

**Plenary
 MINUTES
 February 19th, 2016**

Present:

Yuval Abrams, Jimiane Ashe, Chloe Asselin, Cassandra Barnes, Sharmaine Browne, Shelley Buchbinder, Carlos Camacho, Kevin Cedeno-Pacheco, Rachel Chapman, Jennifer Chmielewski, Pablo Crespo, Ernesto Cuba, Erin Cully, Chloe Edmonson, Rebecca Fullan, Kishore Gangangari, Ernesto Garcia, Dean Gibson Schafer, Eleanor Goldman, Drew Green, Richard Gustavson, Anna Harb, Michael Healy, Lauren Hudson, Philip Johnson, Joshua Katz-Rosene, Sean Kennedy, Mawia Khogali, William Lorenzo, Theodor Maghrak, Elizabeth Martignetti, Amy Martin, Melissa Marturano, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Alison Parks, Jennifer Peirce, Ana Perry, Brooke Prashker, Jen Prince, Jeremy Randall, China Sajadian, Saiful Saleem, Rebecca Salois, Cecilia Salvi, Cosim Sayid, Liza Shapiro, Hamad Sindhi, Corinna Singleman, Cihan Tekay, Charlotte Thurston, Stephanie Vella, Deepti Wadhwa, Janet Werther, Tellisia Williams, Jessica Woodson, Allan Zelener

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Absent:

Ryan Abrahams, Khalid Al Hilli, Fabiana Alceste, Colin Ashley, Lisa Babel, Kyla Bender-Baird, Elaine Chang Sandoval, Stefanie Jones, Laura Lutgen, Velina Manolova, Jeremiah McMillan, Rajat Kumar Pal, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Jacob Russell, Gwen Shaw, David Topel

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Guest speaker: Chase F. Robinson, President, CUNY Graduate Center

Student Services

Begins by relaying that his last visit was on February 20th 2015. Since then the Teaching & Learning Center has opened. He reports that the Provost's Office has been working on the Middle States Review and Robinson reports that we did well. The Bench Science Review has been submitted and approved. Admittedly the process is slower than he wishes. There has been back and forth on enhancing stipends and that discussion has not yet finished. He is opening a search for a recruiter in bench science. He has started an advisory committee and they will be meeting in two weeks.

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

The budget has been central in his current work. June saw news of a 3% hit. Trying to figure out what to do with a \$4-4.5 million deficit. Cuts have been happening and non-tax levied funds have been tapped.

Governance Task Force

There has always been a cap on what could be stored so after this year the rainy day fund is done. Totaled \$3-3.5 million. Sadly though it is still rainy. The cuts we received were a permanent reduction and not a temporary cut so for the coming year we will be \$3.7 million in the hole. Provost and others have been trying to handle cuts as best they can but there is less room. No formal decisions have been made yet but analyses are being done and forecasts are being made. No clear sense of revenue outside of base allocation.

EDLAB

Student Tech Fee

Despite what he discussed above and in spite of some of that, a VP for Communications, Becca Kornfeld, has been found. Starts at the end of the month and will be two positions: Exec. Director of Communication and separate position in External Relations. Mike Byers is retiring and will not be replaced. The AVP for Staff/Faculty relations will also not be replaced. Provost search is concluding with visits from candidates in the coming weeks. In the next 4-6 weeks we should be announcing the new Provost.

Alison Parks (AP) from Poli Sci asks what lobbying the President has done for students given the crucial timing of budget issues, specifically when and to whom he lobbied. President Robinson responded that he did not go because it is not most effective. He is meeting with Richard Godfried and a small group of people. Will advocate for whatever state and city decide, believing that the funding deserved will come to

the university. Will not be taking sides between State and City and will continue to make the case for CUNY.

Erin McKinney-Prupis (EMP), Public Health, asked about the expansion of Masters programs and what health insurance plans may be available to them. President Robinson shares that 90% of Masters students are part time and that these numbers have not budged despite the expansion of the programs. About 450 Masters students in total. Before moving forward the President needs a sense of the scale of the issue for Masters students to begin to provisionally figure out available resources. The first measure of course would be need, what is the need for Masters students. Robinson suspects that it is covered through their jobs since 90% are part time. The pool of Masters students needs to be looked at.

Carlos Camacho (CC), Sociology, asks about extending tuition remission past the 5th year given the issues many students are having with completion at the departmental level and given that in a committee meeting, many in the administration seem to think that GC students do not pay tuition. The President replies that there are simply no resources for extending tuition remission beyond the 5th year, and that he'd like to but at this point the central concern is keeping the lights on.

Dadland Maye (DM), English, Editor-in-Chief of the Advocate, begins discussing that he wanted to be visible and that there is a consistent invisibility of people of color and that for the record he is here and Black and that his views are his and not reflective of the Advocate. From about 1989 until now, the Graduate Center has been saying they will address diversity but nothing has really been done. Robert Reid-Pharr shared a document prompting the resolution you (Robinson) put forth but it seems more like a stomping block and performance. Diversity is something that is very, very wide. There's gender diversity and racial/ethnic diversity. This institution is 86% white male so going forward, what are the specifics you're looking for regarding diversity? Racial ethnic minorities? Women? President Chase reminds that the diversity website lays out what he's done and directs us there. He never held up the committee reports, but he needed to respond, which he did. It was the prerogative of the committee to disseminate the report. One of the recs of the report is to appoint a recruitment director but President Robinson thought that insufficient. Thinks we'd be better off with an Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and is currently pursuing that formally and informally. It might be advantageous to run a search to get a candidate from CUNY or beyond but that will take months to do. We'd have a possible person 18 months from now going that route. An alternative path is to appoint an acting dean, with there being the disadvantage of not having a search. Looks forward to working with this dean. President Robinson plans to continue the hard work already done. Reminds us of the diversity website. Nine of the seventeen recent faculty appointments went to underrepresented faculty. There is no issue he feels more strongly about. It is also an issue the provost's office is working on as well.

Chloe Edmonson (CE), Theatre, asks a follow-up regarding the President's December email about ensuring a positive environment for diverse students. We understand building codes and other constraints but want to see change. President Robinson responds that changing the building codes takes time and defers to Matt Schoengood, VP for Student Affairs (guest with President) has no sense right now of the capital funds and architects it would take to accomplish this. There will be follow up.

Teresa Ober (TO), Educational Psychology, asks about the accessibility office and when it is coming, when will information be available online. It is a right and is a legal issue. President Robinson does not disagree. One of the planning task forces have a proposal for such an office. Matt Schoengood has been drafting something. In the short-term Robinson says something can be done online to raise consciousness surrounding this issue. Says he shares our impatience and its long overdue. He's been hearing this request for 2-3 years. He gets the frustration but says there is a competition of resources. Can solve incrementally with online presence and building out through retirement or attrition expertise. Is it possible this semester he asks of Matt. Matt says it is. Reminds that the school has always been giving accommodations though no dedicated person has been doing this full time. In his 36 years has never seen a student not get services.

Janet Werther (JW), Theatre, brings up contingent labor and full time people not always getting health care through their jobs. Part-time Masters students often cannot afford full-time status so sees the President's view as representing a fundamental misunderstanding. Also responds to previous bathroom discussion saying that making gender-neutral bathrooms is not about architecture when putting up a sign will suffice. Robinson wants to figure out needs of Masters students. Regarding the bathrooms, perhaps Janet is right about signs but replies that there are very strict regulations when it comes to bathrooms that do not reflect that view. There are old-fashioned regulations about numbers of male and female bathrooms in a building and changing signs may be illegal.

President Robinson leaves.

Hamad Sindhi (HS) calls the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Quorum count, 53 present making quorum 37.

- I. Approval of Agenda
 1. Stephanie Vella (SV), Theater, motions to approve with emendations to include NB item 7. Resolution in Support of Student Protests in India. Seconded by Nora Goldman (NG), Linguistics.
 2. Motion passes with Drew Greene (DG), Economics, abstaining.
- II. Approval of Minutes of December 18 2015
 1. Motion to approve by Liza Shapiro (LS). Seconded by NG.
 2. Motion passes unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Reports
 1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin | ccsa@cunydisc.org)
 - a) The Disability Studies Group has been inactive for three semesters in a row, so the de-chartering process was approved by Steering earlier this month. The most recent leaders will have 30 days to contact me if they have proof of activity.
 - b) Rosters are open for student signatures for the spring semester. Please remind your students to sign rosters on cunydisc.org/works to show support for student groups, since rosters are required to maintain a charter and receive DSC allocations. ½ percentage point of student body, minimum of 20 people.
 - c) The nominations ballot for 2016-2017 DSC positions is available now and closes on March 1. The first email sent to students via the VoteNet system seems to have had faulty links, at least in some email software. If students have any problems accessing the links or logging in, please let them know they can contact me directly to make nominations.
 - d) Elections will take place via the same website from April 1st through May 1st.
 - e) David Topel, hoping to bring workshops and activities to childcare center, reaching out to body for workshops for children, also looking for workshops for all parents which is a change from before
 - i. expanding by 5 more children by knocking down a wall
 - ii. Director Dorothy Hartigan, will be more transparent about waiting list
 2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi | ccc@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Updates from Student Affairs:

- i. ~150 people have already started Haven training; this will be used each year for the incoming class;
 - ii. Matt Schoengood reiterated need to expand role of disability services; proposal in progress
 - iii. Sharon Lerner is now the GC liaison for assistive tech committee in CUNY Central; looking at more universal solutions with assistive tech; CUNY is trying to create a lot of universal access (probably 2-3 years away)
 - iv. If you have changed job title or campus, fill out a transfer form so benefits will continue uninterrupted, get form from website or email Scott Voorhees (svoorhees@gc.cuny.edu) students don't need a form (IRS Form 1095-C Notice) for tax purposes from NYSHIP, this will go directly from NYSHIP
 - b) Other updates:
 - i. Reminder that as a Rep, esp a program Rep, your job is to communicate DSC matters to students in your programs; some important DSC issues are going up quickly, and we need your cooperation in communicating these matters to students
 - ii. Specifically, the ad-hoc committee on disability services will be sending a survey next week, so please be sure to forward this to your students
 - c) Rebecca Salois (RS), HLBLE: We get form and letter or just form? Got charged on taxes last year; HS says to check with Scott Voorhees
3. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince | ccb@cunydisc.org)
 - a) DSC Services
 - i. Discount Movie Passes (Angelika, Regal, AMC)
 - ii. Legal Consultations have resumed, need DSC Works acct, 2/semester, 45 minutes
 - b) Provost Public Forums (all at 3:30pm)
 - i. Vicki Greene: February 23 (9205/06)
 - ii. John McCarthy: February 25 (9205/06)
 - iii. Bill McClure: February 26 (9206/07)
 - iv. Joy Connolly: March 4 (9204/05)
 - c) Spring Program Allocations, should have by 22nd
 - i. Have not yet received official matriculation numbers
 - ii. Will email program reps as soon as it's prepared
 - iii. Remember that spring allocations don't roll over to next year
 - iv. No purchasing of gift cards at the end of the semester
 - v. July 1 programs can start using funding for Fall
 - d) Strategic Plan Finance Task Force Update
 - i. Drop in dissertation fellowships to 40
 - ii. Projected \$3.7 million deficit for next year
 - iii. Tidbits: "Our students don't pay tuition" and "Well, it's not a lot"; Filling the seats on the Graduate Center Foundation board with students who have "made it"; Look for our building to be named in the next couple of years; Hired outside firm on issue of greater MA enrollment: Recommendations include having mobile adaptive site and offering scholarships to MA students

- e) Questions
 - i. JW: regarding monies are there hiring freezes, wage freezes that do not affect our education?; JP: there hasn't been any conversation re: monies; AM adds: salaries have not gone up for admin, part of plan is to not rehire after death or retirement, library dissertation employee's job given to someone else without wage increase
 - ii. Richard Gustavson (RG), Math, asks about student activity fee changes happening; JP: coming up on agenda
 - iii. Sean Kennedy (SK), English, with Masters question: Chase said at a meeting in Dec, there is a strategy for PhDs to mount their own MS programs to assuage some money issues, have you heard news on this?
 - iv. JP: not really permissible to create MA program if one exists at other CUNY school; Business EO wants to work around this but this strategy doesn't seem to be in the picture; Programs with MA (Ling, Phil) not duplicating something already in existence in CUNY; Plan is to expand MALS as much as possible; Women Studies MA program aiming to bring in 10 students
 - v. Dominique Nisperos (DN), Sociology, asks regarding freezes and diversity dean, are there other NEW positions?; JP: not as far as she knows; top level positions just won't be filled; someone doing Mike Byers job without title or raise
 - vi. JW: suggest creation of one admin position for all issues
- 4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi | uss@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Board of Trustees
 - i. CS will send a notice out to the DSC listserv regarding the upcoming meetings: Public Hearing Feb 16, Board Meeting 3/21; BoT meeting on 1/25: THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – INCORPORATION OF THE CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY FOUNDATION, INC.: Resolution unanimously adopted; CS plans to table in February regarding tuition freezes.
 - ii. Fiscal Affairs Committee 2/1; CS and Trustee Robles-Roman voted against an \$800 per semester excellence fee for the Master of Science Physician Assistant Programs at the CUNY School of Medicine at City College and York College; DOE regulation stating a school must charge similar rates across similar programs; Comparison to competitors; Future earnings
 - iii. Standing Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration: Amendments to the Governance Plan of the University Center Regarding the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. Following discussion the item was approved for submission to the Board. Prof. K. Barker voted NO.
 - b) USS
 - i. Plenary held 1/31; Next Feb 21; Resolution to support an honorary degree for Kalief Browder passed unanimously; Improvements in meeting procedures; Lack of Officer reports; CS asked about the state of the 2013 and 2014 audit reports.

- ii. Tuition Task Force; Has completed its tuition freeze pamphlet. CS will be using these to table.
- iii. Scholarship Committee; Met on 1/21 to finalize scholarship package; Exceptions were made for an applicant being over the credit limit- all applications will be accepted by USS; A memo was sent to all VPs for Student Affairs/Life in regard to this, but the applications first go to COSA, which vets them; Process underway to change language for next year so that more students are eligible; CS will be promoting this for the next two months.
- iv. Assistive Technology Off-Campus Proposal; Working with USS and CCSD and Chris Rosa to get a grant for Assistive Technology for GC students; Meeting Feb 21 at 10:30am
- c) Committees and Meetings
 - i. Will send out GTF email next week to meet in February
 - ii. Strategic Planning Committee; Ian Phillips and CT and CS submitted the draft of the student section. They used data from the Outreach Committee's student survey, and made the following general requests: Writing Center; Increased Funding; Attention to Diversity in hiring and recruitment; Increased Support to Improve Faculty Mentoring
 - iii. ARC; Don Robotham offered the DSC \$3000 to host an event; CS will put together budget request by next week.
- d) Questions
 - i. Brooke Prashker (BP), Public Health: from where do we list campus with regards to USS scholarships; CS replies can give 1 scholarships per student but can increase to 2 on a campus; Hopes to lump you together if there is a legal limitation
- 5. UFS Liaison (Liza Shapiro | ufs@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Last UFS plenary was on 2/2/2016
 - i. Invited guests were: Chancellor J.B. Milliken, Senior VC for University Relations Jay Hershenson, and Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance- Matt Sapienza
 - ii. Milliken presented on Cuomo's Executive Budget; Budget includes authorization to continue the predictable (formerly "rational"); tuition increase plan, by amounts up to \$300 per year at the senior colleges; Budget also includes \$240 million for retroactive salary increases; but not if NYC doesn't take the \$485 million of the CUNY budget.
 - iii. Questions raised by UFS senators and Milliken's response; Please keep tuition down; Milliken responded that the majority of CUNY students don't pay and that the possible tuition increases are only proposed for the senior colleges. Stressed that the authority to increase is not the same as an increase, but if NYS doesn't provide funds for CUNY raising tuition may be necessary; Tuition is not the only things our students pay for; "In an ideal world we would get increased public funding to cover the contract and free tuition but this will not happen"; Why doesn't the Chancellor (or management) negotiate with the PSC and jointly plead our case to Albany? "We will not agree on what the most effective strategy is."

- iv. Raised issue of faculty non-diversity at GC and cited recent numbers from Advocate article. Milliken said: "Diversity is very important. Vita, will you take this?"; Vita Rabinowitz pointed out that around 50% of Hunter faculty are women and that it is very diverse. Stated we had a new Dean of Recruitment and Diversity to look at this issue. Then said that numbers are available and directed me to the Office of Institutional Research-although I provided the numbers earlier; There is a consensus that there will not be a \$485 million transfer from state to city; So emphasis is on lobbying assembly members.
- b) Questions:
 - i. JW: Was Milliken apartment discussed at all?; LS responds when administrative bloat discussed there was no answer, says working to make financial docs available

IV. New Business

- 1. New member ratification
 - a) At-Large Representative
 - i. Jason Nielsen, English
 - b) Program Representative
 - i. Sharmaine Browne, English
 - ii. Philip Johnson, Political Science
 - c) Motion to ratify new members by KBB and seconded by RS.
 - d) Motion passes unanimously.
- 2. Presentation of Constitution & Bylaw changes
 - a) Constitution:
 - i. Make USS and UFS full voting members of EC
 - ii. Added language to USS and UFS jobs responsibilities
 - iii. New article on relationship/collaboration between UFS and USS
 - b) Funding bylaws changes.
 - c) Rachel Chapman (RC) asks: what is DSO; KBB responds: "Doctoral Students Organization" or all students in the Graduate Center.
- 3. Vote on Sociology Students Association Constitution
 - a) AM introduces SSA PSA.
 - b) DN motions to recognize SSA as PSA. KBB seconds.
 - c) Passes unanimously.
- 4. Ad Hoc Committee on Tuition Remission
 - a) JP motions to create an ad-hoc committee on tuition remission. HS seconds.
 - b) JP welcomes co-chairs.
 - c) Passes unanimously.
- 5. Student Activity Fees
 - a) Co-Chairs present:
 - i. 2 petitions going around, asking students to call to a vote two referenda: one to remove the \$12/semester/student fee that goes to partially fund the part-time nurse practitioner in the Graduate Center's Wellness

- Center, and one to increase the student activity fees by \$6/semester/student
- ii. Background: this body voted to not fund the Wellness Center which was a symbolic vote that triggered a reevaluation of the student activities fee. \$12/student/semester goes to Wellness Center for nurse practitioner.
 - iii. One petition is to stop sending \$12, the other to raise the fee by \$6; if both pass overall lowers the SAF by \$6 and adds funds for DSC use; students may keep \$12 for NP and not raise \$6; keep \$12 for NP and raise funds, \$12 additional/year
 - iv. This is NOT defunding the Wellness Center, this is only a small portion of budget line; Not saying Wellness Center should not extend NP services; AM passes petitions to body
 - v. If petitions gather enough signatures, the referenda will be on the yearly elections ballot in April
 - vi. RG asks about how many signatures need to pass; HS: 10% of DSO which is about 400 students for petition
 - vii. Co-Chairs remind Reps to inform students about the petition
 - viii. Allan Zelener (AZ), Computer Science, asks if there is any idea how the defunding of NP will affect overall wellness; JP has no idea how school will respond; Big idea is that student activity fee shouldn't cover NP but she should still be there for students; CS adds that we used stop-gap measures when the NP was not present one semester; AM adds info from Wellness Center shows that while people asked for services only one we're aware of used the stop gap measures; DSC would push school to fund NP
 - ix. HS want students with questions and comments to email the Executive Committee
 - x. JW: if we defund 12 and increase 6 what does that do; if both passed, students pay 6 less overall and DSC funds increase by \$48,000; JP sees increase in funding for PSA, funding fitness classes, etc.; DSC will vote on presented budget once we know how the petition and votes go; LS reminds that we are planning to hold town hall with questions comments Feb 24th 6PM in 5409 OR 5414

6. CUNY Organizing (Erin Cully)

- a) March 12th event: Popular Assembly; Popular assembly bringing together different groups of students as well as various faculty and staff; goal to create forum in which people can meet each other, discuss demands from various groups; if involved in organizing around certain issue you are invited; Understand pressures CUNY is under so it is urgent we get together to discuss this; people are doing courageous work alone but there is not space for all people to come together; not planning to be a organization but rather making a space to discuss issues; ideally one of many and start of a tradition, organizers hope to build a movement
- b) cunystruggle.org repository of different ideas
- c) Email cunystruggleinfo@gmail.com for info or to contribute to the website
- d) Rebecca Fullan (RF): what time; time is TBA but FB event coming soon with time; held at GC on 6th floor

- e) Conor Tomas Reed (CTR) adds to above discussion: been in CUNY for 10 years; Feb 24th 6:30PM in 9204 at GC student assembly, an opportunity to share across programs what is being dealt with ; English has situation; English got cut in half in terms of budget, bleak look for future if 4000 people in building do not respond; aim for Monday, facilitated by English Student Association, is to strategize how students can present resolutions with teeth that are actionable; pledge to support strike if PSC engages in one; creation of strike fund for students and adjuncts; create educational materials for students; urging central line faculty to use position for better wages and job security; This building gathers various unions and it's time to make links; not only for formal reps; Feb 24 someone from Adjunct Project doing outreach at 12:30/6:15pm, Room 4116; March 3rd PSC union chapter meeting 12:30 C201; March 12th CUNY popular assembly (see above)
- f) SK brings up Taylor Law video; CTR responds that video is from May 2011, Adjunct Project has video on website, watch video to discuss strike

7. Resolution in Support of Student Protests in India

- a) HS does quorum count
 - i. Notes that the resolution came in late, hence not all Reps may have seen it yet.
- b) Bhargav Rani (BR), Theatre, reads resolution; Need for a resolution falls under need for global linkages of students; large international community support lends strength to Indian students who are protesting
- c) JW motions to adopt the resolution, and Jeremy Randall (JR), History, seconds
 - i. Kishore Gangangari (KG), Chemistry, says facts not being presented correctly. Asks why students were arrested?; BR: students organized public meeting, cultural meeting about self determination for Kashmiri people; certain people there included anti-Indian students; emphasizes that what was said is immaterial; KG argues that is not immaterial and goes against Indian sovereignty; equates to siding with terrorist; wants facts right on this statement before passing; if mentioning his name (Kanhaiyya Kumar) need to include justification of what he did
- d) KG adds subsidiary motion to remove Kanhaiyya Kumar's name from the resolution document. Jimiane Ashe (JA), Biology, seconds.
 - i. SK wants DSC to reject subsidiary motion; Kanhaiyya Kumar is in solitary confinement right now, facts are all over the place, fact of matter is that questions about what happened are all over the place, no certainty that students were the ones, Kanhaiyya Kumar was not part of the group with signs, SK is not going to justify terrorist comment, there was a breakdown of order in that trial, reemphasize that it's important to show solidarity;
 - ii. JW agrees putting name humanizes the group and student org, what they did or did not say is not relevant, freedom of speech is the issue, support freedom of speech and individuals fighting for that;
 - iii. Chris Weimer (CW), Classics (proxy), video for Kanhaiyya Kumar shown to be doctored;
 - iv. BR: a lot of doubt of credibility of the sources against him, whether he did or did not encourage students to instigate trouble, getting into that

- debate puts central issue under the table; instance of speech is immaterial, BR sees it as regressive and stupid, conversation needs to happen, call for punishment b/c anti Indian slogans come from emotion/affective politics
- v. JR against motion to remove Kanhaiyya Kumar's name, we have to show support for student government and rights across the world, we saw similar in Turkey, threats are also coming in US
 - e) HS calls the motion to vote; Yuval Abrams (YA), Cosim Sayid (CS), Erin McKinney-Prupis (EMP), Corinna Singleman (CoS) vote nay; Brooke Prashker (BP) abstains; subsidiary motion fails to pass.
 - f) HS asks to return to and continue discussion on original motion
 - i. YA: not only person who think we need to have enough info to pass resolution, not speaking to resolution's merits but thinks we do not have enough info, what is meaning of speaking, etc.
 - g) YA motions to table the resolution to next month. CoS seconds.
 - i. JR responds that he is sick of waiting since we always wait claiming we do not have enough info which is a stalling tactic
 - ii. JA: how soon should we act, can you supply us with valid sources?; BR responds that about 500 students and some faculty are on strike, teachers holding strike series, rally at Columbia tomorrow; imperative we give solidarity now, its volatile now, last time police at JNU did this, 40 years back and state of emergency was declared, no such emergency declared now, part of larger pattern since current party came into power, multiple instances of government suppression; has never been similar solidarity movement in many years, 400 international academics have given support so must do it right now, speaks to right to dissent
 - iii. HS: question was raised as to whether we have authority; yes we do, we have passed a similar resolution in solidarity with Mexican students last year
 - iv. JW: if we as a body support freedom of speech we should vote; if you disagree then abstain but do not allow us all to not vote, I want my right to cast my vote, you can't withhold by right
 - v. CS thinks democracy support is good but doesn't know what these acronyms (JNU, ITT, etc.) are; not proposing a position
 - vi. YA: not questioning authority to vote, wants to know facts before voting
 - h) HS calls the motion to a vote; CoS, KG, YA, CS, BP, EMP vote yes; CC abstains; motion fails to pass.
 - i) HS asks to return to and continue discussion on original motion (to adopt the resolution)
 - j) HS calls the original motion to adopt the resolution to a vote; JA, YA, CS, BP, EMP, Joshua Katz-Rosene (JKR), KG, Elizabeth Martin (EM), CoS, Jennifer Pierce (JP) abstain; motion passes.

V. Steering Officer Reports

- 1. Officer for Funding (Teddy Maghrak | funding@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Feb 5th grants meeting, 6 approved, \$3743.50, 2 revise and resubmit, 1 non voting proposal coming back in April meeting

- b) leaves us \$5113.19 in funding budget
 - c) last deadline is March 18, 2016
 - d) April 4th 10AM is next meeting
 - i. last time in academic year to have event funded by DSC until July 1
2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird | membership@cunydisc.org)
- a) We have 77 seats and 75 reps in good standing
 - b) KBB working on contacting runner-ups for Psychology to replace a program representative who was removed.
 - c) Conducting a special election to replace a Computer Science program representative who resigned.
 - d) Ratification of the Constitutional Amendment to replace gendered language with gender-neutral language is currently underway and will close February 26.
3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Charlotte Thurston | wellness@cunydisc.org)
- a) Nutrition-for-grad-students workshop in late March: stay tuned!
 - i. co-sponsored with SLS likely
 - b) Possible workshops on: Navigating Appeals, repeat of Navigating NYSHIP
 - c) Check that NYSHIP status is up to date.
 - i. This is especially true if you are working at a 2 yr college or switched campuses at which you teach, if you have to terminate NYSHIP or if you have changed addresses.
 - d) Crowdsourcing: seeking info/tips/resources on any health and wellness topic
 - e) See Google doc online on opencuny.org/healthdsc, but especially would love resources on:
 - i. sliding scale providers, alternative providers, therapists/mental health providers
 - ii. dealing with bedbug tips, pregnancy on NYSHIP tips,
 - iii. cognitive behavioral therapy resources, nutrition resources
 - f) Safer sex materials: please refill bowls—materials in office
 - i. FYI: can report sexual harassment as Title IX violation. Presence of Safer Sex bowls in your program is no excuse for anyone to make anyone else feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Edith Rivera is the Title IX officer, but can also report incidents to John Flaherty in security or Matt Schoengood in Student Affairs
 - g) Still seeking mental health narratives! If you're comfortable, send one along, or encourage constituents to do so.
 - i. Can do so via contact form on H&W site or via email.
 - ii. PS: Check out, at workshops for Wellness Center, handouts on resources in programs/DSC made by HS and CT.
 - h) Coffee hours with Student Life & Services alternating Wednesdays and Fridays!
 - i. Wednesday, 2/24, 5:30-7pm; Friday, 3/4, 2:30-4pm; Wednesday, 3/9, 5:30-7pm; Friday, 3/18, 2:30-4pm
 - ii. Come de-stress, decompress, and chat with fellow GC students in Rm. 5495 over tea and coffee! And get info/resources on H&W/SLS topics
 - iii. JP make town hall a coffee hour? CT can do that
4. Officer for Outreach (Saiful Saleem | outreach@cunydisc.org)

- a) Thanks committee and TO for survey help, helped strategic task force
 - b) Spot available on outreach committee, esp if on another campus
 - i. KG: at the November meeting discussed football club; SS: talk to us to help organize that
5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho | services@cunydisc.org)
- a) Coffee hours with CT
 - b) Committee meeting coming up
 - c) Setting date for GrowNYC recycling event
6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall | library@cunydisc.org)
- a) Next STF meeting is March 2nd – news to come on this
 - i. Off-campus funding of technology, and tech issues here
 - b) ILL loan history is now only one year for privacy reasons
 - c) WFS – I've emailed why they are harassing us all. No response.
 - d) Let's welcome Roxanne Shirazi, the new dissertation research librarian, the provost will consider making that line permanent in the future
 - e) Haathi Trust is coming at some point after IT installs the necessary server upgrades
 - f) JP: WFS has a link on GC portal, login to it with graduate center credentials
- VI. Announcements
1. HS says agenda items can be added from plenary body, see his emails
 2. CS: take flyer about USS scholarships
 3. JW asks how to get agenda item added. HS responds: send him email at ccc@cunydisc.org
- VII. Adjournment
1. HS motions to adjourn meeting. TM seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting ends at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Camacho