

**Plenary  
MINUTES  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

**Present:**

Ryan Abrahams, Khalid Al Hilli, Fabiana Alceste, Jimiane Ashe, Colin Ashley, Chloe Asselin, Lisa Babel, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Hillel Broder, Shelley Buchbinder, Carlos Camacho, Kevin Cedeno-Pacheco, Elaine Chang Sandoval, Rachel Chapman, Jennifer Chmielewski, Pablo Crespo, Ernesto Cuba, Chloe Edmondson, Rebecca Fullan, Kishore Gangangari, Ernesto Garcia, Maryam Ghaffari Saadat, Dean Gibson Schafer, Eleanor Goldman, Drew Green, Huw Green, Amelia Greene, Richard Gustavson, Anna Harb, Michael Healy, Lauren Hudson, Stefanie Jones, Joshua Katz-Rosene, Sean Kennedy, Laura Lutgen, Theodor Maghrak, Velina Manolova, Elizabeth Martignetti, Amy Martin, Melissa Marturanom, Jeremiah McMillan, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Rajat Kumar Pal, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Alison Parks, Jennifer Peirce, Brooke Prashker, Jen Prince, Jeremy Randall, Jacob Russell, China Sajadian, Saiful Saleem, Rebecca Salois, Cecilia Salvi, Liza Shapiro, Hamad Sindhi, Corinna Singleman, Cihan Tekay, Charlotte Thurston, Stephanie Vella, Deepti Wadheram, Tellisia Williams, Jessica Woodson, Allan Zelener

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

**Absent:**

Yuval Abrams, Brandon Carney, Tonya Foster, Mawia Khogali, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Ana Perry, Cosim Sayid, Amy Schiller, Gwen Shaw, David Topel

Hamad Sindhi (HS) introduces OpenCUNY affiliate coordinators (Chrissy Nadler, Maggie Galvan, and Laurie Hurson) explain what its function is. They discuss academic functions that OpenCUNY can be used for, like putting up orals list, using WordPress for organizing categories tags for those orals list. They note that there is a website for all the affiliates: The Advocate, AFC, and the Adjunct Project, and also that it is used by DSC steering members, as in the case of the Health and Wellness website. They give their email address, and note that they will email back quickly to help users with troubleshooting/website issues. They add that users can import into OpenCUNY their current websites. They will also help to promote events or information that users want promoted, because OpenCUNY automatically sends new blog posts to its Twitter feed, and users can retweet these tweets from their own Twitter accounts. However, there are also privacy settings so users can also choose that OpenCUNY does not automatically tweet about new posts.

They ask for questions. Brooke Prashkar (BP) asks: is OpenCUNY open for use only by GC students or by CUNY generally?

CN: people can only create account with @gradcenter.cuny.edu email, because OpenCUNY is funded by GC students. However, GC students can use the OpenCUNY contact form to

contact Laurie, Chrissy, or Maggie, and they can add non-GC people to the site, for the purpose of working in a group, if that group abides by OpenCUNY terms and it's a group that is GC related

Grace Kim-Lambert (GKL) asks: Can you login and show an example personal site, like an example of how I would use it for a project poster and/or for sharing information? LH shows an alumni's interactive digital CV. CN: It's also cool because you can ask OpenCUNY users how they did fancy things are on their sites. MG adds that OpenCUNY sites also belong to alumni—OpenCUNY won't kick off students once they are alumni! MG says reps and constituents should feel free to email coordinators with questions, and LH points out the FAQ site for OpenCUNY: [opencuny.info](http://opencuny.info)

Joe Heissan (JH) presents Alumni Engagement and Fundraising Commission (AFC). JH explains what AFC's function is: to encourage and facilitate alumni fundraising and contact with/participation in their former programs. JH notes that he tries to meet with as many people as possible through DSC reps as first contacts, so it's good to meet with DSC reps at the beginning of the semester because programs can shift from one year to the next, and DSC reps are a way in for finding out about program; however, JH can work with DSC reps directly or be referred to other members in the program on alumni/fundraising committees. JH tries to find out about student governance, because it is helpful in making some decisions and guiding the work he does. JH encourages reps to think of alumni engagement and fundraising as a long term project, one that takes place over 10-15 years. JH explains structure of who may be in charge of alumni fundraising and engagement for a particular program, and encourages asking department to figure out who is in charge. JH also explains that he is here to help facilitate the process with students in programs, and notes he can help work with students, even if they're uncomfortable with asking alumni for money. For example, JH can help with appeals for fundraising, and stresses that they need to be very specific, saying the money is not just for the GC or for the program in general, but that it is targeted for something that is a specific student need in the program (for example, in Theater, funds go to student travel and research grants in theatre, and other people ask for funding for annual conferences). He lists a range of possible appeals to send out/organize, such as emails, phone-a-thons, letters, or some sort of event. JH notes that Sociology, English, and French have sent out letters/emails to alums; JH also notes that appeals needs to be done in September, late January, February, or early March, so they do not bump up against fundraising efforts the GC is doing, and that reps/constituents need to set the date early to plan, as well as figure out if this will be an annual event. He notes that English is going back to phone-a-thon in the spring, and that many programs have a "Donate Now" button on their site. If program doesn't have such a button, APO can put it there, and it's easier than putting together an appeal. JH gives examples of what kinds of student-led events/engagement activities programs can do, like newsletters and regularly asking alumni to update contact information (program and GC databases are separate, so there can be disparities in one or the other database—JH encourages constituents to get alumni to update information in both databases). JH also notes other ways of involving alumni, such as having an on campus engagement events, or even inviting alumni by email to program events going on already and encouraging them

to come (just inviting alumni to these events makes them alumni engagement events). JH also says to consider: is department's website regularly posting news about alumni and their achievements—is it current? Is the department making good use of social media? JH encourages representatives and their constituents to email/phone him to set up time to talk for about 30 minutes. There were no questions.

Sean Kennedy (SK) presents the Adjunct Project (AP), on behalf of himself and two fellow coordinators. SK introduces himself as coordinator for advocacy and education, but notes that the AP is collaborative. SK notes that fellow coordinator Luke Elliott-Negri is Chair of PSC chapter, and is the only student in CUNY with this chair position. SK also notes that Rachel Chapman (RC), DSC rep, is a PSC liaison, and that reps/constituents can also talk to RC about union specific stuff, as well as AP. SK discusses the "We are Workers" Graduate Day of Action held 2 Thursdays previously with graduate workers, and notes there was good conversation and that the AP was able to recruit new people. SK also brings up PSC's strike authorization votes, and explains that this would have to pass before holding vote to actually strike, and that the idea for this is to escalate the contract campaign because there hasn't been a new contract in five years, with no raises in six years. SK is happy to talk about this more if people have questions. SK notes that CUNY Central hasn't made an offer, and Governor Cuomo has not been very supportive of public education in his actions; the idea with a strike authorization would be to break that log jam. Because this also effects SUNY, SK notes the drive to collect postcards from SUNY and CUNY students to be sent to Cuomo to encourage him to pass the Maintenance of Effort bill. Union encourages GC students to use the hashtag #teachcuny. SK also talks about campus equity week and says he is going to send out an email about this next week; SK also notes teaching resources and other resources GC students can find on the AP website as well as at psc-cuny.org. SK talks about resolution against tuition raises that is part of new business for the plenary meeting and that part of this is an effort to back South African students who are also struggling against rising fees. There were no questions.

Advocate Editor Dadland Maye (DM) presents The Advocate. DM stresses that he is continuing tradition that persons before had begun, but also wants to give more visibility to "people like yourself"—people involved in student activism and advocacy—so that after individual representatives leave, their work is still visible and well documented. However, DM notes that the paper can't have representation without contributions, and asks for submissions, and notes that there is space for what people have to say, and that that is how we inscribe diversity. DM encourages reps and their constituents to submit, support the paper, push it on FB and Twitter. There were no questions.

RC also introduces herself. RC asks a few questions: how many think the GC is an excellent institution? How many are adjuncts? How many students who are adjuncts wanted to be paid more? How many know about the budget deficit? Hands raise in response to all of these questions. RC asks if people know how much the deficit is, and answers that it is 4.2 million and that the deficit would be removed by the Maintenance of Effort Bill, which has been passed by legislators but not signed by the governor. RC presents postcard that students can sign to send to governor asking him to sign the bill; RC also notes that she has

enough for students the classes constituents teach—please see RC, give RC name, email, and number of students; return cards to AP or DSC office, and slip them under the door if no one is there. RC passes out cards to reps.

Stephanie A. Jones (SAJ) has a point of information on the history/context of this issue: bill is signed every year, city and state agree to provide this money to CUNY/SUNY, and not signing it is a power play by Cuomo. SAJ encourages reps and constituents to come to actions SK is talking about.

### I. Approval of Agenda

HS calls meeting to order at 6:42pm. Dominique Nisperos (DN) motions to approve the agenda. Corinna Singleman seconds. Discussion? The agenda is approved unanimously.

### II. Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2015 (5pm meeting), and Minutes of September 18, 2015

HS asks if there is a motion to approve. DN motions to approve minutes. Theodor Maghrak (TM) seconds. Discussion? Kishore Gangangari (KG) says he was at the September meeting, but presence was not noted, and that other chemistry reps were noted to be there who weren't: we need to remove those names. HS asks: other discussions, corrections? The minutes were approved unanimously.

### III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin | [ccsa@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccsa@cunydisc.org))
  - a. AM reports on chartered organizations: We are starting to see chartered org rosters fill up. Groups need at least 20 names on their rosters (which is .5% of the student body) to show continued support for funding their groups. Please be sure to sign rosters yourself, and encourage your constituents to do the same. There are now 3 active orgs. Really important for groups doing a lot of work. Roster signatures should go up as semester goes on, hopefully.
  - b. AM also reports: After 3 semesters of inactivity, Steering voted to begin the de-chartering process for the Utopian Studies Group and the Internet Research Team. AM has notified and heard back from leaders of both groups. These groups are in fact inactive according to their leaders, and so will be officially de-chartered.
  - c. AM reports on Affiliate Hiring Team: Luke Elliot-Negri will be resigning as an Adjunct Project coordinator, because he is now going to be Chapter Chair for PSC, so the AP needs a new Coordinator for Labor Relations. A hiring team is now being assembled. The Co-Chair for Student Affairs is automatically a member of this group, and the AP has chosen for Jenn Chancellor to serve on the committee. The Steering Committee will select a Steering Officer and a member of the DSO, or the student body, to round out the team. If you are interested or would like to nominate a student who is not on the DSC Plenary, please email AM with a name and contact info.
  - d. There are no questions for AM.

2. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince | [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org))
  - a. JP gives an update on movie tickets: JP went to re-up, and found out the Gold Passes are now being phased out and replaced by AMC Green tickets. There are \$9.00 each and cannot be used for films distributed by Walt Disney (including Pixar, Marvel, and LucasFilms). The DSC office still has some Gold Passes left, but as of next week, the office will have Green ones. JP is also ordering Regal tickets, which will cost \$8.50 each, and will have no restrictions on films or date of use. For Regal passes, there will be an additional \$1.50 surcharge for Manhattan cinemas or luxury reclining cinemas. These Regal passes should be here sometime next week. Angelika tickets remain \$7.50—no change in policy.
  - b. JP also reports on Program Allocations, which have been calculated for fall semester. JP still needs program memos from MALS, English, Chemistry, Comp. Lit., History, Political Science, and Public Health. Program reps can just send JP an email about who is taking responsibility for submitting check requests. Reps are responsible for being in communication with each other on how money is spent. Fall amounts were sent out to program reps on a Google doc shared with all reps. TM, AM, and JP working on figuring out Drupal (DSC Works page) so reps can access that information there. JP also made upgrades to DSC website for room res. Money rolls over to spring, but remainder will not roll over until next year. JP stresses to please spend wisely, because DSC is not allowing the purchase of a gift card for remainder left over in the spring. Talk to programs now about how to spend money. JP also shows on the display a table on the number of students and money allocated, and reminds that the amounts allocated for a program are \$200 or \$5 for student, whichever amount is bigger. JP also notes that based on enrollment, some programs will be losing a rep, because programs are getting smaller and smaller.
  - c. JP also reports on the Provost Search Committee: If you'd like to recommend someone for the position, send email to JP or HS.
  - d. JP reports back on meeting of the Strategic Plan Finance Task Force, which JP is on with Carlos Camacho (CC). Based on discussion in the meeting, JP and CC had concerns about diversity and elitism. Email JP or CC with feedback on these issues.
  - e. JP notes that budget concerns will be discussed in New Business, because fewer people are at the GC than DSC expected.
  - f. JP reports on Ad Hoc Committee on the Affiliate Review Process. The last meeting was last week. The committee will be making recommendations to Constitution and Bylaws Committee about changing that process. There was participation from steering and affiliate and both seemed pretty happy with results, because they make the process more streamlined and kinder.
  - g. JP also points out new have-a-book, leave-a-book library in Rm 5409: there are two bookshelves. If you find books profs are giving away, bring them here.
  - h. JP asks for questions and points to her email address on agenda and display for if reps think of questions later.
3. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi | [ccc@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccc@cunydisc.org))

- a. HS reports that the Executive committee (EC) met with Chase Robinson on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. They discussed 2 space issues. The first was a space for prayer and meditation that students have asked for, and the second was for more gender neutral bathrooms. Robinson said the DSC should talk to Provost Lennihan, since she is more familiar with how to get them done. Robinson also noted that more gender neutral bathrooms are in plan that hasn't been implemented yet. He also informed the EC that 9<sup>th</sup> floor construction has been approved by CUNY central, which may disrupt space everywhere in the building when it starts. However, it won't start until the GC finds a project manager.
  - ii. They also discussed the budget shortfall and the EC noted that they were concerned about budget cuts. Robinson assured that most spending cuts would come from non-academic services (OTPS) not the core academic affairs. The EC asked about tuition remission. Robinson implied that there is a choice between tuition remission after the 5 years or increasing packages and redistributing money to smaller programs that are more underfunded. he talked about increasing Masters' students, or increasing tuition for out-of-state students as a part of CUNY's option for raising revenue; EC also asked whether admins had any salary raises, and he informed EC that admins have had a salary freeze as long as faculty have had a salary freeze.
  - iii. EC discussed instituting a Disability Services Office, and he said that the GC is behind on this and that he is sad about this; Robinson's proposal, as a first step, is to find out if it may be useful to look into sharing this office with other CUNY campuses, sort of like how we share a lawyer with other campuses; he said that he will personally coordinate with CUNY Central about this.
- b. HS reports that the EC met with Provost Louise Lennihan on October 8<sup>th</sup>:
  - i. They also discussed space issues with her. She is generally supportive for finding prayer and meditation space, and said this is on her priority list, but to follow up with specific admins: for gender neutral bathrooms, she recommended following up with Mike Byers; she also said money is available for 1<sup>st</sup> floor bathrooms but no one is following up on plans to implement this.
  - ii. They also discussed funding issues, specifically the Dean K. Harrison awards, GTFs, funding for undocumented students, and tuition remission. EC brought up how it seemed like the DKH awards were yanked away from students who most needed them, and she explained that years ago a bunch of money was reshuffled into the OEODP (Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs) office which expanded funding under Dean K. Harrison; however, when the GC decided to fund everyone in 2013, that money was re-allocated to regular GTFs as that number went up, leaving students who were expecting these awards with not much. In response to questions about funding for undocumented students, she responded that we can't give tax-levy money to undocumented students; she did say this is "atrocious" that she says we should specify if students can get awards if undoc when money goes out. we don't specify what is or is not available to undocumented

students (as well as that we can't fund them), and will look to fix this on the websites that talk about funding, and hopefully, in emails that go out about funding through the Provost's office, a note will be attached about whether the awards are available for undocumented students or not. The EC asked about tuition remission beyond five years. She suggested EC talk to Chancellor Milliken's office, since this is the office that initially instituted this, but noted that the new Chancellor has denied this request in the past (and probably will again); she suggested we talk to University Provost and EVC Vita Rabinowitz, who may be more amenable to it. EC also brought up the importance of having central webpage for all fellowships offered; she is very much in favor of doing this—she informed that there is an Academic Commons page on this, but it is not well maintained.

- iii. Because Provost Lennihan is leaving the position in the next 9 months, she mentioned that if there are little things student need done (for example, getting lounge painted, issues with space). Let the DSC know if you need lounge painted, tell us, we'll tell her, and she'll pressure the appropriate department. The EC stressed clarification of funding policies/fellowships for undocumented students, prayer and meditation space, and web-page for fellowships as most important.
- c. HS reports on Co-Chair meetings. Co-chairs met with Student Affairs on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Matt Schoengood informed that the 118th street residential facility now has 2 Resident Fellows, one is a student in French and the other is a student in Sociology, and he expressed his concerns about creating a sense of community at the facility
  - ii. Elise Perram updated Co-chairs on the latest numbers for the fitness classes, and said that we are still falling short in terms of getting more students to register for the classes; she noted that only 2 classes have been completely filled, and so please spread the word about reduced-cost these classes to constituents
  - iii. Scott Voorhees informed that open enrollment for NYSHIP starts in November and continues throughout the month; the University Benefits Office sent an email on this which students should have received at their Graduate Center emails, but let Student Affairs know if you have questions.
  - iv. The Co-Chairs brought up some questions about conference support money; they informed us that there is in total \$125,000 for the year for this, and over 200 students have already applied to date; they reminded the Co-Chairs that if students choose to use this money to travel out of the country they are required to get travel insurance (even if it's to go to Canada or Mexico); they also reassured that all full-time students are eligible even if they registered with WIUs; they also informed that students can submit applications via email, but to make sure it gets there, it's better to hand in in person.
- d. Grad Council met on October 14
  - i. Chase informed Grad Council that the GC is facing 4.2 million dollar deficit. He announced a 3 pronged approach for combatting this:

1. disproportionate cutting of OTPS budgets (depending on the program)
  2. money from the ACUTRA (?) account (rainy day fund)
  3. covering the remainder through philanthropy and fund-raising
  - ii. Chase laid out the basics of his new model for funding, one that would “make us more independent of state funding”—through fundraising and grant money from foundations
  - iii. Chase announced that the GC Strategic Planning for 2017-2022 is underway, and 6 task forces established: DSC EC and Steering and Reps are on these task forces.
- e. Open community meeting with President Robinson on Oct 21.
- i. The president repeated a lot of what he said about the budget from Grad Council.
  - ii. He still refused to take public stance about contract.
  - iii. In response to a question about hiring more faculty of color, he said that diversity is still important; he noted last year the GC offered 5 faculty positions to faculty of color and 3 accepted; 5 positions were offered to white faculty.
  - iv. In response to a question about why the GC is prioritizing a search for a new VP for Communications and Public Affairs (a new position), he reiterated his stance that it will increase the public perception of the Graduate Center.
- f. Upcoming meetings with admins:
- i. Co-Chairs and the Childcare Rep David Topel will meet with the director of the Child Development and Learning Center, Dorothy Hartigan on Oct 28
  - ii. Co-Chairs and Officer for Library and Technology will meet with Polly Thistlewaite and the Library staff on Nov 6
  - iii. The EC will meet with President Robinson again on Nov 11
- g. Co-chairs and Officer for Health and Wellness met with Bob Hatcher, the director of the Wellness Center, and discussed how the DSC and students can collaborate with Wellness Center workshops, especially on workshops where students bring up or suffer from systemic issues which have more to do with the GC than individual students themselves; thinking of ways to make these workshops as sites for making structural changes. One is to have DSC reps or executive committee/steering collaborate with workshops, so when systemic issues come up EC/Steering can guide students on the right ways to deal with these issues. Another suggestion was that, for diversity workshops, students of color who have been in the GC be involved in these workshops, as well as chartered orgs that deal with diversity in the academy.
- h. HS reports that a third committee member for Health and Wellness committee is needed.
- i. Questions: SAJ wonders if EC has FOILED for differences in fundraising in former president Kelly’s time and that of Robinson: how much Robinson v. Kelly was able to fundraise in this position.
- i. HS is not sure; asks if anyone knows. JP says no, that hasn’t happened.



- j. DM asks: When Louise Lennihan says undocumented students can't get this money, is she saying for sure, or perhaps?
  - i. HS: For sure.
  - ii. DM notes he went to BMCC as undocumented student but got scholarship, so he is curious how Provost substantiates this claim.
  - iii. HS clarifies: there are two different money pools: tax-levy money, not allowed by state to be used for undocumented students. There is a second pool of money that is soft money, some of that is Mellon, scholarships, but not tax levied.
  
- 4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi | [uss@cunydisc.org](mailto:uss@cunydisc.org))
  - a. Board of Trustees Meeting 10/1
    - i. Academic Excellence Fee (School of Education at Hunter), Spring 2016
    - ii. Fee Increases will be happened for the Graduate School of Journalism.
      - 1. CS voted against fee increases.
    - iii. 21<sup>st</sup> Century CUNY Investment and Performance Proposal
    - iv. Article XV changes, which CS and LS wrote an article about in the Advocate; CS encourages reading this article, because its meant to tell people about changes that went into effect.
    - v. Next meeting: Public: 11/16; Board: 11/23
  - b. USS Plenary Sept 27
    - i. Resolution in Support of Adjuncts written by CS passed. Students spoke up that adjuncts are working hard, have to share offices, etc. CS excited to see support from our students.
  - c. Other USS news: CS got to go to the chancellor's house on Sept. 30, but only wanted to hand him a disability services/offices letter written by Jen Tang with regard to getting services and office on GC campus.
  - d. USS funding:
    - i. Hopefully going to fund some of our parties, math events, anthropology conference—these are what CS applied for.
    - ii. Their budget goes till Dec 31, they asked for bank information, but they haven't been able to answer further questions, so seems we will get USS funding. CS hopes to update on this in November.
    - iii. CS pushing for transparency with this process, so along with applying for this funding, she also insisted that they open up the application for a longer period (till Oct 23). CS: We accept money but not going to stop critiquing practices.
  - e. Questions: TG: funding application link is not a live link, only distributed by email, and the portal was not available when he went online to look.
    - i. CS: basically to apply for USS funding, you have to essentially demonstrate that you have already applied for funds from home campus. So if thinking of applying, talk to CS first. This is CS's first time applying for funding, so trying to see how far they will go, because our events tend to be GC specific and they like to fund CUNY wide events. CS can verify for you: "Yes they did apply for funding through DSC."

5. UFS Liaison (Liza Shapiro | [ufs@cunydisc.org](mailto:ufs@cunydisc.org))
  - a. LS attended UFS plenary on 9/29; another will be on Oct 27.
    - i. First speaker was the Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer Brian Cohen:
      1. CUNY is increasing bandwidth across its campuses in the outer boroughs to support inter-CUNY communication (currently Manhattan and Bronx campuses are joined by fiber, which is quicker, but other campuses are not). Bandwidth should be up by June 2016.
      2. Virtual labs are being worked on to allow faculty and students to access lab programs from home
      3. When asked about why Blackboard is the CUNY-wide platform Cohen said it was one chosen by majority of faculty members, for coherence for students--but if faculty are unhappy they may propose other platforms.
    - ii. Vice Chancellor for Budget Matt Sapienza then spoke.
      1. Budgets for community colleges were not reduced.
      2. Responding to a question about the need to extend TAP assistance to MA students, Matt replied that this issue has been raised before to no avail and "maybe someday" it will happen, though it is doubtful.
      3. Emphasized support for tuition increase as a way to cover the cost of any collective bargaining agreements that may come up from any contract negotiations. Room split, some against tuition raise because taxing for students, but most people remained sitting quietly and nodding. Matt claimed that reserve funds from the tuition increase is what will be covering the cost of collective bargaining in case of a contract since Albany is not allocating money for collective bargaining. Enrollment shortfall means they are losing 22 million dollars.
      4. Hugo Fernandez (on the UFS EC) encouraged UFS members to contact USS representatives because the USS supports a tuition freeze, rather than increase. Hugo also said that his experience at the USS meeting showed that students stand in strong support of adjunct faculty and support adjunct pay raises (didn't go further or discuss resolution written and presented by CS)
    - iii. The Libraries/IT committee proposed a resolution for Faculty IP Rights for Hybrid/Online courses: resolution passed with emendation.
  - b. BOT have approved MFA in Sonic Design and Film Scoring
  - c. Office of Graduate Enrollment (housed in CUNY's Division of Enrollment Management) has been created to address the enrollment declines. The office handles graduate student fairs and outreach.
  - d. In exciting news, we have confirmed that the UFS chair will be the speaker at the DSC April plenary. Hopefully this could be a step in strengthening the relationship between the DSC and UFS to further attempts to get the DSC a vote on UFS.

- e. Next UFS Plenary is Tuesday, October 27 w/ guest Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Vita Rabinowitz,
- f. There were no questions for LS.

Quorum count by Hamad. 59 here.

#### IV. New Business

1. New member ratification
  - a. Program Representatives Lauren Hudson, Earth and Environmental Science, is introduced to plenary.
    - i. David Nagy (DN) motions to approve LH as new rep from EES. Rebecca Salois seconds.
    - ii. HS asks for discussion. There is none.
    - iii. The motion is approved unanimously. Welcome, Lauren!
2. Presentation of proposed Bylaw changes:
  - a. 6.1.a Chartered Organization Allocations
    - i. Bylaw change is presented: to add “with publicity to state DSC support and to follow Bylaw 3.2.h”; and to strike out 3.3.g, and add 3.2.h.
  - b. 3. Standing Committees, Boards and Task Forces.

Bylaw change presented is to strike out 3.9 and add the following sentence to 3: “The DSC shall have the following standing committees, boards, and task forces. In the event that a standing committee cannot meet its membership requirements from existing DSC representatives, the Steering Committee may appoint an otherwise qualified member of the DSO in lieu of a DSC representative.”
  - c. There were no questions on these proposed changes.
3. Presentation of budget changes
  - a. JP says the budget number she estimated for the year, based on the amount of students she estimated we would have, was too high a budget—significantly high enough that JP had to readjust budget by \$7000.
  - b. Cuts that would come into effect are efforts to balance the budget. If there are questions—ask now, or reach out.
  - c. JP expects revenue from medical tests—adjustments based on the fact that most people going to get medical tests done have insurance, so JP is not getting bills for these (DSC pays all of it, student gives 30% of cost)—hasn’t paid any this year.
  - d. Finagling with the website—where does the DSC get money for it from? Possibly the special purposes fund, because we need money for the website.
  - e. With budget changes within 10 percent, the plenary doesn’t need to vote on it. JP proposes budget changes for
    - i. Supplies, leadership development (not spending any more in that category),
    - ii. Meetings budget (not going to affect amount of money spent on food for plenary; other meetings with fewer people affected). Will vote on it.
    - iii. Publicity events (tabling and candy and pens), which JP is cutting in half.

- iv. Party—JP is cutting this drastically, for 2 parties rather than 3 unless USS funding comes through for December party. This is a big one, and plenary will vote on these next month. JP will update and send out with correct budget line.
- f. There were no questions.
- 4. Ad-hoc committee on disability services
  - a. HS reports on this: background about this is that we have had issues with admin in this building over serving students with disabilities. Admins tend to assume that graduate students don't have them, but the reality is that the significant amount of us do.
  - b. GC in past has done very little to address this issue. The DSC has brought it up this past year and before that with President and Provost, but specifically this year Chase has said he's behind this. DSC wants to make sure what he's behind is something we can support; DSC can push him towards better disability services. Steering officers are interested, bunch of reps interested, so HS would like to create an Ad Hoc committee on disability services.
  - c. HS motions to create Ad Hoc committee on disability services, which he will chair. Jeremy Randall (JR) seconds.
  - d. Discussion/questions? GKL: wondering whether or not this committee will address specific disabilities over others? Mental, physical?
    - i. HS: bring them all together, talking about them all together: intellectual, mental, physical.
  - e. RS: Can students outside of this body, if interested, is that an option? Or just reps?
    - i. HS: good question, will need to check bylaws on who can be part of ad-hoc committees, if so will send out an email asking students.
  - f. Motion to start ad-hoc committee on disability services passes unanimously.

AM moves to create a new business item: Ad hoc committee for gender neutral bathrooms. SAJ seconds. Motion passes, and this becomes New Business item no. 6.

- 5. Resolution Against Tuition Increase 2015
  - a. CS presents this resolution. CS has made changes to make it about doctoral/graduate students, but this is same resolution as in USS overall, in order to support strong CUNY wide stand against tuition increases.
  - b. CS explains further: 2011-2015—rational tuition increased passed because what was guaranteed were faculty increases, better student to faculty ratios, guaranteed maintenance for basic services. We're not getting that, so that's the spirit and language behind this resolution; also because we shouldn't have to pay increase in tuition for decrease in services.
  - c. CS motion that we adopt. SAJ seconds.
  - d. Discussion/questions: Corinna Singleman (CoS): Two errors—"2009-2104", is that the correct year? CS: it is supposed to be 2014. CoS: Last paragraph: final resolved, should it be "finally"? CS: yes.
  - e. The motion passes unanimously.
- 6. Ad-hoc committee for gender neutral bathrooms.

- a. SAJ: Hearing HS's report has inspired this new business item. SAJ has been working on this for 4-5 years, at which point there were a number of people eager to help out, lawyers for trans rights ready to step up, so people on backburner because admin seemed good with this plan.
- b. 7<sup>th</sup> floor bathroom—in existence before SAJ and others started this push, just wasn't conceived or labeled that way before. There is funding to build bathroom on the ground floor—but no motive of force pushing it forward.
- c. SAJ proposes but doesn't motion, to start this ad-hoc committee to put pressure on Provost and President to make this happen. Motioner is chair, and she can't do it, so she's not motioning, but will provide list of contacts she has. SAJ asks if anyone is really passionate; it should just be 1 month of an intense push. SAJ can get people from DSO if no one interested here and now. Chloe Edmundson asks: If I do it, will you help? SAJ: will provide information with enthusiasm, and Executive Committee will help.
- d. CE: I motion to form an ad-hoc committee on gender-neutral bathrooms. RS seconds. There are no questions/discussion, and the motion passes unanimously.

## V. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Teddy Maghrak | [funding@cunydisc.org](mailto:funding@cunydisc.org)), read by HS.
  - a. Last Grants Committee meeting held on Monday, October 5. We looked at 11 regular grant applications and approved 9 of them for a total of \$5,928.31; 2 revise and resubmit; 0 denied.
    - i. Committee also reviewed two start-up grant applications before the meeting and approved one of them for \$150. The other was denied, as it was lacking sufficient detail.
    - ii. This brings the total awarded during this period to \$6,078.31.

Initial Funds	\$19,750
Funds Awarded	\$6,078.31
Funds Remaining	\$13,671.69

- iii. Next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2 at 6:30pm. The deadline is October 16, next Friday. We have six total applications, two of which are the revised grants from the first round.
  - b. Workshop on November 9, 2015 at 2:00pm. Please remind your constituents that DSC grants are for student-organized events, not travel.
2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird | [membership@cunydisc.org](mailto:membership@cunydisc.org))
  - a. LS reads KBB report. 79 Seats/78 Reps in good standing
  - b. KBB and DSC are conducting a special elections for the second Philosophy program representative.
  - c. KBB collecting On-Call Proxies
    - i. If you know of a GC student who is NOT an elected DSC rep this year but who is enthusiastic about DSC and might be willing to proxy, please put them in

touch with me. I am keeping a list of these good souls as “on call” proxies to reach out to when you ask the DSC help find a proxy.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Charlotte Thurston | [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org))
  - a. CT is looking for third committee member: To meet with quorum, the Health & Wellness committee needs 3 members, but as of now we have 2. If interested, come up to me during party/after meeting! CT would love to get someone to really get going as a committee.
  - b. CT held NYSHIP workshop on Thursday, Oct 22 with Jenn Chancellor of the Adjunct Project:
    - i. If you missed it, no worries: CT will be putting the updated slides online. CT is also thinking of vocally recording with Quicktime an audio version online for people who can't make these workshops.
  - c. There are new safer sex materials in the office in 5495: Ashley Chastain from the Wellness Center has just restocked office on materials, including a variety of condoms and dental dams.
    - i. CT also learned from Ashley a trick for making condoms into dental dams, will put that online
  - d. CT is working with Chrissy Nadler from opencuny.org to put up a new “recommend a doctor” form that's more specific on the Health and Wellness opencuny.org site.
    - i. CT also wants to put up a sliding-scale page based on feedback from students on H&W survey and in person, for things like psychotherapists and counselors, acupuncturists, etc: look out for that!
    - ii. First suggestion: Gestalt Associates for Psychotherapy clinic, \$25/for full time students.
  - e. CT met with Ashley Chastain, September 28.
    - i. CT and Ashley discussed events they're each thinking of. Ashley's considering “brown bag lunch” events with speakers on health issues, and has done an Ergonomics workshop. They also discussed inexpensive ways of getting NYSHIP explanation cards to go with actual NYSHIP cards, and how Ashley gets the Safer Sex materials she does and what ones she gets.
    - ii. Since Ashley's mentioned having nutrition/dietician contacts, CT mentioned whether she could get their contact information to either do a “nutrition for grad students” workshop or an interview with one of them to put online.
  - f. CT and Co-Chairs met with Bob Hatcher of the Wellness Center on 10/23
    - i. Most of the conversation centered around how to address systematic, structural issues with things like faculty advising, which Bob Hatcher has tried to address recently through organizing a mentorship workshop with EOs of programs, with some EOs showing more interest than others.
    - ii. They suggested workshops from the survey, like other kinds of transition than international. All in the room had concerns with whether that's putting too much pressure on students to change systemic problems.
    - iii. He will look into whether the Wellness Center can buy some extra Safer Sex supplies that aren't currently sent by the state for free: I will send him the

rationale for some of it, like getting more dental dams, as the state is often out, and some different lube because people have found it insufficient for some sex acts.

4. Officer for Outreach (Saiful Saleem | [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org))
  - a. SS is planning another event off campus for John Jay students.
  - b. SS is also planning a non-tradition Thanksgiving event, which will be a chance for people who are not leaving the area to have a meal and talk about their history and problematics of Thanksgiving.
  - c. There were no questions
  
5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho | [services@cunydisc.org](mailto:services@cunydisc.org))
  - a. Working on reaching out to 1st years. We are continuing to offer fitness classes that we have spaces for, but hoping to offer new fitness classes; CC encourages students to come up to and sign up for fitness events. Make it worth department's while: encourage constituents to come to fitness events.
  - b. CC is working on a hula hoop making workshop: it will be a multi-pronged approach, and kid friendly
  - c. CC is also working on continuing free meditation workshops from last year. CC is in touch with Ashna Ali to make that happen.
  - d. CC is also working with CT on doing end of center massages
  - e. CC is trying to plan recycling workshops: there are new laws about composting, and CC wants to see if GC can get composting picked up for free
  - f. CC and committee are talking about student discounts for gyms: discounts for GC students, or reduced lump sum fee, so students can get fit in proximity of GC. CC and committee will look for deals near where people live if there are more extensive discounts there.
  - g. Questions: BP: Are there events after 5pm? Most people work full time.
    - i. CC: Working on staggering workshops for multiple times of day—after 5—so people can show up and attend these fitness classes.
  - h. KG: reaching out to people in department, but who should we contact if we want to know, students in our department, how are we going to reach out?
    - i. HS: usually advertisement is done through APO with listserv of all students in the department. Some programs create their own ad-hoc listserv to spread announcements like these. HS advises KG ask previous DSC reps if there was such a listserv.
  
6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall | [library@cunydisc.org](mailto:library@cunydisc.org))
  - a. STATA SE is on its way – no known implementation date, but it will take a week to get on Citrix once that is decided.
  - b. Good news: CUNY 1<sup>st</sup> delayed, and not coming this March. GC is keeping Banner for the time being
  - c. Looking into cheaper version of license of Opinio with fewer users, as well as at other cheaper survey options, because the license for Opinio ends soon

- d. No news with the library or Student Tech Fee committee but meetings are to come soon
  - e. Questions: CoS: What's the service you mentioned?
    - i. JR says and spells Opinio, and explains that it is a survey service.
- VI. Announcements
- a. HS hands out sign up for gender neutral bathroom ad-hoc committee, and says to leave it with CE. If you want to sign up for ad-hoc committee for disabilities shoot HS an email. Once you have signed cards Rachel handed out, give them back to her.  
CS: If you acted as proxy, come see Cecilia, give her back the clicker.  
HS: Stack up chairs as you leave  
AA: ad-hoc committees-can they have DSO as well as DSC reps.? HS: We'll look into it.
- VII. Adjournment
- a. Colin Ashley motions to end meeting at 7:59. RS seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Thurston