

Plenary Agenda May 20, 2016 (5pm)

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

Present: Jimiane Ashe, Lisa Babel, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Kwan-Lamar Blount-Hill, Carol Brathwaite, Sharmaine Browne, Shelley Buchbinder, Carlos Camacho, Elaine Chang Sandoval, Rachel Chapman, Jennifer Chmielewski, Pablo Crespo, Erin Cully, Chloe Edmondson, Rebecca Fullan, Kishore Gangangari, Ernesto Garcia, Eleanor Goldman, Drew Green, Anna Harb, Beliz Hazan, Michael Healy, Philip Johnson, Stefanie Jones, Sean Kennedy, Grace Kim-Lambert, Theodor Maghrak, Amy Martin, Jeremiah McMillan, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Rajat Kumar Pal, Alison Parks, Lindsay Parme, Jen Prince, Jeremy Randall, Rebecca Salois, Cecilia Salvi, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Corinna Singleman, Cihan Tekay, Charlotte Thurston, Stephanie Vella, Tellisia Williams, Allan Zelener

Absent: Ryan Abrahams, Yuval Abrams, Khalid Al Hilli, Fabiana Alceste, Chloe Asselin, Ernesto Cuba, Dean Gibson Schafer, Richard Gustavson, Lauren Hudson, Joshua Katz-Rosene, Mawia Khogali, William Lorenzo, Velina Manolova, Elizabeth Martignetti, Melissa Marturano, Erin McKinney-Prupis, Helen Panagiotopoulos, Jennifer Peirce, Ana Perry, Brooke Prashker, Jacob Russell, China Sajadian, Saiful Saleem, Cosim Sayid, Deepti Wadhera, Janet Werther, Alexander Wood, Jessica Woodson

Cecilia Salvi (CS) calls the meeting to order at 5:08pm

- I. Approval of Agenda
 1. Kyla Bender-Baird (KBB) motions to approve the agenda with emendations (tabling New Business item 5). Jeremy Randall (JR) seconds. Unanimously passed.
- II. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2016
 1. Rebecca Salois (RS) motions to approve. Jimiane Ashe (JA) seconds. Unanimously passed.
- III. Executive Committee Reports
 1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Amy Martin)
 - a. Chartered Organizations are still in need of roster signatures. Please encourage your constituents to support chartered orgs
 - b. Elections – only 10.4% turnout.
 2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi)
 - a. Admins meetings

- i. Meeting with Student Affairs:
 - ii. JP and CN are recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Leadership Award!!! Congrats to them both.
 - iii. CUNY sexual violence climate survey: GC is leading in survey responses
 - iv. CISI (international travel) insurance rates went up very minimally
 - v. Error repeated this year with health insurance deductions: some money (above and beyond what is deducted) was deducted from paycheck for coverage for 50 students with individual coverage and 10 students with family coverage, all who were affected were adjuncts; whatever was taken out will be reimbursed, emails sent already to affected students
 - vi. GC will be getting 2 new Masters programs next year: Data Visualization, and Digital Humanities; however, due to a somewhat better economy, more students are not expected to enroll next year
 - b. Grad Council (May 5th 2016 meeting)
 - i. Budget: any outstanding obligations will be met; will be in the hole again next year; some mandatory costs will continue to go unfunded in FY 17; encouraged members to keep lobbying policy-makers; predicts that FY 17 will be last FY in which we deal with difficulties
 - ii. Capital projects: memo will be sent out soon about building projects; the \$6 million that was received 5-6 years ago for the 9th floor build-out is still secure, and talking to architect now for a more cost-efficient build-out; rehabilitating elevators; 1st-floor restrooms; IT infrastructure etc. are on the list
 - iii. Announced the hiring of new Provost (Joy Connolly); will start on August 1st
3. Co-Chair for Business (Jennifer Prince)
 - a. Deadlines for receipts.
 - i. Grants: May 25;
 - ii. Programs: June 1st;
 - iii. Chartered Orgs: June 8th.
 - b. DSC Summer Services: Reduced office hours; Movie tickets available; Legal services available until June 30th by scheduling individual appointments through me.
4. USS Delegate (Cecilia Salvi)
 - a. Board of Trustees: 6/27
 - i. Predictive Analytic Software system to support academic advisement adopted with two abstentions.
 - ii. CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy- Created 4 academic departments and 2 institutes.
 - b. Board of Trustees: Academic Affairs Committee will meet 6/6

- i. The Board will consider changes to its Guidelines for Eligibility for Service; the language was intended to clarify the guidelines for graduate students, on which it is currently silent.
- ii. I worked with USS to develop a response and clarify issues because the language in iii below would be problematic (it would limit and weaken student influence)
 - 1. Effective Spring 2017
 - 2. Changes from “good standing” to minimum 2.5 GPA.
 - 3. Addition: “Graduate/Law students may not serve in student government and/or any other student leadership positions covered by these Guidelines for more than a total of two years.”
 - 4. Addition: “Students may not serve in leadership positions at two or more CUNY institutions simultaneously but may hold a campus and USS position at the same time.”
 - 5. Addition: “Any student who applies/petitions for graduation is ineligible to run for a leadership position unless (s)he has been accepted into a graduate program at the same college or it is determined that the student has not fulfilled the graduation requirements.”
- iii. USS and I met with Assistant General Council Dan Simonette on 5/13. He indicated that limiting students to serve for 2 years only was not the intention of the language, and that it would be changed.
 - 1. He also indicated that an officer could serve a term of more than 2 years, as long as it was in another executive position. I sent a follow up email requesting clarification. I also conferred with Lucas Almonte on 5/19, who agreed over the phone that the language is “silent” on term limits for graduate students.
- c. USS
 - i. Plenary: 4/17
 - ii. Changes to the Scholarship Application were unanimously approved
 - 1. Credit limits have been eliminated for undergrads and grads
 - 2. Letter of recs reduced from 2 to 1
 - iii. Plenary: 5/15
 - 1. Plenary was not held because there was no quorum.
- d. Committees
 - i. The USS scholarship committee has received (so far) 53 scholarship applications out of a total of 78. The committee has requested all applications, even those that did not qualify. The committee will now review the applications and select winners.
- e. Etceteras

- i. Followed up twice with CCSD and Chris Rosa regarding a meeting with VC Brian Cohen to advocate for off-campus Assistive Technology for GC students. He indicated he would send me the letter this week for verification. I was not sent the letter, nor was the letter sent to VC Cohen. More follow-ups will ensue.
 - ii. I met with Fernando Araujo, USS Executive Director, to propose changes to the USS Constitution, specifically regarding: Vice Chair duties; Committee duties; and Fiscal Affairs guidelines. This will be in the form of a resolution rather than by-law changes because of the timing. Again, this resolution was not passed because May plenary was not held (3.c.i.)
 - iii. I submitted 4 grants on behalf of the DSC for: October and December parties; a September welcome back party; the Diversity Conference; and website issues detailed in the CCB's report. The USS will grant us \$5000 by June 30, and we can resubmit the applications that were not funded. They were not funded simply because the funding line was not approved by the budget office by the time of the request; they were not denied.
 - iv. Total USS has granted DSC: \$9,900 (\$7,500 to the DSC and \$2,400 in grants for students and student-organized events.)
5. UFS Liaison (Liza Shapiro)
 - a. Last UFS Plenary met on 5/17
 - i. Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, & Members-at-Large of Executive Committee
 1. Chair: Kay Conaway (Business Management at BMCC)
 2. Vice Chair: Kathleen Barker (Psychology at Medgar Evers)
 3. Executive Committee: same as it ever was
 - b. Emphasis from Chair on importance of building bridges with student leaders with specific focus on USS (awareness or acknowledgment of graduate leadership)
 - i. UFS Student Affairs Committee is recommending UFS plenary participation by USS officers and is asking UFS senators to start "mentoring and guiding our elected student leaders" in USS and local student assemblies
 - ii. Reminder that UFS exists to make collective experience at CUNY better for both faculty and students
 - c. UFS Student Affairs Committee and VC for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez discussed:
 - i. Proposed faculty guide with reconsideration of disabilities services as classes move online and services rely on self-identification
 - ii. Outsourcing childcare at CUNY because of capacity constraints
 - iii. CUNY speaking with Gates foundation to plan assistance for CUNY students who may become homeless

- d. "It's nice to be wonderfully principled, but it's nicer to be effective"—
outgoing Chair
- e. Questions
 - i. JP – we should use the appearance of food banks on campus to push
back on BOT thinking about raising tuition and not allowing post 5
year tuition remission

IV. New Business

- 1. New member ratification
 - a. KBB moves to ratify the membership of Kwan-Lamar Blount-Hill (Program,
Criminal Justice) and Beliz Hazan (Program, Psychology). David Nagy (DaN)
seconds. Unanimously approved.
- 2. Vote on Bylaws 4.4 and 6.2.b.iv
 - a. KBB explains why C&B proposed eliminating AFC. The reason the position
was created was to encourage the administration to invest in alumni
engagement and fundraising. With the announcement of the creation of a
Director of Alumni Fundraising, the position has become redundant.
 - b. JP invites Joe Heissan, the current AFC Coordinator, to talk about pros and
cons
 - c. Joe – pros would be to save some money. But other than that, I would
encourage you to note vote to eliminate the position. This is a critical time.
The administration is just starting to engage in alumni fundraising. It's great
that they are starting but there are lots of opportunities for students like
AFC to influence the director and committees in shaping how they approach
alumni engagement. There are also gaps like a committee for fundraising,
which is important. AFC has lots of advice to give to directors and
committees as they are in nascent stages of alumni engagement and
fundraising. For instance, they may not be considering alumni engaging
with students. We need to make sure that how they engage with alumni is
beneficial to students. They aren't adding staff or budget lines to make
alumni engagement happen.
 - d. JP – possible workaround might be that we get student reps on these
committees.
 - e. Stephanie Jones (SAJ) – Could someone from steering speak to the budget
and how it might impact this decision?
 - f. JP – the budget is a concern in terms of what services we can provide
students next year. The current budget we're voting on today has this
position at \$0. If we don't eliminate this position, we'd have to adjust the
budget.
 - g. JP moves to change the bylaws. Teddy Maghrak (TM) seconds.
 - i. Nays
 - 1. Corinna Singleman, Biology
 - 2. Jimiane Ashe (JA), Biology
 - 3. Allan Zelener (AZ), Computer Science

- ii. Abstain
 1. David Nagy (DaN), Philosophy (proxy for Elaine Sandoval)
 2. Rachel Chapman (RC), Urban Education
 - iii. Motion fails to pass
3. Proposed Chartered Organization Vote: GC Student Association for LIS Inequality Research
 - a. AM – we don't have enough people to pass this
 - b. JP – move to table proposed chartered organization vote. AM seconds.
Unanimously approved.
4. Vote on 2016-2017 budget
 - a. JP – We now need to find roughly \$5000 in our budget to put back in the budget line for AFC. Can't change DSC leadership stipends or anything in blue. Look to services and supplies.
 - b. Dominique Nisperos (DN) – can we approve budget with \$0 or \$1?
 - c. JP – no, we must approve this budget tonight for next year.
 - d. DaN – I abstained because I didn't realize the consequences of keeping AFC in the budget. As a proxy, did not receive the budget ahead of time.
 - e. RC – can we take out program allocations?
 - f. JP – no
 - g. RC – where does money go when program allocation money is not spent?
 - h. JP – surplus does roll over but don't expect a surplus and in fact we may go over.
 - i. HS – propose to move money allocated for child and development center
 - j. JP - already no money there
 - k. CS – can you go through cuts you have already made so that we understand?
 - l. JP – We expect fewer students which impacted the revenue. Grants and Awards are written into our bylaws. Health and Wellness committee can be cut; subsidies cannot. Fitness can be cut. Wellness Center we have to pay based on referendum. Steering: we have to have that amount according to bylaws. Executive committee: we don't but that money is important. We have made commitments to chartered orgs and programs. Legal and financial services can be cut. Affiliates are already running on bare bones budgets and we already cut their budgets quite a bit for next year. We can cut more but not the coordinator stipends. Supplies are for coffee and paper. Meetings line pays for food. Outreach committee is \$600 and can be cut.
 - m. SAJ – Motion to consider the last question again. David didn't have data to make this vote. Motion to strike Bylaws 4.4 and 6.2.b.iv. Dominique seconds.
 - i. DN – Does anyone who wants to vote to keep AFC have a suggestion on what we should cut instead?
 - ii. HS – I think we shouldn't think of what we should cut instead. The question should still be whether AFC is still necessary for the DSC. Maybe convincing those who voted No or Abstained might be

- helpful. We've had conversations in Executive Committee and EDLAB and C&B. The main point was not only that the administration was considering establishing Alumni Office – we can push for this to happen – but also that alumni engagement is important for the DSC but maybe we can spread that labor around to steering committee and program reps rather than just having an office.
- iii. AZ – the reason I voted against this is that if there is not a DSC lead effort for alumni engagement, it won't happen. We need the formal position or at least a committee that will handle this issue going forward.
 - iv. Corinna – I also voted no because communications with Joe were very helpful in planning events and getting alumni to come to them. Yes, the administration is putting something in place. But until it's in place, nothing will happen. We might lose the information and support for alumni affairs if we don't have this position.
 - v. JA – I voted no because my alma mater SUNY Stony Brook alumni office was large and impressive and generated a lot of funds for students. To vote this down, I worry that it will be thrown by the wayside.
 - vi. Sean Kennedy (SK) – Important to vote against AFC in order to vote for de facto greater student governance in programs. The English PSA has raised money from alumni this year. We should push other programs to do the same instead of contributing to administrative bloat. Students should raise money for their own needs rather than continue governance and control at the top of a hierarchal institution.
 - vii. SAJ – Alumni fundraising and outreach is important but we can only do so much.
 - viii. DN – we need 39 votes to pass this otherwise we'll have to go line by line and prioritize things in the budget. Offering a budget item from the DSC does not mean we will get the result. We have had unfunded committees like gender neutral language that did work without a budget line. The proposal is the result of thinking of steering and DSC leadership. I support removing the position trusting the leadership of DSC and knowing this is not a reflection of Joe and the work he has done. We are strapped at the moment and we should push the university to fund what they should fund. We can't bear the burden. DSC is not negating the fact that this an important part of student engagement.
 - ix. Cihan Tekay (CT) – if people are really insistent on voting against this, the only ethical thing is to cut the food budget since it is a courtesy to reps whose job it is to attend these meetings.

- x. TM – If you are concerned that this would lead to no DSC sponsored outreach, we do have the option to introduce a new business item to establish an ad hoc committee for alumni engagement.
 - xi. RC – If we cut funding for fitness classes, would the students have to pay more?
 - xii. JP – student affairs would not be running those classes most likely. It would increase the amount faculty and staff has to pay.
 - xiii. CS – the worried look on my face is that I have been working with JP all year to get things paid for. USS paid for parties and the website. Steering made the difficult decision not pay for child care. We are cutting services left and right. There are things that may seem frivolous but can't be cut because they're in the bylaws and we need to pay people for their labor. Having to ask USS for money is very difficult but they're the only funding source to tap. This money could go at any moment.
 - xiv. Unanimously passed.
 - n. JP moves to approve budget. JR seconds.
 - i. SAJ – thank you for your labor
 - ii. AZ – what are the consequences of removing funding for child and development center?
 - iii. JP – possible higher tuition for students. We have repeatedly asked the administration to cover this cost.
 - iv. Unanimously approved.
 - 5. Presentation of Constitutional Amendments III.2.1 and III.2.3 and Bylaw change 6.1c
 - a. Tabled until September
- V. Steering Officer Reports
- 1. Officer for Funding (Teddy Maghrak)
 - a. Approved 1 revised grant from the last round for \$200
 - b. \$21,451.81 awarded this year, funding 36 student-led events
 - c. Deadline for grants receipts: Wednesday, May 25
 - 2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Kyla Bender-Baird)
 - a. Thank you for a great year! We are ending the year with 77 seats and 77 reps in good standing. April's plenary was the best attended plenary in my two year tenure. We passed 12 Constitutional amendments and 7 Bylaw changes.
 - b. Programs that did not create a seat for 2016-2017 through the election ballot but can gain DSC representation via petition: Audiology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Music Performance, Public Health, Social Welfare, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Physical Therapy
 - c. If you are continuing to serve next year (2016-2017), please hold onto your clickers for a 6pm meeting.
 - 3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Charlotte Thurston)

- a. Finals relief salons next Monday and Tuesday, 11am-3pm: please share with your constituents!
 - i. Library: free ten minute massages and napping/meditation stations
 - ii. Room 5409: more napping/meditation stations along with soothing music, aromatherapy, and coffee/tea
 - iii. Both place: freebies like earplugs, Safer Sex materials, and handouts on chair yoga and aromatherapy
- b. Mental health narratives: We are still collecting narratives on mental health and wellness to use in a campaign to reduce stigma and advocate to administrators on the importance of good mental health care.
 - i. Google form to submit anonymously: goo.gl/VP6Hy7
 - ii. Mental health narratives will be put on website and potentially used in Advocate article.
- c. Safer Sex initiative: If you are a point person for your program, please make sure to restock your bowl; if you want to be a point person for your program, please email me! These materials can also be found in the DSC office 5495.
 - i. Will be getting more dental dams and finger cots from the Wellness Center soon.
- d. Health and Wellness survey: look out for announcements about it in the next few weeks. Your feedback will help the next health and wellness officer make decisions on how to advocate for student health and wellness needs and concerns
- e. Rachel Bogan of Sociology is looking for feedback on a new site geared to GC students on nutrition tips and recipes. Take her poll at the link below
 - i. Google form link: <http://goo.gl/forms/trtDtQsO9d>
 - ii. Contact Rachel for more information: rbogan@gradcenter.cuny.edu.
- f. Did you get a DSC Health and Wellness mug at the Wellness Festival this year? Tweet yourself using it with the hashtag #gcfoodforgrads and @healthdscuny!
- g. Please recommend sliding scale, Medicaid, and NYSHIP providers: these are the kinds of information that students have told me are most useful! Use the contact form on the website or my email to recommend providers
 - i. New part of website: sliding scale providers! Check it out along with nutrition tips and cbt resources:
<http://opencuny.org/healthdsc/sliding-scale-providers/>
- h. NYSHIP: note that on the April 14th, April 28th, and May 12th pay dates, both the regular biweekly deduction and two additional deductions will be taken. On the May 26th pay date, the regular biweekly deduction plus one extra deduction will be taken. This is in order to pre-pay for summer coverage (in case you noted that there seemed to be more than usual amount taken out of your paycheck)

- i. I'll still be in office till June 30: if you are having health insurance troubles, please email me and meet with me if you need someone to sit with you and provide support as you sift through paperwork.
 - i. Thanks to Nora Goldman and Jimiane Ashe for all their help, feedback, and support this year as the Health and Wellness Committee.
 4. Officer for Outreach (Saiful Saleem)
 - a. No report submitted or notification.
 5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho)
 - a. Wrapping up the year with the final meditation session on Wednesday the 25th at 7PM in 5414.
 - b. Working with OHW CT on Finals Relief Stations on Monday and Tuesday from 11-3.
 - i. In addition to the usual relief stations in the library with chair massages we are adding more relaxing fun in 5409. We will have mats and blankets for naps or meditation, fresh coffee and hot water for tea, aromatherapy station and soft music as well as ear plugs and safer sex supplies. Come visit before or after your massage.
 - c. We will also be hosting our final coffee hour of the semester on Wednesday before the meditation session on Wednesday starting at 5PM.
 - d. Wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.
 6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall)
 - a. Wireless printing is coming this summer for testing and fully in the fall
 - b. CITRIX going away
- VI. Announcements
 1. CS – thank you for this difficult decision. You've made it pleasurable to be here.
 2. Jen Tang (proxy for Anna Harb) – thanks to dedicated service and spirit of people working for DSC who are leaving their positions. Charlotte has been health and wellness for two years, keeping up the blog and letting us know about great resources, offering amazing workshops on food and nutrition. Also thanks to Teddy, Officer for Funding, for getting the most money going out of funding in the last five years and planning great workshops for students winning grants.
 3. DN – co-chairs also leaving but yay JP
 4. AM – if you didn't get a thank you gift, please pick one up
- VII. Adjournment
 1. Stephanie Vella (SV) motions to adjourn. Corinna seconds. Unanimously approved. Adjourned at 6pm.

Minutes submitted by Kyla Bender-Baird.