DSC may have had a resolution on South Africa in the 70s and 80s but is unsure.

Robert Bell: Feels that it is unproductive to discuss all of the countries that could be boycotted. It is important to focus on the issue that is presented at hand.

DN notes that the DSC has previously voted on resolutions to support causes that they did not necessarily have a direct effect on such as, moving blood drives off campus because of discrimination and the resolution to divest in fossil fuels. The DSC came into being as voting on a resolution against the Vietnam War. All of these issues are not controlled by students, but their voices still need to be heard. Don't let that stop you from voting. It may be the first time, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it.

Kenneth Ezrim: We should talk about the injustices in CUNY and at the Graduate Center first. This issue does not contribute to making the lives of the students better. The time invested in supporting this resolution is not leading anywhere. I am a witness of this. I am going through a lot of trials. What is DSC doing to help me? How are they reaching out to students? This motion shouldn't be what we are discussing. The amendments to the resolution do not make my life better.

Erin McKinney Prupis: Would like to hear the numbers from the English department vote.

Ashna Ali: The DSC exists to take care of students' problems in the building and elsewhere in CUNY. Work gets done everyday by underpaid students to address student problems. All of the DSC contact info is available online and elsewhere. We spend all of the time we do on weekends, in the mornings, to help students solve problems that are not being addressed elsewhere.

Connor McPherson: Reads a statement from Rayya El Zein, a GC student of Palestinian descent currently conducting fieldwork in Palestine: What good is the boycott in relation to the violence that Palestinians are subjected to? What is the use of a symbolic gesture? The time we spend passing this resolution will not rebuild Gaza. But we have not been tasked with solving this, we are responding to a call. Palestinians are not asking us how to get through checkpoints or get to school, but are asking us to support their call. Honoring someone else's request is not just responsible but the most active choice. Students in Palestine will hear you.

DN: The Resolution does not waste anyone's time. I have expended a lot of energy on this resolution. This is not a waste of time. Our first resolution of the semester was in support of student mental health.

CT: In terms of why this important. We are academia. We are political. The American Studies student association is considering a vote. The ASA has already passed one. If you don't want to discuss political issues I would advise you not to be in academia. This will always come up. And I ask that you respect the DSC Executive Committee and the amount of time that they have had to spend on this resolution in addition to student concerns.

Jennifer Fortes: There are a lot of issues with criminal justice students, particularly with governance, that have been put on the back burner. It seems like anyone in favor is reacting very defensively. I should have the right to ask questions

SK: There is a history of people speaking up and being perceived as hostile, which is a politicized and racialized response. The idea that supporters of this resolution are hostile is absurd. There has been an assault on CUNY students. The assault on Palestinian activism has been hostile, and students have been subjected to violence, intimidation, and threats. Those supporting Palestinian liberation do so because they support the interconnected struggles of other groups. The voice of Palestinians is the ones always drowned out. The Palestinian voice is always drowned out by the completely unequal power leveraged on the other side.

Ruth Winetraub: I know that the DSC puts in a lot of work. We're not saying it's not important. We all want to speak about it. Academic freedom is about discussion. We should have discussions, but we don't necessarily have to pass a boycott. The word disingenuous has been thrown around quite a bit. When you read a report you usually hear about both sides. You don't speak about the toll of the war on Israel, the fear and deaths on the Israeli side. This resolution calls me disingenuous, because I have not been able to come during the Sabbath.

KE: As a representatives of our departments, we have a job to do for students. For the DSC, we expect them to put in more time discussing issues that effect students. I am asking that we give more attention to things that effect students directly. How is DSC being creative enough.

AM limits comments to those who have not yet spoken or have something new to say.

Balthazarr Becker: To answer the question regarding the vote in the English department, there were 43 people present from the English Students Association, 30 voted in favor. Previous to the vote, there was a larger discussion on the department listserv. Students want to see their scholarship in a larger context of politics and decolonization.

Mark Berman: I have not heard about how this affects students. In my department we do a lot of collaboration with Israeli institutions. This may come back and Israeli academic institutions may not want to collaborate with us anymore. So this could effect collaborations, even apolitical ones in the sciences.

Yazmin Ozer: I refuse the framing of Palestinian solidarity as not pertaining to my everyday concerns. I refuse that separation and the idea that what is going on in Palestine is not related to my everyday concerns.

Eric Walenburg: This conversation has already been going on for a long time, so I may be reiterating. The reason this resolution came about is from a call from Palestinian Civil Society to support academic freedom for Palestinians. Israelis are not facing the same problems. Our question is how we can support Palestinians and their ability to participate in academic work and dialogue. After a summer when the Israeli state killed 2000 people, the majority of which were students, they were children, it is essential for ourselves as students and teachers to heed that call and stand up for justice. Also as a US citizen, because of the support the US government provides to Israel.

CS: Asks for clarification for whether what we are considering is the motion or the amendment.

AM: Clarifies that the motion on the floor is for the amended resolution.

CS: Makes a subsidiary motion to limit discussion time by allocating 15 minutes respectively to those who will speak in favor, to those who are undecided, and to those who will speak against.

Subsidiary motion seconded by Michele Singer proxy for Samantha Morgan:  
SAJ calls a vote.  
42 vote Nay; Abstentions: Sean Griffin, Brian Olson  
Motion fails to carry.

Yuval Abrams: I'm confused and would like some basic clarifications. Is it true that this only effects DSC action, or does it call for the ending of the Baruch collaboration. Also what is Palestinian civil society?

David Topel: In political conflict there is always a claim that we are being put into a corner. There is always this claim, even on the American right. There is a group that has kidnapped the student government. The Advocate is paid for with student funds. I am on the editorial board and they don't listen to me. The Advocate published a list of reasons to support the boycott. Here at the GC level, what is happening is contrary to discussion, a small elite of students is setting the agenda.

Cecilia Salvi: As program rep for anthropology, I would like to note that the Anthropology department voted almost unanimously in support of the resolution,

Rob Lawtawicz: I am an Israeli student, a graduate of Tel Aviv University. There is a large group of Israelis that have called for a boycott. This is not a focus on individuals. On the left in Israel, we have been fighting against academic institutions support of the occupation. The left has so far failed, and now sees that they need the support of the international community to make the boycott happen.



Thomas Whitney: I have heard a lot of specific things in favor, and ad homonym attacks on the supporters. But I have not heard specific reasons on why the resolution would be harmful. As someone undecided I feel that I cannot make an informed decision.

Naomi Pearlman: An online survey from the Music department resulted in 14 opposed, and 8 in favor. Cedes time to:

Talgim Imry: The only place in Israel where these discussions take place is in Israeli Academic Institutions. The work of Israel scholars makes the distinctions between individual scholars and academic institutions untenable. Boycotting academic institutions boycotts the Israeli left and those who protest the occupation.

Jen Tang: Students in Environmental and Critical Social Psychology held a town hall meeting. During that meeting students proposed some wording emendation:

Whereas we understand ourselves as participants in a profoundly problematic and oppressive university system that is itself funded by a colonialist state embody hypocrisy by participating in this boycott.

Whereas the City University of New York rests on colonized land, we are a part of a larger colonial project. We understand this is but one tactic in a larger anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal movement for social justice.

Allan Zelner: The tactic is to use BDS towards the goal of ending the occupation. I support this goal, but I am not convinced that this tactic is the right one. I would hope that given the history of this motion in the DSC, I hope that we will hold a vote. We have made special accommodations. The second part of the resolution that condemns the university and legislative statements, I hope we can pass.

Chloe Wayland: I personally support the resolution, cedes time to Abigail Lappin:

Abigail Lappin: I have experienced discrimination as a Jew in France. BDS does not promote peace. It blocks collaboration and dialogue. Boycotts, divestments, and sanctions is the Hamas decision. It is an act of war. BDS undermines the peace process and is discriminatory. If we want peace we should find ways to bring people together.

Dadland: Let's look at the geography between South Africa and Israel and Palestine. Definitely apartheid exists. Israel has a right to protect itself. What exactly are we liberating by giving Palestinians freedom from apartheid? I care about the idea that I have the power to speak. As queer man from Jamaica I have been silenced. So I speak of this issue not as an outsider. I have decided to support this resolution because it breaks the backbone of the power structures that prohibits me from speaking.

Gordon Barnes: I am speaking as the editor of the *Advocate*. I understand that you [David Topel] said the *Advocate* has been taken over. In the most recent issue, there was an editorial in favor of the resolution. 3 of the 4 editors are in favor. I spoke to Cosim Sayid and Yuval Abrams to request an editorial from those opposed, but they did not submit.

Michele Dorsch cedes time to Asaf Chamise: I come from Israel and I am against this resolution. The boycott is working. There was a student last week at Tel Aviv University who had funding from the ASA and who lost that funding. This is a Palestinian-Israeli engaged in research on America. This body might compromise my funding and discriminate against students. You cannot make a distinction between individuals and institutions.

Hillary Ashland: As a liberal Jew I support this resolution. Cedes time to Marissa Brostoff: BDS is a powerful non-violent political movement. This is a message for those who are undecided because of concerns about academic freedom, these arguments are important to understanding the relationship between power and the academy. Even if your hedging on the issue of boycotts, you should still support this resolution to support Palestinians.

David Nagy: The strongest argument opposing the resolution is that the resolution will hurt Israeli academics. I will vote in favor of it because Israel has the power. Historically, the number of people who have given up power for moral reasons is nonexistent. I don't know if this will end the occupation, but it is the only thing on the table.

Jonathan Ben Benjamin cedes time to: Simon Schuman an alum and post doc in Israel: Israeli academic institutions are making an effort to recruit Arab students. My institution is creating an initiative to promote diversity and tolerance. This is a religious institution. There has been this number discussed, that 2000 Palestinians were killed in the recent conflict. But, there was a missile that fell on a house that I walk by on my way to work. Yes, Israel has military superiority. But Israelis under attack too.

DN: There is reason why you don't see Palestinians in these discussions. It is because of the uneven distribution of power. As a result of my support of this conversation I have been accused of promoting genocide, being an anti-Semite, and ruining the prospects for my career. I don't see this on the other side.

CS: Each student can support a boycott. That is not a reason for the DSC to support it. I would like to answer Gordon Barnes, and point out that he asked for submissions after the vote.

Yuval Abraham: I come from a place of pain in Israel, and have experienced bus bombings. I am not in favor of the boycott.

Brian Olson proxy for Sumit Mukherjee: The Christian right sometimes trots out a gay to make its points. So we should look with when political sides trot out supporters who further their interests.

Tahir: There is a FAQ that was sent out. It covers a lot of questions including what institutional support Israel academic institutions provide to the occupation. Israel provides support to the military through providing soldiers and military technology.

RW: Mark had said that this could hurt future collaborations. And as someone planning on doing a post-doc in Israel, it would still look bad on my application.



CM: Do Israeli academics have a social justice role? The lions share of Israeli academics serve in the IDF. Still this boycott does not target them. We are targeting the institutions. We, however, are targeted individually.

SK: We keep talking about Israeli academics. What is this resolution going to say about this institution in relationship with the growing movement in academic institutions? The allegations against the ASA are false.  
Vote is called.

AM clarifies again that the motion on the table is to approve the amended resolution.

CS objects to the way the vote has been called.

YA expresses confusion about whether or not we were voting on the amendment or the resolution.

31 in favor; 25 Nay; Abstentions: Chloe proxy for Drew Bucilla, Teresa Curmi, Dan Balik proxy for Emma Jacobs, Thomas Whitney, Jet Vonk, Gwen Shaw, **Nicole Neil**, Alison Parks, **Alexandra Ryska**, Allen Zelener

The motion does not carry.  
AM calls a short recess

DN Motions to move remaining New Business, Ratifying New Members, prior to EC reports.  
SV seconds.  
Motion passes unanimously

## II Executive Committee Reports

1. Co chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin)  
Is working on getting all chartered organizations chartered for the year. Reminds reps to sign rosters. Also notes that it is required by governance docs that reps to Grad Council are elected. If these reps were not elected in your department email Amy.

AZ clarifies that program reps are automatically appointed proxy to Grad Council, but Grad Council reps must still be elected.

JP: Notes that we still need to ratify the new members.

AM: Asks for a motion.

Ratifying New Members  
JT motions, DN Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

## 2. Co-Chair for Communications (Dominique Nisperos)

- Problems with all student list serv.
- Currently conducting research on NY State meeting laws and voting.
- Met with IT. Discussed new @gradcenter.cuny.edu email addresses and advocated for an extension for new email forwarding. Current students will keep there same username (first initial, last name), but in 2016, in another new student's alias will be their CUNYFirst alias (FirstName.LastName####).
- Also discussed Library space and redoing the C level with the GC center for data visualization. Requested that student access to computers is prioritized.
- The ongoing printer issues in the library were because of funding disbursement dates.
- There were elevator issues in the library, which have since been rectified.
- At the grad council meeting, Pres. Robinson said convocation will become an annual event.
- The Grad Center is sponsoring a resolution to the BoT to waive intra-cuny application fees.
- The plan to build ne student housing in LIC is moving forward once environmental concerns have been addressed
- Construction has not yet begun on the roof deck. There had been a bottleneck related to the architect, that now seems to be cleared. The likely date for construction to commence is February.
- The EC met with Pres. Robinson for lunch.
- Robinson discussed his commitment to diversity, but in ways that were at times problematic.
- Robinson reported that intra-CUNY enrollment has stayed steady over the last few years, but some EC members noted that this may not necessarily reflect the diversity of the CUNY student body.
- I requested fee waivers from other diversity initiatives in addition to the new intra-CUNY fee waivers.
- Robinson confirmed that there is no current movement in the bench sciences.
- The next strategic plan will include consideration of tuition remission beyond 5 years and travel and research funding
- We brought up the WAC fellowships and problems with increased workload in the 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- We raised issues about a lack of transparency regarding policies for space reservation. Robinson recommended that we have a meeting with facilities.
- Robinson acknowledged that CUNYFirst is a bad idea, but seemed to think that its implementation at the GC is inevitable.
- We brought to Robinson's attention a complaint against the Title 9 officer.
- EC also met with the Diversity Task Force Student Rep. The task force has taken issue with the ways in which the college is counting diversity, in particular conflating sexual orientation and gender identity.
- The task force has gotten numbers on the recruitment of historically underrepresented students, with numbers by department of students applying, admitted, and accepting.
- The task force has been sure to emphasize that representation does not necessarily mean that the environment of a department is good for diversity.

Clare: Asks to clarify email forwarding.

DN clarifies that gc.cuny.edu will bounce after June

Clare asks about business cards. She spent \$17 on new business cards. Can we work to find vouchers?

DN says that we will follow up with Student Affairs

Naomi Pearlman: What are ways that the DSC can pushback against the email change?

DN: We have repeatedly raised this issue and there seems to be this feeling that even when confronted with all college presidents, CUNY Central will not budge. This feeling of inevitability has been echoed by our administration.

Sean Griffin: Will the email program be the same?

DN: It will be Outlook.

HS clarifies that the email change is anticipating CUNYFirst, but it is not the same due to a contract with Microsoft.

Kenneth Ezrim: Asks how we can oppose these changes.

DN: Administrators all view this as an inevitability. CUNY First benefits CUNY central. Some administrators have emphasized that it allows CUNY central greater surveillance capabilities over the campuses.

Tahir: Would like to oppose CUNY First, but suggests that it should be discussed in another meeting. It is clear that powerful people want this to happen. Maybe the email changes can be a small fight to test the possibility of pushing back against CUNYFirst. Perhaps DSC funds could be used to keep old emails alive.

Allen Zelner: Are the DSC email addresses provided by the institution?

DN says we have our own servers. DSC has been discussing creating an alum alias. We are also considering a resolution.

Erin McKinney Prupis: Brings up that her students email her years after teaching and thus closing her old email account could have a negative effect on undergrad's ability to get recommendations.

HS clarifies that he is trying to get a longer forwarding period.

JP mentions that the President was confused about the email change and didn't seem to know about it before we discussed it with him. His office hours would be a good opportunity to ask about this. Also notes that this is a major concern for future students.

AM points out that there is a GC community meeting next Thursday at 4p.

Thomas: Asks why the fellowship checks were cut so late and why didn't the Bursar's office communicate the delay to students.

DN says that we were told that the Bursar had issues with getting the money from Albany and claimed to have no control over the matter.

Robert Bell: Points out that the same thing happened with federal financial aid this semester.

Allen Zelner: When is the construction for the 8th floor going to be completed?

DN It is possibly beginning in February, but the timeline beyond that is unknown.

AZ: Would like to know about other renovations that need to happen.

DN: We will discuss this with facilities. Points out that Robinson didn't seem to know about space use policies, and that it is unclear how students will gain access to roof.

Jen Tang: Asks if there is a way to not use Restaurant Associates on the roof.

DN replies that this would be ideal, and points to the ongoing problems with RA.

Sean Kennedy: notes that the Adjunct Project is also working on changes in ECF fellowships and union negotiations.

2. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince)

- Numbers for program funds are now available. Because of the changes in the Psychology program, there is still a residual uneven funds breakdown. Psychology reps may want to coordinate distributing funds. Encourages students in Psychology to form PSA to deal with the structural changes to the department.
- Sent out a list of funds and instructions on submitting for reimbursement in an email today to DSC representatives.
- Chartered Organization funds remain at \$300.
- Remember to sign chartered org rosters.
- And remember to utilize legal appointments.
- Received an update from the NYSHIP contact in Albany, who has become more responsive to our concerns.
- Security of the DSC website has been improved. There have been some server issues. The site is hosted on the GC servers and there was a campus wide hold up, which you may have noticed with delayed emails.
- Please be sure to stay for steering reports.

Jen Tang: Says that she would like to get together with other Psychology reps and requests that they be in touch with her.

3. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi)

- BoT update, Resolution to support fossil fuel divestment has not come up for vote. There have been several arguments against this from the BoT. The CUNY divestment website has more info on this.
- USS plenary took place on 9/21, candidates announced their candidacy. Cecilia only supports one or two candidates. She will abstain from all votes besides those.
- USS passed a resolution on fossil fuel divestment.
- USS website has ongoing problems.
- Met Discussed with USS committee ways of dealing with the USS possibly through audits and/or lawsuits.
- Plans to increase awareness of the USS through the unofficial USS website and the DSC site.
- Is writing an article for the advocate about the ongoing problems with USS.
- Plans to increase knowledge about the USS scholarships. Only 110 students applied, 71 awarded scholarships. Previously 50 applied and 45 were awarded. This is obviously a very small percentage of students.
- The website includes no instructions on applying for scholarships and thus may not be being granted fairly.
- Currently according the USS budget, 10% of the budget is allocated to scholarships. Cecilia would like to increase this to at least 20%
- USS hasn't had an independent audit for over a decade, even though it is required by CUNY's bylaws.

- Trying to increase the involvement of and reps of DSC in grad council.

AM pauses the meeting to allow for Jenny Furlong, guest speaker from The Office of Career Development:

- Events and job search help are available. There is an event with an alum from IBM at 6p on Monday.
  - 6p Thursday there is a roundtable on careers outside the academy with a group of social science and humanities alums who work outside the academy.
  - Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, will hold a talk at noon on Thursday to discuss career opportunities in government.
  - Jennifer will be out on maternity leave beginning Nov 12
  - Annabella and Simone will be staffing in the interim.
  - There have recently been Webinars on cover letter and resumes recently, and on job interviews.
  - On the 12th, Adrienne Klein will lead a Doctoral Student research grant workshop.
  - Student workers are improving the career center website with collaboration from the library.
  - In the works for the spring is a new hire to develop a teaching center in order to help better prepare grad student teachers. The job will be posted in January or February.
  - The opening of the writing center will hopefully be moving forward in the near future. But students should keep reminding the president and provost.
- David Topel: International students have specific trouble with employment and visa status. There is help available with legal frameworks available at the GC, but not specifically for professionalization.

JF: Can perhaps organize a speaker to take students through the visa transition process. Would an in-person workshop or a webinar be better?

DT: Webinars are a good idea.

Naomi Pearlman: Seconds this. Also it would be great to hear about career development strategies and the particular hiring challenges that international students face.

Kenneth Ezrim: Commends the Career Center's efforts.

AM: Comments that all of the events this office is doing are interesting and important, and encourages representatives to try to better promote them in their programs.

JF: Currently working with institutional development to build alumni participation for the eventual creation of a database of alum that could serve as mentors to CUNY GC students.

#### 4. UFS Liaison (Stephanie Vella)

Distributes a written report.

Written report:

There has been no UFS meeting since the last plenary, and will report on the October meeting at the November plenary.

The next UFS Plenary will be held at October 28 at 6p on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Graduate Center.

I am planning to attend the Status of the Faculty Committee that same day. One of their main projects for the semester is to increase part-time faculty participation on UFS. I am planning on coordinating with them and advocating for official recognition of the DSC liaison as one route towards this goal.

Also, please note that UFS Conference on Online Education will take place on October 21. The keynote will be delivered by Chancellor Milliken. If this is an issue of particular interest to you, I encourage you to attend.

## II. Steering Officer Reports

### a. Officer for Funding (Rebecca Salois)

- There were some problem with the first round of funding applications and there have thus been a number of revise and resubmits.
- Attempted to hold a grants workshop to address this issue, but it unfortunately was unattended. Will try to hold a workshop again on November 11. RSVP to [funding@cunydisc.org](mailto:funding@cunydisc.org)
- Currently looking for 2 new committee members.
- Next funding meeting is Nov 4.
- The PSC has given grad center students the ability to join the GC union. trying to reach 10/31 deadline of new and transfer union members. Clarifies the difference between being a union member or not. Be sure to sign cards for voting on contract.

Kenneth Ezrim: Asks why the PSC has been collecting fees from non-members.

SV: Notes that under US law unions cannot require you to join, even if you are being represented and served by the union.

Liza: Asks about adjunct representation.

RS: Clarifies that adjuncts who are not paid through the GC still cannot join the GC union chapter.

Rob Bell: Comments that student library workers are unable to join the union if they work under 20 hrs.

RS: Notes that library workers are organized under a different union chapter.

SK: Encourages more students to sign up for the GC union chapter to increase our voice.



Kenneth Ezrim: Asks what the benefits are of joining the union.

RS: Points out that the PSC offers grants for adjuncts for travel and has been a force for getting and keeping adjunct healthcare.

AM: Asks RS to explain why she is talking about the union.

RS: Notes that she is currently working as a student union organizer in addition to her Steering Officer duties.

b. Officer for Governance and Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird)

Ratification of New Members:

At-Large Representatives

- New Members
- David Topel, Criminal Justice
- Chiahsin Shih, Speech-Language-Hearing Services
- Jessica Mahlbacher, Political Science

Program Representatives

- New Members
- Samantha Morgan, Audiology
- Yuval Abrams, Philosophy
- Jonathan Ben-Benjamin, Physics
- Lauren Spradlin, Linguistics
- Cihan Tekay, Anthropology
- Hilarie Ashton, English

Special Elections

- Chemistry (nominations close October 26)

Bylaws to be voted on at November Plenary:

Creation of Bylaw 3.8 Emeritus DSC Leadership Advisory Board (EDLAB):

Bylaw 3.8 Emeritus DSC Leadership Advisory Board

a. Purpose

EDLAB shall serve as a source of institutional knowledge and guidance for the DSC. The members of EDLAB shall provide mentorship and advice to members of the DSC, when requested, and advocate for Graduate Center students through formal and informal channels. EDLAB shall have no decision-making power within the DSC.

b. Membership

EDLAB shall consist of up to nine former officers of the DSC. Each year, three members of EDLAB shall be appointed by the Executive Committee prior to the first Plenary meeting, when this selection shall be reported to the DSC. The term of appointment shall be three years, and members may be reappointed for additional terms. After serving three consecutive terms, a member shall be ineligible for appointment for a period of three years.

c. Duties

The duties of EDLAB shall include but not be limited to:

- i. maintaining the institutional knowledge of the DSC;
- ii. advising and mentoring DSC officers and representatives upon request;
- iii. publicly raising awareness of the DSC and its mission and aims; and
- iv. advocating for Graduate Center students to the extent possible.

Hiring committee bylaw 1.4:

1.4.a Hiring Team

An ad-hoc committee (hereafter known as “the hiring team”) shall be convened, consisting of the Co-Chair for Student Affairs, ex-officio, one At-Large Steering Officer named by the Steering Committee, one DSC representative named by the Steering Committee, one member of the DSO named by the Steering Committee, and one other member chosen as follows: If an advisory board exists for the affiliate, the Co-Chair for Student Affairs shall request that contact the board members select by unanimous consensus, or if this is not possible, by majority vote, one of their elected members according to descending number of votes received in the last election for the board until a board member accepts the position; in the absence of a board for the affiliate, the member shall be appointed by unanimous decision of the current senior employees of that affiliate who are not applicants for the position. Any matriculated students who have previously held but are not current applicants for the position shall be ex-officio advisors to the hiring team, with voice but not vote at all meetings, including executive sessions. The team shall elect its own chair from among the voting members.

8.3.a Recognition of Program Student Associations Petition Requirements:

evidence that the first election of any officers or representatives to of a student government newly formed PSA were democratically elected by students in the program was endorsed by a majority of students in that program, wherein the endorsement of an election may take the form of, among others, evidence that a majority of the students in the program voted in the election or that a majority of the students signed a separate petition, electronically or by paper, indicating that the election is supported; and

Bylaw 3.7 on convening Governance Task Force:

b. Membership

The members of the Governance Task Force shall consist of the student members of the Graduate Council Committee on Structure, ex-officio, all members of the DSC Executive Committee, ex-officio, and any and all interested members of the DSO DSC, who will be ratified by the DSC Steering Committee. When possible, a diversity of academic clusters and programs should be represented.

c. Leadership

The Governance Task Force shall elect at least two co-leaders from among its members at its first meeting, which shall be convened by the Co-Chair for Student Affairs. When possible, at least one co-leader should be a non-member of the DSC Executive Committee.

Bylaw 3.2c Grants Committee

c. Meetings

The Grants Committee shall convene before the fall semester to determine its meeting dates for the fall semester, its public notice list, and the maximum award amount for the year, which shall not exceed 5% of the annual budget allocation, except in extraordinary

circumstances as described below. At the same meeting, the Grants Committee shall appoint one member to join the Officer for Funding and the Co-Chair for Business in conducting expedited review. Meeting dates for the spring semester will be determined prior to the January grants application deadline. The Grants Committee shall meet during first weeks of October, November, December, February and April. The Officer for Funding shall send the agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting, and completed regular applications to all committee members at least seven calendar days before each meeting. Quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the committee, including the Co-Chair for Business and the Officer for Funding.

c. Officer for Health and Wellness (Charlotte Thurston)

- Provides a longer handout.
  - Points out that now is the open enrollment period for NYSHIP.
  - Provides information about two upcoming insurance events, one with Elise Perram and Scott Voorhees, and the other with the Health and Wellness Committee and the Adjunct Project.
  - Encourages students to use the Wellness Center feedback link.
  - Also encourages students to utilize the RA- digital comment card on twitter #GCFeedback
  - Requests that reps follow @CUNYGCWellness
- Adam Topel: Has an issue finding chiropractor.  
CT: Suggests attending the workshops.  
Naomi Pearlman: Is there a separate vision card?  
CT: Yes, you should contact Scott Voorhees.

d. Officer for Outreach (Gwen Shaw)

Gwen was unable to attend the meeting. Her report was read by CS:

Since last plenary I've worked to reach out to off-campus students to meet with them and plan an event at their program's non-GC campus. If you haven't yet heard from me, or have but have not yet replied to my email, please email [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org) to set up a day and time to meet to discuss your program, its relationship to the GC, and any other issues you would like to address.

Current Activities:

- Working with DSC Rep at Brooklyn College in the Psychology (Cognition, Brain and Behavior) Program to meet and plan an event for this fall
- Meeting with Psychology Rep and student government at John Jay on November 3
- Working with USS Delegate Cecelia Salvi on education and awareness campaign on USS activity, dysfunction, and potential financial mismanagement based on her research and findings
- Also working with Adjunct Project on outreach to GC adjuncts at other campuses, as well as enrollment for new GC PSC Chapter.
- Working with Officers for Funding and Student Services on disseminating information about opportunities available to GC students—have meeting planned for mid-November.
- Creating an updated Outreach blog or web presence on the DSC site—stay tuned!
- Adjusting my committee: if you would like to be a part of it, email [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org)

- Per the bylaws and definition of the committee, the Officer for Outreach is particularly interested in issues pertaining to students based offsite and international students, both of whom are encouraged to be in touch with me and/or to participate in the committee meetings. If you would like to attend meetings but not be on the committee—totally fine! Email me with your interest!

Sorry I can't be there in person today! If you have any questions, please contact me via email, [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org).

Thanks,  
Gwen

e. Officer for Student Life and Services (Ashna Ali)

Provided a written report:

f. Officer for Library and Technology (Hamad Sindhi)

- There are free copies of MS Office suite coming with the new email, and students are also getting 1tb of data storage in the cloud.
- Negotiated password changes with IT and had them increased to 180 days.
- New email is coming 12/1.
- Please forward opinions and feedback regarding CUNYFirst to use as ammunition against its introduction at the GC.
- New WIFI is currently being installed in the building.
- C415B will not be used by IT, the provost will be designating it for a yet unannounced purpose. We will be advocating for the space to made available for student use.
- Working with the library to help keep the thesis room silent.
- Advocating to for assistive tech moving to ground floor.

Claire Sommers: Asks if there has been any progress on securing six month loans.

HS: Replies that there was a small extension to loan periods in the spring, but that he will continue to advocate for these to be extended further.

### III. Announcements

AM: There is a Halloween party with foods and drinks at 7p. Please.

CS: Thanks everyone for staying and being so respectful and engaged.

JP: Requests that reps stay and help move chairs if they can.

### IV. Adjournment

AM Motions.

Many people second.

Motion carries unanimously.