

Plenary
MINUTES
March 18th, 2016

Present:

Ryan Abrahams, Khalid Al Hilli, Fabiana Alceste, Jimiane Ashe, Chloe Asselin, Lisa Babel, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Sharmaine Browne, Shelley Buchbinder, Carlos Camacho, Elaine Chang Sandoval, Rachel Chapman, Jennifer Chmielewski, Pablo Crespo, Erin Cully, Chloe Edmondson, Rebecca Fullan, Dean Gibson Schafer, Eleanor Goldman, Richard Gustavson, Anna Harb, Lauren Hudson, Philip Johnson, Stefanie Jones, Joshua Katz-Rosene, Sean Kennedy, William Lorenzo, Theodor Maghrak, Velina Manolova, Amy Martin, Melissa Marturano, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Jeremiah McMillan, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Rajat Kumar Pal, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Alison Parks, Brooke Prashker, Jen Prince, Jeremy Randall, Jacob Russell, China Sajadian, Cecilia Salvi, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Corinna Singleman, Cihan Tekay, Charlotte Thurston, Deepti Wadhwa, Janet Werther, Tellisia Williams, Alexander Wood, Jessica Woodson, Allan Zelener

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

Absent:

Yuval Abrams, Ernesto Cuba, Kishore Gangangari, Ernesto Garcia, Drew Green, Michael Healy, Mawia Khogali, Laura Lutgen, Elizabeth Martignetti, Jennifer Peirce, Ana Perry, Saiful Saleem, Rebecca Salois, Cosim Sayid, Liza Shapiro, David Topel, Stephanie Vella, Rachel Weintraub

USS Advisory Committee

Guest speaker: Vita Rabinowitz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost

Advocate Advisory Board

Vita understands she is not the first choice but is happy to be here (students invited Chancellor Milliken) Rabinowitz is new to position and will be celebrating 8 months on the first, though she is not new to CUNY. She started at Hunter in '78 as Assistant Prof. Rabinowitz became acting sub program head while an Associate prof and found that she was better serving as an administrator. She loved working with students and fellow faculty. Her time at the Graduate Center convinced her to go into administration. She's been more involved in administration at hunter for last 10 years. Horowitz, Kelly and Robinson have had close relations with Hunter.

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

EDLAB

Student Tech Fee

She's here to see what's on our minds. Assures us that GC students are enormously important to the University. Not because of numbers but because of our work and aspirations. GC always had more of a global perspective. Not an accident that our full title is the Graduate School and University Center. Many of our students aspire to this level even if they don't make it here. Grad Center is no longer alone at the top, CUNY is opening a medical school this year. Accepting first class in September: 70 students. Most diverse medical training institution. This summer opening an independent grad school of public health and health policy.

Wants to begin her conversation with us on the tough stuff: the budget and the contract as the budget and contract are inextricably linked. There was news this week. Received a proposal from Gov. Cuomo's office and State Senate and Assembly and in both the Governor's and Senate's report there is the \$485 million cut from the State budget. Mayor De Blasio says he is not surprised by this.

Not just about the partial cost of CUNY being moved but Cuomo also wants City to assume full Medicaid expenses. That would be well over a billion dollars of the city's budget per year. Governor offered sweetener of \$240 million toward settlement of the contract. This would be a one time addition and would achieve some retroactive pay for faculty and staff. PSC members have been without a contract for almost 6 years. SUNY employees got a 4% retroactive pay raise. A \$240 Million lump sum would not get us to raise by the 4% we'd like to give. \$240 million is only if we assume the \$485 million into the City's budget.

Governor and Senate have withdrawn support of ASAP. ASAP is a program that has raised the graduation rates from 17-52 in 3 years. De Blasio has been champion. Ohio and other states are emulating the ASAP program. CUNY is a leader here.

Maintenance of effort refers to ongoing operating costs that Cuomo does not want to cover, fringe benefits, utilities, a hodge-podge while the Senate and Assembly want to consider it.

Discussion on DREAMers, allowing undergrads to apply for state tuition assistance (TAP) like in-state students, here the Governor is in favor with the Assembly but the Senate is not. There's a SUNY-CUNY investment fund and there's now a gap in funding of colleges. The Senate wants to give difference to SUNY not CUNY.

The three proposals are being reconciled and by April 1st we will know what will happen. The best is steady state funding of the \$485 million. \$130 million is the Hunter College budget. If that funding is dropped and the mayor does not pick it up that is the equivalent of 4 Senior college budgets. Community colleges fully funded by city so not in same pot.

There is a developing story: Graduate students here are not just students but are also teachers. The Governor wants to appoint an overseer or manager to see CUNY's bureaucracy and suggest possible efficiencies. Also wants to see areas where we can merge CUNY and SUNY or have them work more closely together to achieve efficiency. SUNY and CUNY are very different, especially in terms of structure. CUNY by virtue of its intention and proximity operates differently. If the Graduate Center and the senior colleges are separated it would be bad for CUNY. There is an outsized proportion of CUNY Graduate Center students who teach at CUNY. The pipeline is also worth preserving.

Regarding the contract there is not a lot of news. Currently in mediation because CUNY Central declared we were at an impasse. The union and central office were far from each other. There was a modest 6% over 6 years as opening offer to union which was rejected. It's not because it's an assessment of what is deserved, no one thinks that, not the chancellor, its all we knew we could pay for. Even that depended on not getting the cut, and that depended on CUNY tuition raises (a raise of \$300 for 5 years) with the Governor saying yes, senate and assembly saying no. No one is excited about tuition raises. How do we fund decent contracts and raises when \$340 million is hungered for in retroactive pay. Sober news and wants you to know. All through this good things happen.

Retention and graduation rates at community and senior colleges is better in this modern era. Wants to fix remediation problem. 60% of students never leave remediation and she wants to change that. Next biggest goal is to improve graduation rates. Fact is, these days more than ever if students don't get degrees they and their children will lead a different life. Need college education to get a decent life, now more than ever. Our graduation rates are at 48% 6 year grad rate at senior colleges. Minus Baruch and Queens it is even worse. Wanted to discuss happier things but here is where we are.

Inside Higher Education and Chronicle found that undergrads taught by graduate students were more likely to major in discipline. What doctoral students add to universities through teaching and mentoring and work with professors links the community college to professoriate. While at Hunter, 6-8 doctoral students hired. Wonderful things are happening.

VR opens floor for questions.

Janet Werther, Theatre (JW), thanks VR for being here and service and words on graduate teaching. Most fellowships predicated on teaching, and teaching is often a main income, 50% of CUNY labor. Adjuncts make \$2,900 for a 3 credit course, and stipends are \$25,000 if fully funded, being realistic about rent in NYC, budget is serious but our hunger and time to degree is important as well. We care about achievable...(rest not recorded).

VR: What I'd like to achieve re: adjunct pay and fellowships, would be comparable to UMass, but we need to ask what is achievable? \$2,900/ 3 credit class is \$64.84 per hour.

JW: That's not including other hours.

VR: When we get a contract wages will go up modestly, 6% at least. That is nothing. I know \$25,000 is not a living wage but its higher than before.

JW: Many students still on that.

VR: Some students get tuition and insurance but no stipend. Wish I could tell you something was coming but I'd be lying. I will come back after facts are known. By April 1 we will have good idea of what's coming, and we're not sure what that looks like. Governor is seeing us as inefficient and bloated which is not accurate. When contract comes, adjunct pay will go up. Grad students are very important to us. Not just adjuncts but also our doctoral students. We have been able to, and I support, reduced teaching required for grad students. Doesn't add \$ but it adds time which grad students need. One of things GC looking into, is cheaper grad student housing. Others offer decent subsidized housing. That is Robinson's goal, a major one. Cannot promise if or when, but it is a goal. Not expecting you to give administration credit but we are making strides and want the best students. We want you to have best careers. GC lobbied central office to waive application fee for all CUNY students. \$125 isn't the world but for some students that's the difference in applying to grad school versus not.

JW: fellowships are 25K for 5 years and recently dissertation fellowships were cut by more than half and those folks still have to pay tuition. That affects people's livelihood's.

VR: part of answer to this is getting help from the central office and increasing GC philanthropy.

Teresa Ober (TO): Coach survey question. Has there been any moves to make it for adjuncts. You were asked and said asked coach people and have you? How will you engage?

VR: got community college profs into coach survey. First in nation to do that. Graduates and Prof schools has most happy, community second, 3rd senior, have asked, have not put pressure and have no plans for adjunct survey. Adjuncts growing throughout country and appreciate voices want to be heard. Adjuncts not happy. Understand that especially those on multiple campuses. Today I worked

on related issue to coach. I care about CUNY faculty. On leave from Hunter position. We are trying to take lessons from survey. Associate profs having hard time and languishing getting promoted because of too much committee service and destroys scholarship progress. Have plans to help associates get promoted. Workshop on balancing life and work for senior and community colleges. Only 30 spots. Promised UFS will look into it. Another question about diversity at GC. Spoke to Robinson and Lennihan about this. There are structural issues regarding speed of diversifying. Not a lot of lines to search. GC tends to search for senior faculty. Higher the ladder, fewer FOC and they are often coveted and fought for. We need to fight too. Robinson spoke to VR about enhanced fellowships for students of color. Have to start somewhere. Robinson told VR each program has diversity plan and that GC takes it to heart. Less diverse than any CUNY school. 33% of CUNY faculty diverse. Almost 50% women. GC falls behind on both. Distinguished profs not nearly as diverse to match student body.

Jeremy Randall (JR): how institution is trying to diversify. HEO cut from Middle Eastern center. Discuss diversity but then cut people and program. President chose not to continue line and bring in college assistant, to serve multiple areas when one HEO could barely.

VR: will follow up and do not know Robinson's plans. Clarification

Dominique Nisperos (DN): We have pushed for a lot of the good changes being pushed for, we have done a lot in solidarity with other students, have obligation to students, examination of restructuring of CUNY campuses...(rest not recorded).

VR: Not sure how to answer.

DN: Chancellor is investigating restructuring CUNY campuses

VR: if anyone can give me background, what do you mean?

DN: not sure what it means either

VR: gov wants to restructure CUNY and SUNY, CUNY senior colleges becoming schools within SUNY

DN: can you follow up?

VR: Chancellor Milliken not discussing structure.

Rachel Chapman (RC): has question for follow up later. Thanks for believing in CUNY. Thanks for presentation. CUNY benefits city and the state.

VR: 80% of graduates stay in state. Gov wants city to pay so not a cut on his part. Does not want to see CUNY cut.

RC: symbolic in that he doesn't want state to support CUNY

VR: benefits state

RC: Chancellor wants greater private funds to fund CUNY, challenge is for office to get state to fund CUNY. CUNY should not be privately funded. Paid by state.

VR: that's right. It should be publicly funded. Cannot raise that money to privately fund CUNY, questions is who does it city or state. Chancellor wants to see funds raise for CUNY regardless. In 2 weeks hope that we can discuss other real issues after this budget issues. After April 1 we'll know a lot more.

Vita Rabinowitz leaves at 7PM.

Cecilia Salvi (CS) calls the meeting to order at 6:56PM .

I. Approval of Agenda

1. CS calls for quorum count. We do not have the number of members present to handle changes to the Constitution but have enough to consider resolutions on the table.
2. Motion to approve agenda by Corinna Singleman (CSM). Seconded by Jeremy Randall (JR).
3. Theodor Maghrak (TM) motions to emend the agenda to remove Tuition Remission Resolution from the agenda. Julianne Ashe seconds.
 - a) Passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 19th 2016

1. Motion to approve by Nora Goldman (NG). Seconded by Erin McKinney-Prupis.
 - a) Passes unanimously

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin | ccsa@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Elections: We are still receiving responses from students who might not want to be on the ballot for DSC positions next year. If you would like to decline a nomination but haven't yet responded to the Google form sent in the email from Hamad, please do so ASAP. The Elections ballot will be available starting on April 1st and will close May 2nd, being the first business day in May. Email AM if having issue getting online
 - b) Chartered Orgs: One requirement chartered orgs have to continue to receive active status and allocations from the DSC is a roster of at least 20 currently-registered students showing support for the group. I will send you an email soon that I will ask you to send along to your listservs and constituent emails to promote participation in that process.
 - c) Hiring committees: There are two Affiliate positions that we will be hiring for this semester: Adjunct Project Coordinator for Organization and Planning, and the OpenCUNY Coordinator of Education and Support. The announcements for these positions will go out soon after the first meeting of each of our hiring teams. They will be posted on our website, sent to APOs and posted throughout the building on screens and boards. Keep an eye out, and encourage your constituents to apply!
 - d) Questions: none

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi | ccc@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Admin Meetings:
 - i. Met with Provost Lennihan on 3/2/16
 - 1) Even though dissertation fellowships are decreasing, Provost office looking for money to increase as much as possible; should hear back soon about this; this is a major priority for her office. The number was increased back to 90.
 - 2) Diversity: brought up plan on instituting program diversity committees, and the Provost seemed to think that this may not work, but DSC should make this a priority when the new Provost comes on board; EC will follow up with admissions numbers (in terms of diversity of students admitted) with OIR; Provost seemed interested in unconscious bias training for faculty and other resources for ensuring diversity
 - 3) OIR: search is ongoing for replacing the head of this office (it'll be an HEO line)
 - 4) Hiring faculty: 2 ways - targeted search (does not require hiring committee), and open search (requires hiring committee); however in our discussion about hiring with the Provost we mutually discovered that there is no language in the bylaws that states guidelines for putting together a hiring search committee, even though the EOs are in charge of setting these up; AM & CS will bring this up at the next Grad Council EC meeting
 - 5) Disability Services Office: Yes she agrees that this is overdue, but same old statement about trying to get it done but have limited resources
 - 6) Parental leave is now permanent GC policy!!! The Provost will be making an announcement about this sometime soon, but you heard it hear first!
 - ii. Met with Student Affairs on 3/16/16
 - 1) Sharon Lerner put in a proposal for laptops with assistive software loaded to loan out to students via the library, working with the library staff to ensure that the loan period for this equipment is more than the library's usual 3-week loan period
 - 2) Update on conference travel grants: there will be a new procedure for obtaining international travel insurance, if traveling after April 1st, please contact Student Affairs for more info on this (they will also put something about this on their website)
 - 3) Discussed ways to communicate about the parental leave policy with both students and faculty, especially faculty who are unaware or maybe even discouraging and disparaging when it comes to pregnancies and parenting; students have the option of invoking Title IX if they face a situation where they are made to feel uncomfortable about becoming parents
 - b) Other meetings
 - i. Executive Committee met on 3/8/16

- 1) We discussed DSC/ARC conference, possibility of a DSC officer committed to student organizing and archiving DSC knowledge, the Student Activity Fee petition drive, and the position of the AFC; some will be discussed at this meeting in new business; for others please see the EC meeting minutes for other items discussed at the meeting
 - 2) Grad Council notes forthcoming from CS
 - c) Questions:
 - i. AM: president or faculty said about diversity plan, Provost said that programs pushing back; VR said Robinson told us that each program has a diversity plan
 - ii. RC: asked about unconscious bias training, JW answers per CS permission, we automatically have unconscious biases that affect hiring and admission and making us aware allows us to change them
 - iii. TO: student activity fee referendum?
 - 1) AM: did not have enough time to make it happen, in person better than online. Based on symbolic vote, we are going to recommend next years DSC and Steering start the petition process earlier
3. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince | ccb@cunydisc.org)
- a) DSC Services
 - i. Please remind your constituents:
 - 1) Angelika (7.50), Regal (8.50), and AMC (9.00)
 - 2) Free legal Consultations available. Sign up on cunydisc.org/works
 - b) Program Allocations
 - i. Spring program allocations calculated and reps emailed
 - ii. Program reps: see Google Doc for updated expenditures
 - c) Receipt Deadlines
 - i. Grants: May 25th
 - ii. Program Allocations: June 1st
 - iii. Chartered Orgs: June 8th
 - iv. Reminder: please submit please submit receipts taped onto an 8.5"x11" sheet of (scrap) paper. It is not necessary to use the form sent when you complete a request, but writing the node ID is helpful!
 - d) Ad Hoc Committee on Tuition Remission
 - i. Met on March 11th
 - ii. Plan of action:
 - 1) Awareness campaign based on stories from students who complete our survey.
 - 2) Please send survey to your constituents and encourage them to participate!
 - 3) Resolution at April meeting
 - iii. If you want to be in on the next meeting, send me an email!

- e) Program Social Media Fellows Conference Live Tweeting How-To
 - i. Thursday, March 31st, 6:30-7:30pm
 - ii. Room 5409
 - iii. Bring your internet-connected device
 - iv. Light dinner will be served!
 - v. Registration encouraged: **smfellows.commonsgc.cuny.edu**
 - f) Questions: none
4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi | uss@cunydisc.org)
- a) Board of Trustees: Board Meeting 3/21
 - i. Plans continue to move forward on the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, as changes to the University Center of the GSUC's Governance Plan have been proposed.
 - ii. The BoT will be voting on the City College of New York and York College proposed Academic Excellence Fee of \$800 per semester, effective Fall 2016.
 - iii. Several other schools are establishing Doctorates (Lehman, Baruch) and Master's Programs (Hunter, City, John Jay and SPS).
 - b) USS
 - i. Plenary was held on 2/21
 - ii. Discussion centered on the fight against the tuition increase, and the importance of student activism.
 - iii. Tai and Fernandez, the UFS liaisons to USS, mentioned that at their last UFS meeting, the Chancellor spoke. Fernandez said that even though the faculty are engaged in contract negotiations, "there was more concern for you" (students)
 - iv. Plenary could not be held on 3/13 because there was no quorum. Instead, I insisted we convene a meeting of the whole and have officers present reports. Only about half did so.
 - v. Afterwards, we held a rally and protest against tuition hikes. It was attended by about 200 people, including elected city officials.
 - c) Committees
 - i. Executive Committee of Graduate Council: Met on 3/1. We discussed the accelerated Nursing Track or Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars in the Nursing Program, and what happens to students who are accepted but either need to defer or cannot complete it in time. The question will be raised at Graduate Council, and Duncan Flaherty will follow up with Nursing EO. Changes for the French, Computer Science, and Physics programs were approved.
 - ii. Governance Task Force: The GTF will meet on Monday, March 21.
 - iii. USS Scholarship Committee: We had a conference call on 3/8 to discuss increasing applications from campuses with low numbers of applicants (0-2) last year. We also discussed changing the language this year, so that Graduate Center students who have exceeded the number of credits are still eligible. The next conference call was on 3/12, and I discussed the proposed changes to the language so that credit limits do not apply to doctoral students. Because there was no

- quorum, I could not propose these changes at plenary on 3/13, but did mention them during the Scholarship Committee's report.
- iv. USS Tuition Freeze Task Force: An emergency meeting was called on 2/27 to discuss reports that the Governor was ignoring USS advocacy. In response, the Task Force organized the March 13th rally.
 - v. Strategic Planning Committee- Research Task Force: We met on several days throughout the month of February to finalize our report. The Co-Chairs, Martohardjono and Robotham, agreed to let students submit a separate report from the faculty's. It was sent to the Provost, who is currently drafting the Strategic Plan. Recommendations include: a writing center; increased funding at the pre-dissertation and dissertation phases; development of grant and mentoring workshops; expanding non-academic offices, such as health and wellness and establishing a disabilities services office.
 - vi. Steering voted to nominate reps, in this ranked order, to the USS Advisory Committee: Jason Neilson (accepts), ~~Tellisia Williams, China Sadajian, Theodore Maghrak.~~
- d) Meetings
- i. Met with Chris Rosa and Charmaine Worthy on 2/24. I asked about convening the Audit Committee, and receiving Audit Reports. I am following up with USS Chair Awadjie, who has the authority to empower the committee chair. We discussed proposing changes to the USS by-laws and constitution to strengthen procedural standards. We also discussed what the process is to change USS Scholarship eligibility criteria (credit limits) for GC doctoral students. Worthy said that the changes would have to be proposed at plenary in March, then voted on by the body in April. Chris Rosa mentioned being sure of a "clean way to get the tech" for students who need assistive technology.
 - ii. I met with Legislative Affairs Director Almonte on 3/1. I discussed proposing changes to the USS by-laws and constitution to strengthen procedural standards, including the importance of having all officers present reports. I also discussed the new website, which has all the USS minutes starting in 2012, and is more accessible to CUNY students.
 - iii. CCSD: I met with the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities on 2/21. The co-chairs will write a letter to get a meeting with VC Brian Cohen. At that meeting, we will advocate for off-campus Assistive Technology for GC students. Once we move forward, I will work on a budget proposal. I am also working with the Ad-Hoc Committee on Disabilities Services to get data on what students would need.
- e) Etcetera
- i. I followed up and confirmed a meeting so Jen Tang could be assessed for her assistive technology needs. That meeting was set for 3/11 and according to her, it was successful. But note that it took the coordination of 3 campuses for 1 student at the GC to begin to get services.

- ii. The USS Alternate, Rachel Chapman and I, tabled last week on a variety of issues: USS scholarships, Adjunct Project, CUNY rallies, tuition freeze, etc. Over 100 people stopped by.
 - iii. Carlos and I are writing an Advocate article to come out in next month's issue.
 - iv. I am working on the budget proposal for ARC (\$3000) for the Diversity Conference, which will tentatively be held May 12-14. Volunteers, please reach out to me.
5. UFS Liaison (Liza Shapiro | ufs@cunydisc.org)
1. No news to report. Next UFS plenary is 3/29.

IV. New Business

1. Resolution on Tuition Remission (tabled at meeting's start)
2. Resolution Endorsing a Strike to Ensure a Fair PSC Contract with CUNY
 - a) Sean Kennedy (SK) introduces Adjunct Project; Resolution is result of AP and Luke (Chair of GC PSC Chapter)
 - b) Motion to approve resolution from DN, seconded by Cihan Tekay (CT) from Anthropology
 - c) JW: asks about fellowship teachers, what legal rights are and I know there's convo about a strike fund so how does that happen/work? What do we do if that doesn't appear? Striking in general, FT with us?
 - i. Sheehan Moore (SM): AP going department by department to discuss. Please reach out to us to have these very deep convos; Part of the resolution address call for DSC to call PSC to cover students
 - ii. SK: real nitty gritty no strike in near term, our analysis is the question of a strike happening has been forestalled, AP endorsed strike and wants DSC to give backing; Part of this is to reflect history of DSC taking stand on these issues, for us to have real gains we HAVE to go on strike. To win fair contract have to go on strike. Have to break Taylor Law to do that. Wants this to push leadership and union for strike. Needs capacity and need concessions from management. Taylor law gives two day fine for striking. Hoping for more than 6% or 14% that union is bargaining for, to life adjuncts in particular
 - d) Tyler Bryson (TB): how does getting the fund and breaking the Taylor law work
 - i. Luke Elliot-Negri (LEN): Penalized additional day for one day of striking, CUNY management has to approve that and then have to work to garnish wages
 - ii. SM: Wins from better contract would make up for lost wages
 - iii. JW: asked for follow-up, GTFs under same rule?
 - iv. Jen Chancellor (JC): ones with work attachment, if given in one lump sum should be untouched, people with fellowships have a little more protection than adjuncts; Pay-check could be garnished but not fellowship check
 - v. LEN: two checks could be garnished.

- vi. SM: did Tyler get question answered?
- e) TB motions (unclear what motion was about)
 - i. Jillian Ashe (JA) seconds
 - ii. Clarification of penalty versus loss
 - iii. TB withdraws motions and objects to language and would like to discuss it further
- f) DN: stands in favor of current language given that departments would have to report us, there are lots of outs than getting into that minutia
- g) Erin Culley (EC): heard PSC has made it a condition that in order to stop the strike the penalties would need to be waived according to Barbara Bowen; Possible to explain how adjuncts will benefit from it, given that it might seem we're fighting a fight for FT folks?
 - i. LEN: this fight increases the pot, wants more money from state; We do not want contract if it doesn't help adjuncts sufficiently, need to get money then fight for money from leadership, no money on table currently
- h) Charmaine Brown (CB): working meant to cover the possibility of arrest and any financial burden incurred from that? Is the strike relief fund all encompassing?
 - i. SK you would not be arrested under Taylor law but its like a parking ticket, past precedent is there i a fine; MTA strike 11 years ago, people weren't arrested, legal nitty gritty would be better discussed
 - ii. LEN: Union leadership could be jailed but not rank and file members
- i) RC: been involve with First Fridays adjuncts, within union to fight for adjuncts within union; Many adjuncts are feeling uncertain about strike authorization vote, have been fighting for years for more and union has not been responsive to that; PSC has talked about strike relief fund but is there any money actually saved
 - i. SK: wants to reframe, this is not commitment to strike or PSC to strike, this body takes leadership role in CUNY; AP sees role to synthesize and translate that into a message; A lot of these questions are on a lot of peoples mind; This resolution is about what's possible not just achievable
- j) Alan Zelner (AZ): agree with SK to keep moving; Do we actually have material support from faculty and or the PSC?; Has AP talked to faculty
 - i. LEN: ambiguity from PSC on the strike fund, not calling it a strike fund but they are raising money, have asked Bowen many times; Union of 25000 people; A lot of people to organize and steps that need to be taken to get ready for it
 - ii. SM says its a huge concern
 - iii. SK: no pressure in widespread way to have to be a strike, needs to be inclination to strike
- k) DN hopes we can continue to push forward, asks Chair to call the question
 - i. AM clarifies that vote not needed to call questions
- l) CS says she will not call the question until representatives have finished discussion.
- m) CS calls the vote. RC votes nay, no abstentions. Motion passes.

3. New member ratification

- a) At-Large Representative
 - b) Program Representative
 - i. Alexander Wood, Computer Science
 - ii. Rachel Weintraub, Psychology
 - iii. Motion by Kyla Bender-Baird (KBB) and second by Jason Nielson (JN)
 - 1) Passes unanimously
4. Vote on Constitution & Bylaw changes
- a) KBB motions to table 3 a, b, c, and d on constitution (since do not have enough members present); JA seconds; motion passes unanimously
 - b) Bylaw 3.2.e Review of Regular Applications
 - i. Language about notified Funding
 - ii. KBB motions to approve above bylaws changes, second by Lauren Hudson (LH); motion passes unanimously
5. Proposed Constitution and Bylaw changes:
- a) Constitution Article VII Referenda
 - b) Constitution Article III.2.3 Nomination and Election of representatives
 - c) Bylaws 4.4 and 6.2.b.iv
 - i. Given budgetary constraints and the opening of the Office by the GC we are pushing to get rid of the position
6. Presentation of Hunter Alliances of Cross-Disciplinary Sciences (HACS)
- a) AM introduces two Co-Chairs of the HACS
 - i. Form HACS with main goal to bring science students out of the labs to do science and non-science group
 - ii. To be interdisciplinary and have more conversation about wider fields
 - iii. Other goals: being trained for professoriate and want to learn about non-academic jobs and more to widen those discussion as well as plan mini-cons and create networking opportunities
 - iv. Faculty supporting this informally and it is often underfunded and a last resort, pool their own money to do this
 - v. AM adds, students from sciences outside bio are increasing in part of it
 - vi. No questions
7. CUNY Organizing - Rachel Chapman (RC) and Erin Cully (EC)
- a) RC: VR's presentation was sad, forming a group to advocate for CUNY, had popular assembly last Saturday to discuss CUNY grievance and actions to take in the future for CUNY
 - b) One action is Million Student March, calling for free tuition, forgiveness for student debt
 - c) Wanted to open discussion as to how DSC can play a role in getting involved, need to take matter into own hands
 - d) Thinking about teach-ins to talk to students about these issues
 - e) University doesn't value edu enough to give FT profs and adjuncts save money for uni

- f) EC: over 100 people at last event, many undergrads are getting involved, fight for better CUNY needs to have students behind us and putting students first, teaching and doing things on campuses, removed from undergrads here
- g) Gather grad students and then extend reach on campuses to undergrads
 - i. We want to know what more actionable items can be done.
 - ii. Cunystruggle.org
 - iii. cunystruggleinfo@gmail.com
 - iv. Grad center student assembly meeting being planned

V. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Health & Wellness (Charlotte Thurston | wellness@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Nutritionist workshop will cover tips on how grad students can still cook and eat healthily on a limited time and money budget.
 - i. With Camilla Lee, RDN (camillaleerdn.com)
 - ii. Friday, March 25th, 4-5pm, Room 5409
 - iii. Coffee, tea, and snacks provided
 - b) Interest in a workshop on Navigating Appeals, or have information to share on how to navigate the health insurance appeals process? Please let me know and send along info to me
 - i. Will use for website as well as possible workshop.
 - c) Coffee hours
 - i. Alternating Wednesdays and Fridays
 - ii. Next up: Wednesday, 3/23
 - d) Wellness Center Handouts
 - e) Crowdsourcing for H&W resources
 - i. Link on H&W Blog to Google doc: <https://goo.gl/NDRWNi>
 - f) Check to make sure NYSHIP status is up to date
 - i. Tax Form 1095-C: Don't need to file, but check for accuracy and keep for your records!
 - g) Still seeking mental health narratives! If you're comfortable, send one along, or encourage constituents to do so
 - i. Anonymously via contact form
 - ii. Can share via Google doc, too: <https://goo.gl/2meESK>
 - h) Please refill safer sex bowls: materials in office (and more at Wellness Center)
 - i. Contact me if you want to set up one for your program
 - ii. Working to see if we can get more materials directly from the state
 - i) Still seeking mental health narratives! If you're comfortable, send one along, or encourage constituents to do so
 - j) Remote therapy resources:
 - i. 7cups.com
 - ii. Volunteer crisis counselor—short term therapy over text 741741
 - k) TM Point of clarification-7cups is long term, text is crisis intervention
2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird | membership@cunydisc.org)
 - a) We have 77 seats and 75 reps in good standing

- i. I'm working on contacting runner ups for an open at-large seat.
 - ii. We're conducting a special election to replace a MALS program rep.
 - iii. 13 proxies which may be historic
 3. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall | library@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Student Tech Fee met on March 2nd.
 - i. Extended consumables to John Jay Criminal Justice PhD program
 - ii. New computer purchases
 - iii. Exploring smarter classrooms
 - iv. Various new programs or free variants are being explored
 - v. Extra money allotted to the library
 - b) TO: question about software questions regarding prior point on Opinio
 - i. JR looking for open source softwares
 4. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho | services@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Met with Edward Lin and planning Meditation workshops
 - i. If around during the summer and would like meditation let us know
 - b) Co-sponsoring Nutritionist with Charlotte
 - c) Essential oils available in the DSC office
 - d) Coffee hours have been successful but we courage more folks to come
 - e) Football/soccer sign up
 5. Officer for Outreach (Saiful Saleem | outreach@cunydisc.org)
 - a) No report
 6. Officer for Funding (Teddy Maghrak | funding@cunydisc.org)
 - a) Grants Committee has not met since last Plenary
 - b) 11 regular and 1 start up grants
 - c) \$5113.19 left
 - d) Today last deadline at midnight
 - e) April 4th 10AM
- VI. Announcements
 1. Thanks for time and service and special thanks to proxies
 - a) Party after next plenary
 - b) AM: remember to file taxes, theme of next party is taxes
 2. JA: is taking funds to show 2 movies on April 7&30 C198 with snacks and 21st 7:30 Segal theatre with snacks Piled Higher and Deeper and 2
 - a) AM share with Social Media
 3. RC: brings up JR's letter regarding HEO issues discuss with VR earlier, wants Chase to reconsider proposal, minor line in comparison to the number of people served, link shared
- VII. Adjournment
 1. Tellisia Williams (TW) motions to adjourn, Close Edmonson (CE) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.