

Plenary
 Minutes
 November 20th, 2015

Present:

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

EDLAB

Student Tech Fee

Ryan Abrahams, Yuval Abrams, Khalid Al Hilli, Jimiane Ashe, Colin Ashley, Chloe Asselin, Lisa Babel, Kyla Bender-Baird, Hillel Broder, Shelley Buchbinder, Carlos Camacho, Rachel Chapman, Pablo Crespo, Ernesto Cuba, Chloe Edmondson, Rebecca Fullan, Kishore Gangangari, Ernesto Garcia, Maryam Ghaffari Saadat, Eleanor Goldman, Richard Gustavson, Anna Harb, Michael Healy, Lauren Hudson, Joshua Katz-Rosene, Sean Kennedy, Mawia Khogali, William Lorenzo, Laura Lutgen, Theodor Maghrak, Amy Martin, Melissa Marturano, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Jeremiah McMillan, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Rajat Kumar Pal, Ana Perry, Brooke Prashker, Jen Prince, Jeremy Randall, Jacob Russell, Saiful Saleem, Rebecca Salois, Cosim Sayid, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Corinna Singleman, Charlotte Thurston, David Topel, Stephanie Vella, Tellisia Williams, Jessica Woodson, Allan Zelener

Absent:

Fabiana Alceste, Cassandra Barnes, Kevin Cedeno-Pacheco, Elaine Chang Sandoval, Jennifer Chmielewski, Dean Gibson Schafer, Drew Green, Huw Green, Amelia Greene, Stefanie Jones, Velina Manolova, Elizabeth Martignetti, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Alison Parks, Jennifer Peirce, China Sajadian, Cecilia Salvi, Cihan Tekay, Deepti Wadhwa, Janet Werther

Amy Martin (AM) introduces Duncan Flaherty (DF) to talk about early research initiative. This was initially a fellowship for American Studies to do archival research. It was met with intense interest (4,000 for the summer). Trying to expose graduates at an earlier stage to doing research before dissertation stage. 59% of graduate center students never applied to external funding based upon the survey. That data is skewed due to limitations, political beliefs, etc. Columbia, Harvard and other institutions force students to apply to grants each year as a way of creating this skillset and how to apply to funding over time. We lack this culture here in the GC, especially in the humanities and social sciences, with the exception of the anthropology department. How can we do a better job at making students earlier in their careers to be exposed to research. His initiative is an effort to kickstart that. His other task is to partner with New York institutions to create research fellowships, internships, etc. Adding places based upon conversations with EOs and is open to reaching out to other places based upon recommendations. One of the latest was a partnership with the SSRC DPRF, this year we 8 committed fellowships. Goal is to increase this from 8 to 20. A rep from Public Health asks if DrPH students can receive these scholarships. DF says no as this is decided by the SSRC. Building a grants and fellowship page that will house all in-house applications is forthcoming. Efforts to raise money to increase the amount of grants given over the summer. Kyla Bender-Baird (KBB) asks a question about further info on grants. DF says that library has a great resource. A student asks about an ability to have a filter for non-US citizens. Jacob Russell (JR) asks if there is one that can filter out grants only applicable to Humanities and Social Sciences. DF mentions that this is limited. Teresa Ober, thinks that it is difficult to build such a comprehensive database, why not one that links to other sites that have already been built. DF says that the library already does this and his version will be similar.

AM calls meeting to order 6:26 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

Jeremy Randall (JR) motions to approve the minutes, Stephanie Vella (SV) seconds. David Nagy (DN) (proxy for Laura Lutgen) abstains from everything for this meeting. Motion passes.

II. Approval of Minutes of October 23 2015

Rebecca Salois (RS) motions, Hamad Sindhi (HS) seconds. DN abstains. Motion passes.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin | ccsa@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Chartered Organizations: I have been emailing chartered organization leaders one group at a time, giving reminders of their roster and report requirements in order to help groups get active status and access to their allocations sooner rather than later.
 - i. The Utopian Studies Group and the Internet Research Team have officially been de-chartered since the 1-month process started.
 - b. PSAs: I will hold a Program Student Association information session on Tuesday Dec. 8 at 5:30 in 5414. If you are interested in some of the benefits of having such a group in your program, how to start a PSA, or how to get officially recognized by the DSC, please attend.
 - c. AP Job Posting: The Ad-hoc Hiring Committee met on Nov. 12. The Job announcement for AP Labor Relations Coordinator was sent to APOs, to all DSC program reps, and was posted on various screens throughout the building. We are also sending out the announcement via social media every other day. The deadline for applications is Dec. 1. The committee will then meet again to discuss applications.
 - d. Grad Council Committees: At the October Committee on Committees meeting Cecilia Salvi and I successfully suggested at least one student alternate to each of the Graduate Council committees. If you are interested in being an alternate on one of the Grad Council Committees, please let us know.
2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi | ccc@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Executive Committee meetings
 - i. The EC met with EDLAB on Oct 30th; the agenda included 2 new business items: DSC budget and DSC website; the committee discussed the budget at length, but tabled the website agenda item for another meeting
 - ii. The EC met with President Robinson on Nov 11; we asked if he will make a public statement about the bills about CUNY at the state legislature re: tuition and funding or lobby the legislature, he said that he does meet every Spring with the legislators, especially people who are already in support, he also said that the more streamlined process for lobbying at CUNY now is that Presidents don't lobby the governor, but the Chancellor does; he brought up, again, getting more Masters students which would increase some budget; we followed up on progress on a disability services office, he re-affirmed his support for this office, but said that this has taken a back-seat due to budget concerns; we brought up, again, the concerns about getting tuition-remission past 5th year, he agreed with us, but is thinking about a long-term strategy of getting buy-in from the University around teaching fellowships past the 5th year that would also have tuition remission as a benefit (this is just an idea he had, very preliminary), we re-affirmed our ask for

this small benefit for any adjunct who teaches at the University, and that all fellowships that are created or exist should have that added as a benefit

- b. Co-Chair meetings:
 - i. The Co-Chairs and the Childcare Rep (David Topel) met with Dorothy Hartigan on Oct 28, the new director of the Child Development and Learning Center; we addressed many issues: we asked DH about expanding the center to include children less than 3 years of age, and she replied that currently the center is licensed for kids over 3 years of age, and one barrier to getting a license for under 3 year-olds is that the center is not located on the 1st floor of the building; DH informed us that the center currently has a capacity for 27 kids, but is not at full capacity right now due to budget constraints (they would need to hire 2 more teachers to keep the licensed ratio in effect); DH informed us that there is a waiting list of 50 kids already; we asked if the center is conducting workshops for parents still, and DH replied in the affirmative, we followed-up and asked whether the workshops could serve all parents at the GC, not just parents with kids at the center, and DH said she is very willing to open up these workshops to all parents, DH also said that she is willing to coordinate Saturday programming, and asked if any students would be interested in leading various activities; we asked whether the center could look into buying lunch for the kids (currently they don't provide lunch), and DH replied that she would look into grants for this, or collaborating with the Restaurant Associates; DH clarified that if a student left the GC in the middle of the year, their child will still have the option of continuing with the center; we asked DH about collaborations with the childcare centers at other CUNY schools, so that GC students who adjunct or do research at other colleges can utilize those childcare centers, receiving the stress on the capacity here, and she replied that she is very willing to collaborate with the senior colleges
 - ii. The Co-Chairs, and the OLT met with the library staff on Nov 6; OLT will discuss this further in his report
 - iii. The Co-Chairs met with Student Affairs on Nov 18; Matt Schoengood reported that the sexual assault awareness product 'Haven' is now been procured by the GC and after SA demos it and tweaks it to include GC policies, they will let us have a look at it and then send it to incoming students in the Fall; the 118th street residence: had a Halloween potluck dinner and the RAs have been reaching out and building community; Elise Perram reported that the enrollment in fitness classes this semester is still behind when compared to last year, faculty and staff participation has been steadily decreasing, she also mentioned that non-GC people can also take the classes (just pay a little extra); Scott Vorhees reminded us that NYSHIP open enrollment is ongoing through the end of this month; he also mentioned that NYSHIP has been sending correspondence to students regarding the audit of dependents, basically they do this every few years, the letter says that there is an amnesty period right now so there will be no penalty assessed against students who have ineligible dependents listed, in Feb-Apr, they will be sending documents to check if dependents are still eligible; we followed up about whether the conference support money is tax-levied and they verified that it is not (so undoc students may apply for this); we asked whether the DSC Childcare Rep can be on the Child Development and Learning Center Board, and they verified that the Rep is in fact on the Board, but the Board has not met yet; we asked for an update on progress toward an office for disability services, and they said that SA is going to be putting together a proposal for this to deliver to the President; we

discussed the DSC budget and confirmed that we will need a special meeting of the College Association to approve dipping into the DSC reserve funds

c. Other meetings:

- i. The College Association met on Oct 28; the main (and only) item of discussion was the DSC budget; JP explained the budget shortfall and what we have proposed to cut at the Plenary; JP also addressed our concern regarding the additional banking fees being charged by TD Bank now; JP presented a letter signed by all 3 Co-Chairs asking the business office to shoulder the sudden cost increase in banking fees, and to switch banks to one that does not charge such fees
 - ii. The Graduate Council IT committee (which I am on) met on Nov 2; Bob Campbell updated the committee on the IT department's budget and budget cuts (this has been reported previously); new update from BC is that the GC acquired new digital screens for the windows on the 5th ave side of the building; Polly Thistlewaite updated on library affairs: cut language resources and LYNDAL.com (both are available through NYPL though); book budget has been fairly stable, and the library is acquiring more books; (other updates will be in the OLT report); Matt Gold updated the committee about digital initiatives: new hire: deputy director of digital initiatives, starting Dec 1st; Mellon grant will have a digital component; students on the committee asked about FOIL and how it applies to student data, MG said that he will ask Lynette Phillips (the GC lawyer) to follow-up with me (she did, and we are setting up an information session on this for students)
 - iii. The Graduate Council Student Services committee (which I am an alternate on) met on Nov 4; Matt Schoengood updated the committee on Student Affairs issues (this has been reported previously); a temporary prayer/meditation space is now in the works on the 9th floor, Ray Ring is in communication with the Co-Chairs about this; students brought up 2 issues: disability services and the DSC's push to get a disability services office, everyone expressed support, and said that the committee would write a letter (similar to the letter they wrote about the parental leave policy and the lactation rooms) to the President and Grad Council; students also brought up the issue of expanding the childcare center to include kids less than 3 years of age, and the limitations due to space, and there was much grumbling and pessimism about accomplishing this
3. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince | ccb@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Check requests: Still need program advisory memo from: MALS; English; Chemistry; History
 - b. We recommend spending with credit/debit card as additional proof in case receipt is lost
 - c. Submit requests as they happen
 - d. Other:
 - i. We are switching banks!
 - ii. Movie tickets: Regal: \$8.50, AMC/Loews: \$9.00, Angelika: \$7.50
 - iii. Office hours over winter break are reduced, but we'll still be around; check cunydisc.org for list of hours
 4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi | uss@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Board of Trustees: the next meeting is 11/23. They will be voting on the proposed 2016-2017 Operating Budget Request, which includes the Board's support for an

- extension of rational tuition legislation. That means they are seeking an increase of tuition at the senior colleges. Currently, BoT does not have the mandate from the state to do so, hence, their support for rational tuition legislation, expected in January 2016.
- i. I worked with Rachel, USS Alternate, to increase student attendance at the public hearing and we both spoke at the public hearing on 11/16
 - ii. I sent email out to DSC listserv
 - iii. I tabled and gave out 100 flyers
- b. Fiscal Affairs standing committee met on 11/2
- i. the proposed 2016-2017 Operating Budget Request
 - ii. \$167 million increase; \$124.1 at senior colleges, \$42.9 at community colleges
 - iii. CUNY continues its support of MOE legislation.
 - iv. I repeat: Currently BoT does not have the authorization to spend increased tuition moneys (but theoretically could collect it) (expires. July 1, 2016); Sapienza, the VC for budget and finance, said: "We could vote the increase, just not spend it"; there is no specific mention of a tuition increase amount in the proposed Operating Budget Proposal for this reason.
 - v. CUNY is asking state to provide additional funding to close the gap in TAP funding
 - vi. Not included in budget request: labor contracts that still need to be negotiated.
 - vii. Milliken said, regarding collective bargaining: "expressed our approval of collective bargaining moving forward"
 - viii. Questions I asked: Does the university expect to increase tuition every year? What has CUNY administration done to advocate for the state to renew MOE legislation? What steps are in place to guarantee that the money is used to directly improve education? Answers were vague, so I consider them unanswered
- c. USS Plenary held 10/25
- i. Tuition Freeze Resolution: 4 other campuses passed it besides GC
 - ii. Next plenary, Nov 22, will nominate myself for Scholarship committee; other GC students for other committees as well.
 - iii. I am also doing a presentation at plenary on Robert's rules of order and Open Meetings Laws, to create awareness
- d. Committees:
- i. Strategic Planning Task Force, Research subcommittee
 - ii. Met 10/29 and 11/12 and 11/19
 - iii. Ian Phillips, Charlotte Thurston and I are the student reps
 - iv. Final Strategic Plan prepared and publically disseminated Dec 2016
 - v. Goal: how to further support faculty and student research, scholarship, and creative activity
 - vi. In these meetings, we have discussed issues of funding, increasing diversity, how to measure categories above, admission and retention.
 - vii. Faculty seems open to working with students. This is a committee where we could intervene, for example, by proving information about student experiences and how (lack of) funding affects us. All student reps on different SPC committees are working on a survey.
 - viii. Provost Lennihan was present at the first meeting and urged us to think: What effects will recommendations have on diversity? What are the financial consequences of our recommendations?
 - ix. Lennihan, with regard to the \$4 mil cuts, also said the cuts are "basically permanent" and it would be "incredibly naïve" to think not, or that funding will be restored.

- e. Governance Task Force
 - i. Sean Kennedy and I are Co-Chairs. I sent a request to Barbara Weinstein, chair of the Structure committee regarding programs who need their governance documents updated (math and criminal justice)
 - ii. We met on Nov 16, and discussed ways to get programs to be more aware of governance issues and their rights to serve on program committees. We discussed some discrepancies between the governance documents of the English Students' PSA and the Program's. Students have decided not to pursue making changes. We also discussed the Psychology program, where student elections have not been held and students have been fighting for their rights (example, meeting with the EO), for 2-3 years.
 - iii. Jen Tang provided members with a list of other programs whose program governance needs updating, so we will review that and send recommendations to structure.

- 5. UFS Liaison (Liza Shapiro | ufs@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Last meeting was on October 27 for UFS
 - i. Speaker: VC of Academic Affairs Vita Rabinowitz (VR)
 - ii. Outlined the areas she will focus on as University Provost
 - iii. Remediation: setting up remediation task force to assess CUNY's remediation practices
 - iv. Degree completion and graduation rate:
 - v. Working on idea of reverse transfer to allow students who transfer from community to senior colleges to earn their Associate's en route to their BA once they earn
 - vi. Examining information on Pathways, no conclusions yet
 - vii. Improving teacher education and relationship with Board of Ed
 - viii. Workforce education and development: better address needs of adult learners and improve worker education.
 - ix. Faculty satisfaction: Focus on research innovation and entrepreneurship workshops, interdisciplinary and collaborative research, and research focusing on the 21st Century Urban Environment.
 - x. Experiential learning: A committee headed by Suri Duitch, University Dean of Continuing Education and President Jeremy Travis of John Jay, is currently gathering information from the campuses.
 - b. Digital/Global CUNY: increasing online courses, pushing study abroad initiatives and figuring out how CUNY will approach globalization.
 - c. Discussed results of COACHE (The Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) Survey
 - d. Asked whether she had considered and would consider creating such a survey for CUNY Adjuncts. VR said she has no plans for such a survey at this time but would "ask the COACHE office if they're willing to do so." VR was reminded that adjuncts teach the majority of the courses and acknowledged this.
 - e. VR will be the guest speaker at our April plenary and we should press her on this issue as well as ask how she plans to address the satisfaction of contingent faculty.
 - i. Report from UFS chair (Terrence Martell)
 - ii. Ensuring transparency of COACHE survey
 - iii. Experiential learning committee taskforce meets in November and will report to UFS in Feb.

- iv. Terrence urged UFS not to pressure VR because she is a new provost and may present an opportunity for a “sea change.” Senators pressed him about the contract and Terrence threw it back to CUNY central.
- v. Wants to lobby Albany for the MOE bill—I saw this as a potential point for collaboration btwn the DSC and UFS so I spoke to Steering and several members are willing to offer their support. I contacted TM and offered DSC support to highlight the importance of the MOE bill for Masters and Doctoral students. He said he was thankful and would keep me in touch--although I plan to prod him on updates so that this is followed through.

IV. New Business

1. New member ratification
 - a. At-large representatives
 - i. Janet Werther, Theatre (not here)
 - b. Program Rep
 - i. William Lorenzo, MALS
 - c. Kyla motions to ratify the above two new members, Carlos seconds.
 - d. Motion is approved, DN (LL) abstains
2. Vote on Bylaw changes:
 - a. 6.1.a Chartered Organization Allocations (add this later from PP)
 - b. Stephanie Vella motions, Liza Shapiro seconds, DN (LL) abstains
 - c. standing Committees, Boards and Task Forces
 - d. Kyla motions, CC seconds, DN (LL) abstains, motion passes
3. Presentation of Constitution and Bylaw changes
 - a. Change any gendered language in the constitution to gender neutral language, for example, “he or she” to “they”
 - b. Affiliate Annual Goals and Quarterly Review
 - c. Questions: Michael Healy (MH) asks if there are any examples in which they would apply to a plural rather than a singular that could possibly create counter examples. KBB confirms that the context should imply singular or plural; Dadland Maye (DM) asks if there is a rationale for the affiliates to meet with the committee. There is the stipulation that they meet twice a semester plus additional meetings. He wants to know what this provides that paper does not; JP responds that this guides how the goals are prepared and how certain courses of actions for the DSC and affiliates in order to create stronger ties. Especially as there is no other formal avenue for this type of communication to take place; DSC replicating labor according to the Adjunct Project' 1.6.a - This already exists in the bylaw. This changes the section on probation; 1.6.b withdrawal of appointments for the affiliates; RS asks about the transition of 1 month pro-rating, are we paying two stipends? JP says no because there is a point when the appointment is withdrawn and a new hiring committee is drawn up so this doesn't apply.
 - d. We will be voting for this next plenary meeting in December.
4. Vote on budget changes

- a. I and II have not been paid out, server costs for III are due to upgrade costs demanded by webmasters. We have cut food for meetings (not plenary) and same with candy given out
 - b. Medical test payments \$1350 to \$675
 - c. Medical test subsidies \$3150 to \$1575
 - d. Web consulting \$2950 to \$3313
 - e. Leadership development \$750 to \$636
 - f. Meetings \$4800 to \$4290
 - g. Publicity Events \$100 to \$50
 - h. JP motions to approve this, Richard Gustavson (RG) seconds. Brooke Prashker (BP) asks a question about bank fees. JP says business office didn't forward info, we responded that they pay for that fee due to lack of notification.
 - i. Motion passes; DN (LL) abstains
5. Wellness Center funding
- a. CT discussed the results from the wellness survey. We will be voting next plenary if we are funding the WC again. She describes satisfaction and response rates. These cover an array of questions and are done by students in the MA, PhD programs and international students. Questions also on counseling services, about $\frac{2}{3}$ like it. 79% said they did not attend Wellness Center workshops. Those who attended seem mostly happy. 84% said WC is easily accessible.
 - b. Most of GC are in NYSHIP, $\frac{1}{5}$ are uninsured.
 - c. Questions: DM asks about data collection. CT responds it is anonymous.
6. Resolution Condemning NYPD Undercover Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance Activities on and off CUNY Campuses Against CUNY Muslim Organizations and Students
- a. JR motions to approve the resolution; HS seconds.
 - b. JR gives background on this: Gothamist response to NYPD on and off campus spying on Muslim women, cop posed as convert - went to weddings, meetings and parties; Women were not suspected of anything; Goes against CUNY policies and had a previous DSC resolution; Different campuses over the course of 4 years, she was VERY involved in their lives; Not suspicious and goes against previous resolutions and NYPD/CUNY agreement; Call for NYPD to cease spying and if CUNY was aware, to disavow
 - c. Questions: Maria Covalia (MC) asks is this resolution comparable to last year's resolution; JR responds that it is not the same; JR simply asking not to spy; Stephanie Vella - only grammatical fixes; DN is forced to abstain; Yuval Abrams read a statement, summary: resolution is poorly researched in its current form. We share the overarching concern about civil rights. We have concerns, is there evidence; LS responds that these are welcome but will vote for it; CA repeats that this is an ongoing issue. CA reminds that BC President says the same. NYPD cannot come on CUNY campuses. That is the heart of the resolution. There is no criminal charge and that is not even relevant to the issue; SK mentions that he is a journalist, the claims are researched. The US Justice Department has come out against this, multiple sources have confirmed the spying and the effect that this has had on their personal and academic lives. We have multiple accounts of working class students of color and the issues that they face. This is outrageous that this is happening. The document is well researched; Dominique Nisperos (DoN) states that she supports as does the organization she represents; Cosim Sayed (CS) takes this seriously but wants further

research, makes allusion to Iraq War; DoN responds that she has worked with those same students and claims go look it up yourself; JP says resolution can be presented by those who want to write it. It isn't a law. HS states that the sources that they are students and such sources are valid; JR mentions that they are terrified and want to be off the record; Stephanie Vella - put pressure on the administration; DN says we can ask for more info but given the extensive history of that this is plausible and it is sufficient as it stands; Cosim Sayed (CS) worries about research; RS resolution says it declares a statement and the data is available; JR wants to know what other sources; HS mentions that we make statements all the time; Erin Kelly (EK) wants to address the CJ issue of the Gothamist article at face-value; DN says we do not have time to delay the resolution as this is happening across the nation, it is clear that students are under assault in our campuses. We need to move on it immediately. If more info comes forward, we can vote again; DoN speaks about false allegations of comparing it to Iraq, she finds the analogy is abhorrent. "Give me a fucking break."; JP points out that it doesn't need to be voted on it as it looks now. Suggests changing the language to add students as a source for this information.

- d. HS motions to change the first sentence of the resolution from "Whereas, it was recently revealed in a Gothamist article dated October 29 2015, that the new York Police department..." to "Whereas, it was recently revealed in a Gothamist article dated October 29 2015, *as well in conversation with sources at Brooklyn college and other CUNY campuses*, that the new York Police department...". Corinna Singleman (CS) seconds; DN (LL) abstains; motions passes.
- e. AM calls the original motion to vote; DN (LL) and Cosim Sayed (CS) abstain; motion passes.

V. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall | library@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Library is thinking of repurposing the unused Old York Archive Room on the C-Level as a prayer/meditation space
 - b. ILL history will be purged
 - c. If you want access to new journals, please request, higher request numbers, more likely to be considered
 - d. Hathi Trust is coming
 - e. Changes in depositing dissertations are coming i.e.) administrative hurdles are being removed and so is the 9\$ fee
 - f. STF - we met but no real developments but discussions of issues facing off-campus students is in discussion
 - g. Alumni portal is being set up
 - h. Corinna Singleman (CS) - my colleagues are at Queens College what is happening for those can't deposit it by today. AM responds that the library is looking to hire but if they aren't able to, they will find ways to guide students. Including the formatting. Depositing will be established in January.
2. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho | services@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Database of discounts including gym discounts coming soon
 - b. The Baruch gym gives us a huge discount so we cannot get it smaller
 - c. Committee currently talking to a few others still
 - d. Meeting with Scott from Facilities to discuss recycling options here

- e. Working with Boss Ass Charlotte for End of the Semester salons
 - f. Soap is in, see office to bring soap to your kitchenette
3. Officer for Outreach (Saiful Saleem | outreach@cunydisc.org)
- a. The Outreach Committee will be holding a Thanksgiving/Native American Heritage Day event, which consists of an afternoon of food, drinks and informal discussion over the topic of Thanksgiving as it is practiced in the US and the various myths that it perpetuates. It will be held from 4pm-6pm in room 5414 on Wednesday, November 25.
 - b. Our student satisfaction survey is also on the verge of being released.
4. Officer for Health & Wellness (Charlotte Thurston | wellness@cunydisc.org)
- a. Happy Trans day of action!
 - b. H&W committee: thanks for stepping up to the plate, Jimiane!
 - c. Will be ratified at next steering; hoping to meet informally soon to discuss plans, ideas, what to do going forward.
 - d. Arranging phone meeting with UB and student from SUNY's graduate student union
 - e. Hoping to discuss: recent issues with appeals and some H&W survey info
 - f. Possibility of establishing fund of \$\$ for people
 - g. Though CUNY is rife with cries of deficit, insurance claim issues end up putting people out of money in much the same way late adjunct paychecks do. Investigating how to push for GC Stud. Aff or UB to have such a fund/emergency loan problem.
 - i. Or else: to collect and post some kind of financial advice about what to do in these situations--like getting a federal student loan, with the hope that you get money back in 180 day period?
 - ii. In talking with Sean Kennedy, and based on previous discussions with Jen, Jenn, and Chrissy: idea for establishing some kind of campaign on reducing mental health stigma. First step: writing and sharing post on mental wellbeing and collecting narratives on any aspect of dealing with mental health problems: In the past, I've asked for narratives specifically about ValueOptions/insurance experiences, and that would absolutely still be valuable; however, I would like to broaden the call to ask GC students to send any and all stories they have about their experiences and struggles as a student and person. I would define issues with mental health broadly, to mean not just diagnosed mental illnesses, but anything that affects your mental and psychological health and well being; and, I would stress, the other letters in "MHSA" stand for substance abuse, which is something grad students suffer from that remains under discussed (and arguably is even more stigmatized). These can be positive stories, too, about how contacting a mental health provider and having that access improved your quality of life--or that of people you know--because stories like this might encourage those who haven't used these resources to seek them out.
 - iii. Please consider writing one or sharing with constituents.
 - iv. Totally anonymous thru contact form, and even if you send via my email, I can take your name off the story or keep it on, depending on preferences.
 - v. Once collected, need to figure out how to share them: pamphlet? Something digital like Storify? Digital signage with a few small stories, much like OpenCUNY has testimonies?
 - h. In touch with Carlos about setting up Finals Relief Stations.
 - i. Will be massages and nap stations and ear plugs, as usual

- ii. Also possible are some fantastic ideas Carlos has: handout/digital sign on in-seat yoga stretches that people can do, and relaxing aromatherapy handout.
 - iii. Let people know about the fact that we're collecting narratives, or share a few if we have any.
 - iv. Tentative date is 12/16-12/17 in the library.
 - i. Safer Sex initiative:
 - i. Reminder that if you're a point person in your program that there are condoms and dental dams in the office; the holiday season is a good time for bowl restocking!
 - ii. Philosophy: still need point person there to replace former one. If you want a bowl in your program and to be the go-to person: handout sheet and sign up to do so!!
 - iii. Worked with Ashley Chastain to revise and refine a Safer Sex materials booklet with instructions; she'll be printing that soon.
 - j. Reminder about meeting with Bob last month: WC seemed interested in paying for some SSM not covered by current free NYS initiative, in conjunction with student affairs. Trying to figure out things that I can argue are necessary rather than just people's personal preference, which include better lube--because current one is not good for all sex acts--and dental dams--because the state has often been out--and maybe flavored condoms--because of difficulties getting free dental dams--condoms can be made into dental dams, but it's better if they're flavored!
 - k. Please let me know if you have any ideas that have to do with lacunae in our supplies (preferences are fine but I think I can make a better case for their spending money if there's a solid reason behind why you'd need X-version of supply)
 - l. In the near future: CCC setting up meeting with Nicole Elden from Student Counseling services
 - m. Figure out how to make connections between the workshops SCS does and student groups/chartered org who can collaborate/be part of these workshops.
 - n. I'll also note that the WC on its website says: "We are also available to individual departments, to participate in workshops on topics such as dissertation completion"
 - o. Also check out the email sent out to students about their day to day services: I've copied the content of that email to the blog, with a little extra information too.
 - p. Plans in general:
 - i. Collecting and putting up info about sliding scale offers for health providers of any kind: please send some my way.
 - ii. Student has asked about pregnancy/giving birth tips for people who are pregnant/give birth on NYSHIP. If you know anyone willing to provide some--or if you are willing to yourself--please contact me!
 - iii. Trying to collect and create pages on things like non-NYSHIP insurance, bedbug issues, other non-traditional doctors.
 - iv. Ashley Chastain from the Wellness Center has let me know about a nutritionist she knows who might be willing to work with us; I'm going to contact her about the possibility of having a workshop on nutrition based on grad student needs and budget. Thanks to last years' committee, Liza Shapiro and Laurie Hurson, for having this idea last spring!
7. Officer for Governance & Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird | membership@cunydisc.org)
- a. 77 Seats/75 Reps in good standing

- b. We ran special elections for Philosophy and Chemistry. However, no nominees from these elections accepted their nomination; therefore, these seats are dead. If either program would like to create this seat again, they must submit a *pro tempore* petition. See me (or the website) for details.
 - c. We also ran a special elections for History, which resulted in a tie. We are in the process of sorting out this tie.
 - d. I'm still working to replace the Political Science representative by contacting runner-ups from the Spring election.
8. Officer for Funding (Teddy Maghrak | funding@cunydisc.org)
- a. Grants report to Plenary 11/20/2015
 - b. Last Grants Committee meeting held on Monday, November 2. We looked at 6 regular grant applications (2 revise and resubmit) and approved all of them for a total of \$3,340.
 - c. We had no start-up grant applications.
 - d. The total awarded during this period was \$3,340.
 - e. Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7 at 6:30pm. The deadline is today, November 20. As of November 16, we had three applications.
 - f. The Grants workshop was held on Monday, November 9, at 2:00pm. While only five participants came, they seemed to get a lot from the workshop.

VI. Announcements

1. Rachel Chapman MOE Bill update and the union. It will be on Cuomo's desk today. There have been meetings and there is a petition we can share with our students that goes to various powers that be. There is a proposed action on Monday to create some pressure on the board to not increase tuition. Mass union meeting last night on authorizing strike vote. 800 at the Cooper Union building, including a large number of adjuncts. There has been an outline drawn up of what is wanted in the contract. It is not very promising that the pay increase for adjuncts will not be as high as we want. Many students do not know this. Melissa wants to know if this tuition increase will affect us. RC says yes. Was their solidarity? RC says meh, we got you health insurance but brought up job. SK adds pay parity is not a priority, but job security is. Doing across the board pay negotiations.

VII. Adjournment

1. Motion to adjourn by JR, CC seconds, LL abstains
2. Meeting ends at 8:25 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Jeremy Randall