

Plenary Minutes September 16, 2016

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: Reethee Antony, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Rachel Bogan, Carol Brathwaite, Allison Cabana, Carlos Camacho, Rachel Chapman, Pablo Crespo, Erin Cully, Andi Cupallari, Maria del Rocio Carranza Brito, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Margit Edwards, Luke Elliott-Negri, Miranda Fedock, Rebecca Fullan, Ernesto Garcia, Jeannette Huaman, Emese Ilyes, Philip Johnson, Sean Kennedy, Raj Kochhar, Amy Martin, Dadland Maye, Marino Mugayar-Baldocchi, Michael Murphy, David Nagy, Jason Neilsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Javier Otero Peña, Yasmin Ozer, Alison Parks, Ana Perry, Jennifer Prince, Jeremy Randall, Jacob Russell-Madonia, Warner Sabio, Cecilia Salvi, Liza Shapiro, Hamad Sindhi, Iris Strangmann, Matthew Stuck, Charlotte Thurston, David Topel, Stephanie Vella, Alicen Weida, Janet Werther, Nicole Whalen, Tellisia Williams, Alexander Wood

Absent: Yuval Abrams, Ahmed Ahmed, Khalid Al Hilli, Chloe Edmondson, Ferzileta Gjika, Mohamad Hodeib, Toby Moody, Marcelo Nomura, Irena Parvanova, Robert Robinson, Sally Sharif, Gwen Shaw, Mikayla Zagoria-Moffet

Presenters: OpenCUNY, the Advocate, the Adjunct Project and the Executive Committee of the GC chapter of the Professional Staff Congress

OpenCUNY Coordinators Laurie Hurson and Paul Hebert explain what OpenCUNY is and present on the goals of OpenCUNY for this year.

Advocate's Editor in Chief Dadland Maye presents on the newspaper's goal for the year.

Adjunct Project Coordinators Sean Kennedy, Sheehan Moore and Rafael Mutis explain the mission of the Adjunct Project and present on their goals for the year.

The Executive Committee of the GC chapter of the PSC present information about the new CUNY-PSC contract, and take questions from representatives.

Hamad Sindhi (HS) calls the meeting to order at 5:42 PM

I. Approval of Agenda

1. HS moves to approve with emendations, moving item 5 to the number 1 spot under new business maintaining order of the rest. Carlos Camacho (CC) seconds. Approved unanimously.
- II. Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2016
1. Stephanie Vella (SV) moves to approval both sets of minutes (with minor changes). Amy Martin (AM) seconds. Approved unanimously.
- III. Executive Committee Reports
1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Cecilia Salvi)
 - a. Chartered Organizations
 - i. New Student Orientation went well- 7-8 Chartered Orgs and outside groups participated.
 - ii. I have sent out a greeting and reminder about deadlines to Chartered Org leaders.
 - iii. I am holding a meet and greet event for Chartered Org leaders on Sept 23. The goal is to elicit feedback, improve communication and increase activities.
 - iv. I've updated statuses and rosters for this semester. The first chartered org to become active this semester is: **Korean Students Association!**
 - v. I've received one application from the Collective of Critical Transport Scholars. I will put it on the agenda for next plenary, because I must verify registration of applicants (and they sent it in 8/30).
 - vi. I am working with another GC student to start an Ecocriticism group.
 - vii. I am working with the EC to remove one chartered org leader who is an alum but continues to use the office.
 - b. Dechartering Organizations
 - i. I must start the process to decharter **Greek Community**. It's for inactivity over 3 consecutive semesters. Greek Community has already given up its space.
 - c. Program Student Associations
 - i. I am working on an email to send to PSA leaders over the weekend.
 - ii. I will hold an informal gathering for them as well on Sept 23
 - d. Room Reservations
 - i. I met with Gayle Moynihan, Room Reservations Director. She gave me information on why students can only rent one time per event. 2 day rentals will cost 10% of actual outside rental costs. Roughly \$80-100 is my estimate. Weekend room reservations are no longer possible for GC rooms. Events must end at 9:30pm.
 - ii. If you are organizing a conference or all-day event, please email me first to see if a DSC or a GC room is a better choice for you. I am the

- only person who can contact room reservations for student-organized and led activities.
- e. Board of Trustees
 - i. I attended the BoT's Fiscal Affairs meeting on 9/7/16 and because it was an information only meeting, received information on enrollment statistics and the initial proposed budget. The university is making a case for why tuition increases are necessary.
 - ii. Up 3000 undergrad and down x grad students.
 - iii. Predictable tuition coming back up.
 - iv. Backpay is from senior college reserves and state funds.
 - v. I attended a meeting on the Expressive Conduct policy, led by General Council Shaffer, where he informed us of the changes to the policy, that are according to him, intended to protect and inform students, and are in line with 1st amendment rights, Henderson policy, and CUNY procedures over the years.
 - vi. GC granted \$25000, looking for volunteers to serve on committee, mostly for humanities. CS passes sign up sheet.
 - f. Graduate Council
 - i. Structure Committee met on 9/12 to review the language on presidential search committees, where the DSC advocated for at least one faculty member of 3 to be from the college campuses, and MALS and Computer Science program governance documents, which were both sent back for further revisions to their respective programs.
 - g. DSC
 - i. Alison Park, Teresa Ober and I met with AP to discuss their goals on 8/25.
 - ii. I also met with Tellisia Williams on 9/13 to discuss USS strategy.
 - iii. Former GTF co-chair Sean Kennedy and I met to discuss revamping an old student and EO survey on governance, and making it a yearly survey.
 - h. Questions
 - i. Erin Cully (EC) asks for more information on NEH? CS: Curriculum, data and partnership, it's a grant and we get to help to frame grant. Passes info sheet.
2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi)
- a. Co-Chair meetings:
 - i. Met with Matt Schoengood (Student Affairs) and John Flaherty (Public Safety) about the introduction of security cameras and CCTV in the building over the summer; JF explained that the impetus to add surveillance cameras began in 2008 right after the Virginia Tech shooting, at that time JF recommended that security cameras be installed on every floor and Bill Kelly approved the plan, he also recommended a host of other preventive measures like emphasis on

mental health services; due to budgetary constraints and slow movement of capital investment funds, JF did not get the money or equipment to fully implement the plan for the security cameras, until now, but scaled back the plan to only add cameras at elevator banks (including one near the freight elevator), some in the dining hall, some in the recital hall, some in the auditoriums, and some in the library; there are no cameras in the hallways or any that look into offices or classrooms, the cameras in the library, we were assured, will not be used to collect information on what books students borrow or websites they visit, JF also assured us that he would do his best to legally fight any subpoenas that ask for such information about students, Polly Thistlewaite was made aware of these cameras; JF said that he has policies in place that state how and for what purpose his staff will use the camera footage, and that these policies are very much informed by individual rights and standards of non-discrimination, he said he will publish these policies on the GC website and also invited us to comment on them; JF also acquiesced to our request that a community email be sent to the entire GC community about the placement of these cameras, where they are located, why they were placed there and include the policies of use and what rights community members have about being recorded by the cameras; we are coordinating with the GC PSC Chapter leadership about this issue as well, and will follow up with JF about recommendations in the policies about these security cameras

- ii. Met with Student Affairs on Sep 16th: MS updated that Dorothy Hartigan (director of the Childcare Center) has resigned, but Linda Perrotta the previous director who has gone into retirement has now taken over again; Doug Ewing, the director of the office of international students has retired, MS mentioned that a replacement has been chosen and will begin on Oct 3rd; be on the look-out for an email for Title IX training, which is not more geared toward grad students; also be on the lookout for an email on applying to conference presentation grants that will be sent out soon to all students, MS and Elise Perram promised a more streamlined and 'equitable' process for these applications; Scott Vorhees sent emails to ~400 students asking them to file a change of title form for health insurance, please file this form by next week to not lose health insurance; MS and EP are looking into alcohol purchasing policies for clarification on whether or not student activity fees can be used for this purpose

- b. DSC Executive Committee meetings:

- i. Executive Committee met on July 19th: discussed nominations for the UFS Liaison position and approved Teresa Ober for the vacancy (welcome Teresa!), however, Plenary will vote on a new UFS Liaison again today
 3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)
 - a. Movie tickets available. Check or Paypal. Restocking soon.
 - i. AMC now has Black tickets, \$1.25 increase but it's unrestricted. Zero sum item when it comes to budget.
 - b. Legal consults. Email CCB directly. Not through DSC website. One moved to We Work building across the street.
 - c. Email by Monday with program allocations. Just got finalized enrollment numbers. Send CCB a memo to discuss who of 2 reps will handle budget, etc.
 - d. No reimbursements for alcohol.
 - e. Questions:
 - i. Jennifer Prince (JP): how are enrollment numbers; LS: Less than projected.
 - ii. Rebecca Fuller (RF) follow up about alcohol. Discussed at ESA. Event held and alcohol purchased; LS: Reps were informed in May. Probably can't be reimbursed.
 - iii. DN: business office or a specific person? How can admin allow their alcohol, but not us using our student money to socialize. Is there a name? As we anticipate a response can we respond? LS: Info was passed down by series of higher ups in business office. Former CCB was informed. Someone retired. Their boss confirmed policy. Student activity is tax levied is their argument. We constantly fight that it is not. We met with Student Affairs today. Can ask for follow up. Currently there is no timeline.
 - iv. AM adds not a tax levy issue but their interpretation of state laws on student fees. HS responds that it's not about the law but tax levy status.
4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)
 - a. The USS Delegate and USF Liaison will work closely this year to strategically face issues before they come to the board of trustees and balloon into policies that hurt students. This will involve collaborating to combat issues such as tuition increases, and the expected return of the POLICY ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND EXPRESSIVE CONDUCT. The plan is to inform students in advance about proposed changes so we can protest effectively: attend board meetings, make flyers, inform programs, and be vocal.
 - b. I've met extensively with the Co-Chair for Student Affairs and former USS Delegate, Cecilia Salvi, as well as with the USF Liaison, Teresa Ober to strategize for best tactics and ways to support each other so we can present a united front to represent student interest. My plan is to catch wind of

issues early on, to inform students, mobilize, and push back. I will keep you up to date on issues as they develop.

- c. A General Council meeting was held today from 12-3:30. CS was able to attend.
 - d. The Board of Trustees Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday September 19th at 5:00 PM at Baruch College. If you would like to speak the deadline to sign up to testify was today before 4:30PM. Can still attend.
 - e. The first USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday, September 25th at 12:00PM at Guttman Community College.
5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober)
- a. The University Faculty Senate (UFS) is the only faculty governing body of the City University of New York
 - b. The first UFS plenary meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 20th.
 - i. Some agenda items include:
 1. The amendments to the "Policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct"
 2. Speakers include Chancellor Milliken, Provost Rabinowitz, and Vice Chancellor Schaeffer, the latter of whom will address the policy
 3. The 2016-2020 master plan for the university system has also recently been made public and can be found online
 - c. The first Board of Trustees meeting will take place on Monday, September 26th.
 - i. The agenda for the meeting has been posted online.
 - ii. The public hearing for the September 26th will take place next Monday (September 19th) starting at 5:00 PM.
 1. Members of the community who have signed up to speak, may present their views and concerns about agenda items for the meeting taking place the following Monday.
 - d. One of the agenda items for the BoT meeting, is the 2016-2020 CUNY Master Plan, which has been made available. It can be found online.
 - e. Questions:
 - i. JW is BoT open? TO: Not open to speak, but you can attend.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña)
 - a. Held first meeting on July 28, 2016. The total amount of funds for grants was set at \$17,550, so the maximum grant allocations were set to \$650 for regular grants, and \$200 for start-up grants.
 - b. We set the meetings for the Fall semester. Next meeting will be on October 4, for the September deadline (ending Friday 16 September at 11:59pm). So far, we have 7 grant requests totaling \$4,326. This is roughly one-quarter of the total allocation for grants for 2016-2017.

- c. The detailed information of the upcoming deadlines and meetings is available on the website.
 - d. One member of the grants committee stepped down, so we have a vacancy that we are looking to fill.
 - e. Remind your students these funds exist so they can be used by students. See website for more info.
 2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)
 - a. We currently have 67 live seats with 65 active members in good standing.
 - b. Special elections are currently being held in Biochemistry and Anthropology to fill these seats.
 - c. Reminder that programs that did not create a seat for 2016-2017 through the election ballot can still gain DSC representation via petition:
 - i. Audiology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Music Performance, Public Health, Social Welfare, Business, Engineering, Nursing, Physical Therapy
 - d. Questions:
 - i. JP wants to know if public health will get rep; HS - No they will not.
 - ii. Miriam Gabriel -Middle Eastern Studies making moves to hold special election; AP is in talks with the program's APO.
 3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Warner Sabio)
 - a. Committee meeting coming in October. Safer sex supplies bowl-see Warner to refresh. Some programs do not have, if want one see Warner.
 - b. Investigating Wellness Center, forthcoming appointment adjustments. More info to come.
 4. Officer for Outreach (Janet Werther)
 - a. We are looking for more members! Please sign up. Especially international and/or off-campus students
 - b. Looking forward to planning events: "what I wish I knew then," off-site student mixer with GTFs and Adjuncts
 - c. Other priorities: event for spouses & partners, infant care, working w/ad-hoc committee on gender neutral bathrooms, and ??? based on YOUR interests!
 - d. EMAIL ME! outreach@cunydisc.org
 - e. Questions:
 - i. DN has comment. Wants to dispel notion that women lose fertility. That info is old; JW: if women want to do that, and many do, want to have resources available
 5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho)
 - a. Setting up a committee meeting in the next week.
 - b. Planning on bringing back meditation workshops and expanded stress relief stations with expanded aromatherapy. Preferred scents can be suggested.
 - c. Coffee hours will be coming soon
 - d. Soy milk in the DSC lounge for student use

- e. Soap available for pantries on the floors
- f. Bringing a SLS website with
- g. Questions:
 - i. Alicen Hubert (AH). When meeting? CC: soon.
- 6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall)
 - a. Once server upgrades happen, the library will have more databases
 - b. NYPL has given us access to a ton of databases
 - c. Virtual printing is on track to be implemented soon-ish
 - d. SIGN UP FOR: <https://passwordreset.gc.cuny.edu/>

V. New Business

- 1. DSC 2016-17 Budget changes presentation
 - a. LS brings up budget and explains that the budget has to accommodate \$9844 due to contractual increases. Cuts from last semester are not enough. How do we deal with this unmanageable increase with new student numbers being lower and continuing to go down. This with contract changes leads to a serious conversation to keep us fiscally viable.
 - b. HS jumps in has possible solution. There is currently one line we cannot touch but we can change the rules saying that it cannot be changed.
 - i. Passed referendum in '05 to say they're willing to pay \$12/student extra for health care services. For context there was no insurance, no NYSHIP, no Affordable Care Act; increased fee for Nurse Practitioner in Wellness Center. Somewhere around \$90k to pay part of NP's salary. Low usage of NP; in 2014-2015 8% of students used it.
 - ii. There is a lot of money going there that goes to a small number of students and there is a cut to most things more students use. We want to reallocate these monies to be used partially elsewhere.
 - iii. Want to pass referenda to reallocate this money for the broader budget. Going to revisit bylaws and will iron out details. We need help. You have access to students in your programs. We need petition. 10%. About 300+ students. We need your help to do this.
 - c. LS adds that we are bringing this up now so you can ask questions, bring concerns, discuss with students. It's an all hands on deck situation. Everything is being gutted. We have a right to fight if we want to. Not an increase in the fee but reallocation.
 - d. JP: some money will pay stipends, where else do you want to see the rest of the allocated money; HS: more to more students. More legal services. More classes. Some teachers want to offer more classes and cannot. Could increase grants. There are more options.
 - e. Jacob Russell (JR) asks about a program allocation increase? LS: changing bylaws for that to happen. Could not just allocate but we could discuss adding.

- f. Sean Kennedy (SK) of Adjunct Project reminds Adjunct Project faced huge budget cut. We can't do things because of that. Only Affiliate to face that steep of a cut.
- g. AH: do we make referenda? HS: We make it and give it to you and then you get names. If each rep gets 10 people we have what we need.
- h. Rethee Antony (RA): 8% used NP 2 years ago, do we have numbers on students on NYSHIP, and non-NYSHIP, would this mean cuts or reductions. HS: this does not say we don't pay her. 20-30% of the 8% did not have health insurance. We recognize the importance. We don't want to be tied to 90k but we want to work
- i. IS: where is that data from; HS: the Wellness Center gave us the numbers
- j. LS adds we pay for some services instead of Wellness Center charging students.
- k. RP: are there other options besides referenda or scary budget; LS: will have to vote on that budget and DSC cannot work with that budget, we have a reserve fund. We can fill contractual need and then we owe money and we owe it next year. Can't pay it all back. Can't continue to take if there are other increases. Freeing these funds seems better.
- l. Janet Werther (JW): this is half, grad center pays other half, the GC should be paying for NP or giving NYSHIP to all. Many of us got insured so fewer folks use it. We live in major urban area with public hospitals with sliding scale providers. They have significant need but their budgetary proportion is unfair. We think people should get health care but we should not have to pay at this scale.
- m. JR: parties cut? Can we bring them back? LS: we had huge discussion on parties. We might have a dry party but nothing says we can't bring them back
- n. RP: can we increase the fee? HS: if we reallocate we there is no fee increase; RP if we increase the fee we wouldn't need to cut NP money; LS: we want to work with what we have first before increasing fees, but if students want we can increase fees
- o. DN - next meeting we vote? LS: we will see final budget. First we need to vote in December on NP; HS - we will vote next time. We will be in the red for the year. We can start petition ASAP if wanted. Will start at next plenary. Before spring elections we can do referenda.
- p. SK: reiterates what JW said. GC should be providing insurance. We are already exploited as students, we should not be funding this. Things changed since we first did this. We shouldn't ask students for more money for something students should already be receiving. This is a labor management issue, not just our issue. Might not be a contractual issue but we (Adjunct Project/Union) can discuss it.
- q. DN: what is the timeline outside of a referenda, depending on how body proceeds, we have to be prepared to frame this issue given we're raising

- wages and messing with fees; HS well aware of issue; timeline if no referenda, borrow from reserve
- r. DN: do we have to vote? HS: EC of College Association has to approve when we present in October.
 - s. JP: referenda cannot have impact in the semester passed. If we did it in the fall it goes into spring. If we do it in the spring the year does not change. Has that played into the discussions? HS: if we can get the signatures tomorrow. This depends on signatures.
 - t. Carol Braithwaite (CB): sounds logical and clear and the alternatives seem limited. Concern about one demographic; does this hurt international more than others or another specific group. Besides it being a labor issue. Compassionate way of dealing with that group. HS adds this is a DSC budget. You help pass this. You tell us the issue, you need to let us know how to allocate.
 - u. JR: Student Affairs gives us language then we use that, once we have we can start
 - v. AM: you mentioned timeline questions, need approval from President, is that for any time of year or at the normal time? HS approval needed if before elections
 - w. JW: paying 90k a year than we arguably should be paying less than 10k for the number of students proportionally
 - x. HS: we will come back with petition language at the Oct Plenary meeting
2. UFS Liaison election
- a. HS explains that the DSC Executive Committee appointed Teresa Ober, that as per DSC bylaws, the EC should appoint someone if the position vacated, and as per the same bylaws, DSC representatives can nominate and vote for this position again.
 - b. JP: can you clarify position for those who do not know
 - c. HS: they liaise with University Faculty Senate, but cannot vote there. They report back and keep us in the loop. Super important body. LS held previously.
 - d. LS: collaborates with USS because access to BoT needs to happen so we're aware; sent email to listserv about problematic proposed policy over the summer and faculty came through in BoT public hearing, UFS plenaries once a month, they sit on DSC EC, has stipend. 5kish
 - e. Nominations: JP nominates TO, she accepts
 - f. HS moves to elect TO with unanimous consent if no opposition. None noted. TO elected as UFS Liaison.
3. College Association student representative election
- a. HS explains that we need one person to fill slot.
 - b. College Association meets with DSC leaders and admins, to look at budgets, esp. DSC budget. Oversight body that looks at DSC budget. Would look at need to address reserve fund.

- c. JP adds one meeting a semester. Hour tops.
 - d. Charlotte Thurston (CT) nominates Carol Brathwaite (CB), CB accepts
 - e. HS moves to elect CB with unanimous consent if no opposition. None noted. CB elected as student representative to the College Association.
 4. De-chartering Greek Community Group chartered organization
 - a. Chartered org must be dechartered after 3 consecutive semesters of inactivity
 - b. AM: did you begin dechartering process at steering and give 30 days,
 - c. CS: Yes, and gave notice
 - d. HS moves to decharter Greek Community Group with unanimous consent if no opposition. None noted. Greek Community Group dechartered.
 5. Presentation of Constitutional Amendments III.2.1 and III.2.3 and Bylaw change 6.1c
 - a. Alison Parks presents changes
 - b. JP: Representatives is cut and shouldn't be. It's a typo.
 - c. AM: adds that first 2 changes were made so that bylaws were clear about order, with at large not having money power
 - d. DM: underline is new, cross out is out, unmarked is the same
 - e. DM: there is a lot of work done on this, legacy to protect, work to be clear, what are we creating, how can we gauge effectiveness of these changes, how will this affect future if people know these changes are made by this committee, what are we creating, could be argued that this is powerful committee altering roles of at large reps. Need to be careful. Who is punished if duty not met.
 - f. HS adds reminder. You can change this. Was suggested by constitution and bylaws committee, you can motion to change language, not just from one committee, you all participate in this
 - g. JP: this was in another part of the bylaws, adding language here, it's in there later but not here, the call-back is here, we're adding language but not sentiment, it comes from elsewhere
 - h. DM: thanks for the clarity, we need to consider suggestions, and think about division of powers if we don't have good committees, we don't want committees rampantly changing, given what you just said, given suggestions, think holistically and about future
 - i. AM want reps to know what they are, duties is the word used, you are responsible to people and outline them for reps, no one can see what they do, if they never contacted folks, and their students knew, they could recall their rep, not to create bureaucracy, we would not punish, not punitive, rather a list of roles responsibility

VI. Announcements

1. See CS to sign up for special grant committee
2. See JW to sign up for Outreach Committee
3. JOP looking for 2 people since TO elected and will leave Grants Committee

4. AP: please return clickers

VII. Adjournment

1. HS motions to adjourn, TW seconds. Passes unanimously.

Meeting ends at 7:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by Carlos Camacho.