

Admin.

**Plenary
 MINUTES
 March 17th, 2017**

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

EDLAB

Student Tech Fee

Present: Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Rachel Bogan, Carol Brathwaite, Allison Cabana (proxy Friederike Windel), Carlos Camacho, Rachel Chapman, Pierpaolo Cordone, Erin Cully, Stephanie DiBiase, Maria del Rocio Carranza Brito, Federico di Pasqua, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Chloe Edmondson, Margit Edwards, Luke Elliott-Negri, Miranda Fedock, Rebecca Fullan, Nicholas Glastonbury, Ian Haberman, Kerri-Leigh Heeseman, Jeannette Huaman, Emese Ilyes, Philip Johnson, Raj Kochar, Amy Martin, Marino Mugayar-Baldocchi, Michael Murphy, David Nagy, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Marcelo Nomura, Teresa Ober (proxy Charles Raffaele), Leann Osterkamp (proxy Anais Wong), Javier Otero Pena, Yasemin Ozer, Alison Parks, Irena Parvanova, Jennifer Prince, Robert Robinson, Jacob Russell-Madonia, Warner Sabio, Cecilia Salvi, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Iris Strangmann, Matthew Stuck, Charlotte Thurston, David Topel (proxy Jason Silva), Stephanie Vella, Alicen Weida, Janet Werther (proxy Jennie Youssef), Nicole Whalen, Tellisia Williams, Alexander Wood

Absences: Khalid Al Hilli, Reethee Antony, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Pablo Crespo, Andi Çupallari, Ernesto Garcia, Ferzileta Gjika, Julia Kolak, Sean Kennedy, Ana Perry, Jeremy Randall, Patty Sanchez

Cecilia Salvi (Chair) introduces the guest speaker: President Chase Robinson (CR)

CR will provide comments about where we are locally, at the state level, and at the national level. With him is Laurie Duggan-Gold (LDG), new VP for Communications and Public Affairs at the GC from Adelphi and currently working with Chase Robinson on the lobbying front.

In terms of local matters, Chase Robinson reports the following:

We have completed our strategic planning process with help from many faculty and students, including the DSC and it is now posted and available online. The point of the process was to produce a *plan* and this is an introduction to central ideas. The plan identifies four major priorities: integrating and fostering communities, building the sciences, events that highlight our public mission, and diversifying our resources.

Underpinning each priority are the same ideas: access, excellence, diversity, inclusion, the best environment we can create. The plan is going to be guiding all of the work that we do and gives shape to the development of new programs and now programs integrate with one another -- fostering greater interdisciplinarity.

The ASRC - a really important step in the history of the grad center. Built on the southern edge of the city college campus and featuring 5 scientific initiatives. Each has a director and faculty and core facilities and instrumentation laboratories to advance research and teaching in those areas. Would we (the GC) take responsibility of the ASRC (asked by chancellor)? We will, but it will be a complex operation. We're probably in the 3rd or 4th stage of what is a 10 or 12 stage process - it will probably be 6 months to a year before it is fully integrating. This will not be a financial drain on the Graduate Center. Two goals: Carry out great research; catalyze the scale of scientific inquiry across the campuses

Regarding the GC's position in the state context, Chase Robinson reports:

Politics in NYS are dominated by the budget process in March. A primer: begins with a draft of the executive budget (the governor's budget) - posits the governor's bargaining position. The Senate and the Assembly also submit their budgets for negotiation. Between now and April 1, the differences in the three budgets - \$150 billion dollars to deal with - will be negotiated. The stakes for CUNY in this negotiation process are very high.

Our prospects look better this year than they do last year. Judging by the 3 budgets, it may be that we will do better in FY 2018 than we did this year. CUNY has been working hard to make the case for higher education. After many years we finally signed a contract late last year that came into effect early this year, which can be seen as a commitment by the state to higher education (based on the fact that the retroactive pay was built into the executive, senate, and assembly budgets). This is a good sign. But there is also the ongoing costs of the contracts - an annual liability of about 68 million USD. It's not clear where this money will come from right now, which is a concern of the CUNY presidents and deans across the campuses. We're planning for cuts, but we've also been extremely conservative in spending. If you haven't heard about new hires, funding streams, initiatives, that is because we cannot afford it. Unlikely that there will be any additions to our budget (anticipate 0 USD to be added).

Regarding the national context, Chase Robinson reports:

We are operating as a public education institution. I want to thank the DSC and many students, faculty, and staff for advocating for Saira Raifee, a GC student caught in the first iteration of the travel ban. We now find ourselves with a new travel ban, which although it has not gone into effect because of the court interventions in Hawaii and Maryland may still affect us. In my own view this is "old wine in a new bottle" - it is impossible to separate the effects of the ban the intentions of the ban, though the intentions are also fairly clear. The travel ban is part of a larger political agenda which is "problematic" for who we are as a university - 40% of CUNY students are immigrants and over 60% are the children of immigrants. One cannot appreciate what this university, or this city, is absent the great project of immigration and diversity. We are working in a climate which makes this project more difficult, that imperils this project. It is deeply regrettable, we are doing everything we can legally, politically, and intellectually to ensure that the ban on the ban is not made permanent. We are also dealing with an unprecedented time period. We are dealing with a context in which a context has threatened to cut the National Endowment for the Arts, which displays the attitude for education. We believe that education is a great investment, the most important and we are trying to advocate that

Questions:

Nick Glastonbury (NG; Anthropology): You said that you are doing "all that you can" regarding the travel ban, but I was wondering what concrete steps you are taking to make sure that the same thing that happened to Saira doesn't happen again? Furthermore, I've been meeting with international students and there are concerns that the administration at the Graduate Center hasn't communicated a strong enough commitment to protect international students.

CR: I appreciate the question, though I am surprised, but why should I assume that what we are doing is as widely as known as it ought to be. Two to three weeks ago, the provost sent out a summary of all the steps we've taken thus far.

LDG: The steps we have taken are posted on our new site. A legal clinic with Citizenship Now took place and a link will be posted on the online portal. We issued a new statement on the second travel ban and we have now a site with links to all the resources in one spot.

CR: It seems that universities are singled out in this particular issue, so I appreciate any suggestions with ways in which we can make our position more emphatic. Send me an e-mail, send the Provost an e-mail, with specific ideas.

Carol Braithwaite (CB; MALS): There is some speculation that the nurse practitioner at the Graduate Center may not be returning next year. If there are no on-campus services provided to graduate students, where can we go? While this is a concern among master's students in particular, some doctoral students may also be uninsured. Particularly in the face of changes to the health care systems, where can students (uninsured or not) go for reliable and inexpensive health services?

Chase Robinson: I'm not aware of the speculation, but I will get to the bottom of it. I'm not aware of it. IF there would be a change in the status of the nurse practitioner, we would ensure that there was healthcare.

Chloe Edmonson (CE; Theater): We've seen some progress, including signs being moved to the outside of the bathrooms. I've been working on this for over a year, and it had been worked on for four years before that and we've been working on the issue of the first-floor bathroom, which is used by not just students and faculty, but also any members of the public who come in performances and other public events. We want a timeline because this doesn't interfere w/ building codes and there are funds available; so we need a concrete timeline from administration. What other steps will the admin take to advocate for our transgender community?

CR: This answer embarrasses me because it refers to a capital flow problem in CUNY budgeting system. Funding for this project was approved five years ago (maybe half a million/million dollars). You learn that this is approved and then you have to begin to work on it. I've asked facilities for a timeline. It's gone out to bid, or a project scale hasn't been approved or the architects are working on it or landmarks need to be approved. I can get back to you with a timeline, which will show much progress. I design has been made. Maybe an architect and a contractor have been chosen, but the delays that have hindered the elevators and the 9th floor are hindering this project as well. In terms of the larger question, I'm keen to hear more ideas about. The larger question is the question I'm more keen to hear ideas about, it's in the brief on the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, chaired by Matt Ruck. . There are discussions happening all the time, and I'm glad to hear other ideas.

Cecilia Salvi (CS, Anthropology): When can we expect that timeline

CR: Within a week. The info is there, we just have to find it.

Erin Cully (EC; History): In the past, you have repeatedly said, and the sentiment was echoed by the Provost, that you would like to extend tuition remission beyond the 5th year, but that there are not adequate funds available. What concrete steps are you taking toward securing funding for tuition remission for all GC students?

CR: There isn't really an update. Where do the resources for tuition remission come from? We have a budget for tuition waivers that is a CUNY-wide budget. Not only have I had no success in asking for more tuition waivers, I've been told that we're taking too high of a percentage of tuition waivers so I'm fighting to keep the ones that we have. We understand conceptually that there is a gap, between the 5th year and the dissertation funding. We realize that very few students in the Social Sciences and humanities don't finish in 5 years. The average finish time is 7 to 8 year and we can't provide dissertation fellowships to 100% of the people, but we are working to fill these gaps. We give 70-80 dissertation fellowships a year but that's really no more than 25% of those that

CS: Emphasizes the importance of tuition. Based on a DSC survey of students, we have found that this is the most important issue.

Cassandra Barnes (CaB; MALS): CUNY GC has lowest percentage of POC and women faculty. Your administration has promised a commitment to diversity since your year as interim President. Yet, the most recent Faculty Diversity Report (4th quarter for 2016), indicates that as of fall 2015, the Graduate Center had the lowest percentage of full-time minority faculty of all of the CUNY campuses, with 16.3%, and the lowest percentage of women faculty, with 34.2%, of the entire faculty body. How many faculty hires have you committed to over the past two years that were specifically faculty of color, women faculty, and/or women of color faculty; how much funding have you raised for and how much of the budget have you set aside for targeted faculty hiring of women of color, other faculty of color, and other women faculty for this year; and how much do you intend to grow this commitment over the next 5-10 years. Please indicate specific numbers or percentages.

CR: I don't have all of that information. These are perfectly reasonable questions. The purpose of the committee is to think about diversity in terms of faculty, staff, student, and climate. Faculty hires is one piece of several. We've hired 6 faculty in the last year: 3 are women and 2 are faculty of color (from memory, but I think it's accurate). Everyone on the 8th floor understands that it's a priority, we set up a committee, we set up a targeted funding model. We've increased the number of fellowships to students from underrepresented groups, the number of white students has gone from about 63 percent to about 60 percent so we are making some progress. Faculty diversity is a tough area, and because we tend to hire at the senior level recruitment at this level is extremely, extremely difficult. I hope at the end of the year we'll have some recommendations, some of which will endorse what we are doing but also expand on them

Jen Prince (JP, HLBLL): Given your long-standing commitment to shared governance, and in the interest of consistent application throughout the GC, will you create an opportunity for students to collaborate in the revising the Handbook each year?

CR: I didn't even know that that was a problem.

JP: The handbook lays out the policies that impact how students operate in their programs and right now it's being written and revised unilaterally without student input.

CR: Please address the question to Matt Schoengood.

Dominique Nisperos (DN; Sociology): Thank you for your commitment to supporting our colleague Saira Rafiee and her funding when she was barred from reentering the US at the beginning of this semester based on the initial and unconstitutional travel ban signed into executive order by Donald Trump. What can you do to ensure that such a commitment will be transposable to other and anticipatable contexts in our current political climate? In other words, what are you doing to make such a commitment to regular GC policy into the future, and flexible enough to respond to the capriciousness of our government?

CR: We could do a better job in publicizing what we are doing and I entertain, as well as Laurie and the Provost, suggestions about making it more apparent how strongly we will in terms of advocating in a general sense and also advocating for students.

DN: So you're committing to not take away funding from students who are impacted.

CR: We have already done that - we have guaranteed the funding even though they cannot be here to do that. But circumstances do change from student to student.

DN: So you're making a commitment to ensure this?

CR: We certainly hope so. We offer sympathy and support and resolve to students, but it is all contingent on individual students' circumstances.

CS calls the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

Alison Parks (AP, Political Science) moves to approve the agenda with the following emendations: Add new business item number 1 "ratification of new members" and move the other new business items down one position; motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 3rd, 2017

Irena Parvanova (IP; Biology) moves to approve minutes as written. Kristopher Eckelhoff (KE; Muisic) seconds; motion passes unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Cecilia Salvi, ccsa@cunydisc.org)
 - Thank you to everyone who nominated and voted. The nomination process is open until March 20. If your program hasn't had any nominations, you will receive an email from me asking you to send her names of people.
 - We reviewed the Sociology document at Structure committee, which has been an issue because of faculty structural issues. We informed the Structure committee of GTF recommendations.
 - If you are travelling internationally you *must* purchase travel insurance to get your funding.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi, ccc@cunydisc.org)
 - Reporting on the last Grad Council meeting: There's a new strategic plan on the website. Chase basically said all of the things he said here tonight. He talked about the budget, especially the Excelsior Scholarship. He introduced the new VP of Communications. Theater and HLBLL changed their names to 'Theater & Performance Studies' and 'Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures'. We voted to implement a new grade at the grad center, the WU, which existed at the other campuses but now exists here and it is a punitive grade. Two new master's degree programs in International Migration Studies and Data Science are coming as well. Kate Conway gave an update on what the UFS is doing and it seems that the main push is for more online education. There's also a shared governance conference coming soon.
 - The Co-Chairs met with Student Affairs today and Student Affairs and Chase are going to put the Citizenship Now event online, on the GC website, editing out sensitive stuff. The DSC will link to it when it is available. They also insinuated that lawyers are saying "if you don't have to travel to the 6 countries, try not to." Navigating NYSHIP has returned: there will be one on March 31. The nurse practitioner is officially on disability leave and the anticipated return date is May 1. There may be also be good news on the alcohol front.
 - Questions:
Alison Weida (AW; French): Repeat the name of the group who will be posting the videos online; HS: Citizenship Now and the Office of International Students
Jennifer Prince (JP; HLBLL): Can you tell me what my program's name is? HS: Program in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro, ccb@cunydisc.org)
 - Goes over deadlines for Receipt Submissions: Grants: May 25, Program Associations: June 1, and Chartered Orgs: June 8th
 - Presents ways to spend program allocations: Student conferences, honoraria (not for CUNY faculty), gifts for APOs (no gift cards), furniture, art, decoration, supplies for tea/coffee, coffee makers, books for shared student use, food for social gatherings.

4. USS Delegate (Tellsia Williams, uss@cunydisc.org)
 - a. Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion met on January 28th Guest speaker, Provost Connolly spoke on faculty recruitment and hiring; There are currently no hires at the GC because of budget constraints; Some departments are doing "soft searches"; Meeting potential candidates but no current offers given; GC is looking to hire more Junior Level faculty; By junior level she is referring to people coming up for Tenure; GC is committed to diversity, look at the Strategic Plan; Committee members voiced concern about the lack of commitment to diversity hires at this institution; The letter expressing concerns regarding diversity and central line hires at the GC was sent to Joy on Friday at 4:29 pm with 7 faculty and student signatures. Receipt of the letter was acknowledged and it was indicated that a response will be forthcoming; Interested in starting a DSC Ad-hoc student committee to work with the three students currently on this advisory committee; Ideally we would like to open this up for any GC student to sit on; Want to prioritize student of color voices on this committee
 - b. USS Budget Request: USS approved my request to co-sponsor the Global Perspectives on the Fight for Higher Education (the Future's Initiative event was widely attended last Monday, March

6th); USS approved my request for \$520 to fund the massage therapists at the Health and Wellness Festival; USS approved my request for \$1,200 for a DSC Social Event; Pending requests include \$1,500 for Legal Consultations and \$4,500 for a Diversity Conference in October; I'm currently working on another request for Women in STEM.

- c. USS Scholarship: On March 6th the USS scholarship committee approved my request to change the language on the packet that would limit Graduate applicants to 24 credits max; Packets were reissued to schools detailing this change; Please advise students in your program to apply for this funding opportunity
 - d. Sunday, March 12th USS Plenary held at Guttman @ 12PM: Chair's Report focused on BOT changes to the bylaws that will impact how funds are spent; This proposed bylaw change will treat all university money the same; This is an issue because the tax levy procedures to purchase things takes months/years and this can hinder student government; Update: this Revised Procurement Policy passed affecting students at Hunter College, the GC, and the USS; Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs report; Focused on the NY State Budget Fiscal Year 2018; Presents a resolution responding to Governor Cuomo's cuts to student aid; Resolution passes and is adopted by USS. Aligning USS agenda items to legislation; CUNY USS Resolution: New York State Budget Fiscal Year 2018 CUNY Allocations; Next USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday, April 9th.
5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober, ufs@cunydsc.org)
- a. TO was not present, but the report was read by Hamad Sindhi.
 - b. The last UFS Plenary was held on Tuesday, February 7th. The next plenary meeting of the UFS will be (March 28). The agenda items for the upcoming meeting are still forthcoming.
 - c. In other UFS news, there was an UFS Enrollment Management Council meeting held in late February. According to the report: Authorization has been granted to hire a University Registrar. This appears to fit with a CUNY-wide plan to centralize admission and student enrollment. Stay tuned; Still no confirmation as to whether CUNY is going to schedule a makeup day for the 'snow day' on Thursday (February 9) and most recently on Tuesday (March 14); The report included a fairly updated report on the Excelsior Scholarship, which is expected to cost the State approximately \$163million to fund students who would be eligible to attend CUNY and SUNY on a tuition-free basis, at this time, it sounds as if remedial credits would not count towards the 30credits/year (or 15credits/semester) that students must take to qualify, nor would summer and winter credits or College Now credits, transfer students may qualify if they are on track, by CUNY Central's analysis, less than 5K current students would meet all qualifications, at the time of the meeting, it was reported that Assembly and Senate are considering counter-proposals, mostly to increase eligibility and the amount of TAP available, with respect to how this might affect adjuncts, the expected increase in enrollment is anticipated to generate demand for an additional 800 new sections. While it is only speculative, with funding tight for full-time hires, one might anticipate that this increased demand for undergraduate course sections will create more need for adjunct hires; During the meeting, there was also mention of CUNY's current position on the Presidential Executive Order on Immigration; Since the order was held off by the federal courts, requests by the government for information on non-F-1 visa students would first require a court order. This was mentioned to suggest that it is not an immediate issue for CUNY; however, we encourage you and others to stay vigilant as this may change.
 - d. The next Board of Trustees Meeting would take place on May 1 at 4:30 PM, with the hearing scheduled on Wednesday, April 19 at 5:00 PM.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña)
 - a. LAST DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS TONIGHT AT 11:59pm.
 - b. Total amount left for future requests in 2017: \$6,416.
 - c. So far, we have received 6 grants for \$650, for a total of \$3900. There is a pending review/resubmit grant for \$650. Total money requested: \$4550. Unless more grants are submitted before tonight's deadline, we have a remainder of \$1866.

- d. New member of the Grants Committee: Jason Nielsen (English Program).
 - e. Funding opportunities project: ongoing conversations to make a website using a similar format than the recently inaugurated Student Life & Services website, which would allow students and faculty to share funding opportunities with students more easily.
 - f. Tellingia Williams (TW; Psych): What happens if we don't spend the remaining \$1,866?
 - g. Liza Shapiro (LS; Comp Lit): If we have money left, it will go back into the rest of the budget.
2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)
- a. We have 68 lives seats and 65 active members and we will be ratifying two new members during new business.
 - b. No C&B updates at this time.
3. Officer for Health & Wellness (David Nagy)
- a. This semester the Health and Wellness Committee will be holding *two* "Navigating NYSHIP" events. Health insurance can be very confusing to us, so the purpose of these workshops is to give detailed information as to precisely how it works and answer any questions people may have. Scott Voorhees, the NYSHIP liaison, and Elise Perram, the contact for non-NYSHIP insurance, have kindly agreed to lead these workshops. The first one will be on **Friday March 31** from **2-3:30pm**; the second will be on **Thursday May 4** from **3:30-5pm**, and both will be in room **5409**. We will be advertising for the March event over the next two weeks, and I ask for your help in this. Please take a flyer and put it in your department lounge; in addition, if you know of anyone (particularly 1st-years) who would benefit from this workshop, let them know.
 - b. In addition to the Navigating NYSHIP workshops, the Health & Wellness Committee is also planning on holding a mental health information workshop and a substance abuse workshop. Details on both of these will be forthcoming.
 - c. I'll be talking about this more in April, but the GC's annual Wellness Festival will be on **Tuesday May 2** from **10am-4:30pm**, on the Concourse level. There will be lots of information available there on health-related matters, so please attend if you can! In addition, we will be providing massage services (paid for by a USS grant) from **12:30pm-4:30pm**. These will be reserved on a **first-come/first-served** basis on the **day** of the event, so make sure to come early if you want one!
 - d. Scott Voorhees has informed us that he's received the adjunct payroll transfers from the three adjuncts teaching at Hostos, and they will now be placed on the GC payroll, with their first pay date for NYSHIP on March 30.
 - e. Apparently there have been issues in the past with Restaurant Associates (who run the food court and the café on the 1st floor) not properly labelling their vegetarian items or their potentially-allergic items. I looked myself a few weeks ago and it seems to be fine now, but if it becomes an issue again, please contact me. You can also take a picture or something and tweet it at their twitter, @RACorporate (or I'll do it if you send it to me).
 - f. As a reminder: In the past, there have been "Safer Sex Point People," whose job is basically to inform me if their program's lounge runs out of safe sex materials. No one has contacted me about this since the last meeting, so I'll say again: if you'd be interested in being one of these, or know someone who would be, please contact me.
 - g. Questions were raised at the previous Plenary regarding increasing our variety of safer sex items; I haven't been able to look into that yet, but I will before next month's Plenary. In the meantime, please email me if you have any questions or requests in this area.
 - h. Finally, as you know our budget situation is pretty tight, which limits the amount of services we can provide to students. For that reason, I want to make the following request: if your program will not use their entire DSC allocation before the end of the semester, and would be willing to help fund H&W events, please contact me. We will credit your department as a co-sponsor if you do.
 - i. Questions:

JP: What about the Twitter handle that RA created just for the Graduate Center? Do you know if it's still active? DaN: I can check on that and let you know at the next plenary - I don't know if it's still active.

4. Officer for Outreach (Nick Glastonbury)
 - a. We have received communications from international students expressing concerns over what the graduate center is and is not doing. Last week I met with Linda Aasro to talk about this. Students have been sending me resources that other campuses have been using and the website that the graduate center has created is very user unfriendly and contains links to Chase Robinson's remarks on the issue and there seems to be a qualitative difference in the types of materials that we are providing versus what other schools are providing. NG raised this question to the office of communications and they seemed nonplussed. We discussed this with the EC of the DSC and we'll be using DSC platforms to publicize resources that the GC will not commit to publicizing.
 - b. CS and NG organized a workshop with CUNY Clear that's going to be dealing with immigration and legal resources on Wednesday April 5 at 6:30 PM.
 - c. Regarding the Outreach Committee - we have hit a roadblock so if you are housed at another campus or an international student, please reach out to me.
 - d. Questions:
Miranda Fedock (MF; Music): Where is the immigration event happening? NG: It will be in one of the DSC rooms (5414 or 5409).
Rachel Chapman (RC; Urban Ed): Will the website you discussed be sharable? NG: Yes, I want it to be accessible and open to everyone to submit to.
5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho)
 - a. March's origami workshop was a huge success. There were wonky tulips and butterflies! We have a follow up in 5409 on April 21st at 2PM
 - b. If you're interested in co-sponsoring as a Chartered Org or Program please email me
 - c. The discount and housing website is live. Please tell your constituents so they can be remain current and useful opencuny.org/services
 - d. Salsa classes coming with co-sponsorship from Sociology
6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall)
 - a. IT Meeting on March 1st; I couldn't attend but compiled notes repeat what we heard at STF.
 - b. Webprinting is on its way (after rebranding).
 - c. For the new computers, it is the standard annual bills then library concerns then new computers
 - d. CUNY1st is still coming in May. Though rather than saying "May 15," now saying "May" vaguely.
 - e. CS: Currently the GC has something like 650 computers and we don't have the money to replace them so if a computer is broken it has to be moved from another location
 - f. Questions:
DN: I've reached out to Jeremy about this about getting back email forwarding Outlook back? CS: Takes a room poll and it looks as though this is an issue for about 1/3 of plenary
Raj Korpan (RK; Comp Sci): There is a way to set up email forwarding but it is a complicated process so I would be happy to set up for some people.

IV. New Business

1. Ratification of new members
Classics program and Women and Gender Studies program petitions to create new seats were approved by Steering. Seats were created to be filled by Federico DePasqua (FDP; Classics) and Stephanie Debiase (SD; Women and Gender Studies). AP moves to ratify these members. Jeannette Huaman (Biology) Seconds. Motion passes.
2. Presentation of revised DSC 2016-2017 budget

- a. LS: We may have more money than anticipated - up to \$40,000 - and so I am presenting it now so that if we find out that we are able to use the money, we'd be able to approve it in April and then spend the money. We are trying to think of ways to put money into things. If we had this money I propose we give \$1,000 extra dollars to H&W; the steering committee budget would go up (this money is very flexible and is used to plug in other budget holes); chartered organizations being increased to \$18,000 (which is closer to what they actually spend); we added \$8,000 to the childcare center, which is how much we used to give; I've added more to legal consultations; funds for events for the adjunct project because they're doing a lot of co-sponsoring events with many other groups including CUNY Struggle and more money for printing and supplies; we'd also give more to the advocate for printing and supplies and more money for freelance; more money to OpenCUNY for events, the server, and supplies; money for postage; the meetings budget is also being increased (more food); social media correspondent line was added (it used to exist to fund a position for international students); the outreach committee would also get more money and it would allow us to take back the money we took from the reserve fund to cover the contractual increases.
 - b. Questions:
Marcelo Nomura (Physics): When will we find out if we have to pay Mount Sinai or not? LS: Sharon Lerner has been asking Mount Sinai for a date and we haven't heard back, but we are hoping that we will know by the next plenary. Because if we get the money, this budget is the one that we will be voting on in April for the rest of the fiscal year.
3. "Anti-hate Pedagogy Committee" chartering (voting item)
- a. CS: Name changed to social justice pedagogy committee. Statement of purpose updated as well. [Read by Cecilia Salvi]; The Constitution has not been changed, and the proposed co-chair (Karen Lepri) is not here to provide further explanation; CS presents the criteria for chartering a new chartered organization
 - b. Stephanie Vella (SV; Theater) : Can you tell us what disciplines the organizers are from? CS: Karen Lepri is from English, cannot verify the others.
 - c. CB: Can you explain why the name was changed? CS: Based on the discussion after plenary.
 - d. RK: Can anyone who attended the event talk about it? Jason Nielson (JN; English): There were about 30 students there - it was co-sponsored by several groups.
 - e. TW: Can you describe the types of students there, and whether there was sufficient diversity there? Was it segregated? JN: There were people from 7 or 8 programs. There were two designated groups, one that identified as white and one that identified as "people of color." CS: There were two different spaces? Gwen Shaw (GS; Art History): There were breakout sessions for people who identified with different groups and then there were collaborative. JN: There were approximately fifteen people in each group.
 - f. DN: I'd like to address more questions to the organizer of the group and would like to know why she isn't here. CS: I heard from her last night, she didn't say why she couldn't attend.
 - g. DN: I'm curious as to why they're seeking chartered org status and not a grant for events which we have money for? I asked at the last meeting about whether they investigated other chartered organizations and it doesn't appear that they have now.
 - h. GS: I think that there should be an institutional lift to support this kind of stuff.
 - i. Carlos Camacho (CC; Sociology): Directs the body to the email sent by Karen Lepri after the February plenary.
 - j. KE: Was this cosponsored by the Futures Initiatives? Javier Otero Pena (JOP; Psychology): We did receive a grant request from Karen and she cancelled it once she found out she got funding from the Futures Initiative.
 - k. Rebecca Fullan (RF; English): Reads the description for the event, and argues that this explains why they created segregated groups for the event. The reasoning was that these groups have different needs. Funding for the workshops was provided by ARC, English Dept, TLC, and the Futures Initiatives.
 - l. KE: To answer Javier's question about why there is a lot of hostility toward this, a friend of mine is the only woman of color on the Futures Initiative and is excluded from events within the

- organization and they have no plans to bringing on more people and they have published racist material in the past and they do not respond to critique.
- m. TW: My comment is related to KE's point. At the last plenary, a great deal of concern was raised about whether there were people already doing this work. The first criteria is that there can't be a group already doing work and Karen hasn't proven that there's not.
 - n. Jacob Russell (JR; Math): Moves to table the discussion on this item. JOP seconds the motion to table.
 - o. CS opens the floor for discussion on tabling the motion.
 - p. Hamad Sindhi (HS; Sociology): If we table this, will we invite them to join us? Maybe ask for more information between now and then? Can we come up with a list with more follow up information? CS: I told Karen when the meeting was being held and have provided her all the information she needs to respond.
 - q. RK: I feel like we have already received enough information and that we shouldn't table because we won't change our minds.
 - r. DaN: The concerns that were raised tonight were raised at the last plenary, we did not get new information and that is why I am against tabling.
 - s. Amy Martin (AM; French): I would like to point out that the first bullet point is meant to refer only to other chartered organizations and that question wasn't answered and it could be answered more specifically whether she contacted people in other chartered orgs about whether they are doing this specific work. In favor of tabling.
 - t. CS: Seeing no more discussion, I call the question to a vote. 30 votes in favor of tabling; 21 against; motion fails. Returning to the original question, CS moves to charter the organization. IP seconds.
 - u. CS: Is there any discussion?
 - v. JN: This wasn't a future initiatives event. Also, Karen reached out to other program reps and people didn't respond.
 - w. KE: In solidarity with all the people of color who have expressed opposition to this, we should stand against this chartering because this would essentially be giving more money to white leaders instead of empowering more leaders of color.
 - x. JP: The criteria that needs to be discussed is whether it advances the needs of the ideals of the DSC? This would be a commitment to fund semester by semester this organization and what they could potentially do in the future and that should be the way that this conversation should be framed.
 - y. CB: I'd like to raise the question about issues that have been raised before, and I have no emotion going on and this is that people are looking for issues of transparency and clarity and I think that these issues should be addressed in order to move forward with chartering.
 - z. Iris Strangman (IS; SLHS): I have a question about the voting process - what happens if we do not get the votes required. AP: We need 41 votes in favor to charter this organization. If they don't get those votes, they don't get chartered.
 - aa. DN: My reservations are multiple and also they are related to the mission of the DSC. We have a history of being political and for standing up for students and advocating for them. Since the Trump election, white people are coming out to fight for things and not centering POC efforts that have been working on these issues for ages. The way that they segregated the groups into White, POC, and mixed gives me pause because it shows that they are not thinking critically about race issues. We also need to think about the ways that in chartering organizations we are giving cultural capital to those who start them.
 - bb. TW: With an air of transparency: the issue was raised that we shouldn't look at past events, but this group's mission is to promote pedagogy and anti-hate, but what kind of workshops are they actually putting on that will be support this mission.
 - cc. EC: If we vote no on this, could they bring it back? CS: They could bring it back and present it again.
 - dd. MN: Does the CCSA know of any groups that deal with this? CS: There are groups that do deal with issues of critical race....including Women of Color in Science and several others

- ee. Alexander Wood (AW; Comp Sci): It makes sense to me having a POC only space to discuss race issues but not having some voice to interject in a white only space in a white led event is something to think about.
 - ff. JOP: How does this negate the efforts of others instead of adding up? I think that we should be considering the mission and not the event that had happened.
 - gg. CS: Because it is my job that we are not going around in circles, I'd like to point out that it is absolutely central to consider all of the events that this group has conducted in the past. I am going to give priority to those on stack that didn't speak yet, and ask that those who have already spoken do not speak unless they are adding something new.
 - hh. LS: It troubles me that when Karen presented the group, Dominique and others advised her specifically to reach out to other chartered organizations and she reached out to programs, which suggests that she didn't consider that suggestion seriously or just overlooked by someone who chose to go about it another way. It seems that the language of this group is being framed as a pedagogy group and setting that up in terms of racial justice so the group would be repeating in some ways things that some groups are doing, but they are thinking of themselves as different because of the pedagogy aspect.
 - ii. AW: Does this group already exist? CS: No, not as a chartered org. AW: But they exist? CS: They exist but they do not have DSC recognition, access to our resources, or social capital that comes with recognition.
 - jj. Phillip Johnson (P; Political Science): Points out the issue our "imagined privilege" [in their mission statement] of us as graduate students is a way of saying that they do not acknowledge that we all have privilege.
 - kk. CS Calls the question to a vote. 0 in Favor, with 10 Abstentions (RC; JR; Ian Haberman, Economics; JN; Nichole Whalen, Philosophy; RF; EC; RK; IS; JOP), the rest are against. Motion fails.
4. "Make CUNY Free Again Law" Referendum Petition (Presented by David Nagy, Philosophy)
- DaN: If we get 30,000 signatures from registered voters in NYC, we can get this referendum on the Ballot.
- CB: Is this something that will be circulated among the programs by the APOs or is that inappropriate?
- DaN: We haven't thought of that, right now it's just been a student to student thing, but it's a good idea.
- LS: You are collecting physical signatures, correct?
- DaN: Yes they have to be physical signatures.
- JR: How did you determine that the tax is enough to cover the costs?
- DaN: I haven't done the math myself, but I've read that the budget has a surplus that would cover this and the wording is vague we could raise it to needed levels.
- JN: How long do we have?
- DaN: Until sometime in June.
- MF: Is it possible to circulate this?
- DaN: Yes! Send me an email and I'll distribute it to you.

VI. Announcements

CS: Thank you all for participating in shared governance.

EC: The PSC elections are coming up and we have a slate vote coming up and it's a mail in ballot they are going out April 1 and voting will begin on April 4 and the voting ends on April 24.

VII. Adjournment

CS moves to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent. No objections noted. The meeting is adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Minutes submitted by Alison Parks.