

**Plenary
MINUTES
April 21st, 2017**

Plenary

Executive Committee

Present: Khalid Al Hilli, Reethee Antony, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Rachel Bogan, Carol Brathwaite, Carlos Camacho, Andi Çupallari, Rachel Chapman, Erin Cully, Maria del Rocio Carranza Brito, Federico di Pasqua, Chloe Edmondson, Margit Edwards, Philip Johnson, Sean Kennedy, Raj Kochar, Julia Kolak, Amy Martin, Marino Mugayar-Baldocchi, Michael Murphy, David Nagy, Jason Nielsen, Teresa Ober, Javier Otero Pena, Yasemin Ozer (Proxy Ola Galal), Alison Parks, Irena Parvanova, Jennifer Prince, Robert Robinson, Jacob Russell-Madonia, Warner Sabio, Ana Perry, Jeremy Randall, Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Iris Strangmann, Matthew Stuck, Charlotte Thurston, Stephanie Vella, Tellisia Williams, Alexander Wood

Steering Committee

Absences: Allison Cabana, Pierpaolo Cordone, Pablo Crespo, Stephanie DiBiase, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Luke Elliott-Negri, Miranda Fedock, Rebecca Fullan, Ernesto Garcia, Nicholas Glastonbury, Ian Haberman, Kerri-Leigh Heeseman, Jeannette Huaman, Emese Ilyes, Dominique Nisperos, Marcelo Nomura, Leann Osterkamp, David Topel, Janet Werther, Nicole Whalen, Alicen Weida

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Guest speaker: Adrienne Klein (AK), from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (Director of Special Projects and Research Integrity Officer)

Outreach

Edith Gonzalez (EG), who was scheduled, can't speak because she's helping with the March for Science tomorrow.

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

EDLAB

Student Tech Fee

AK: Grant opportunities are more numerous for people in the sciences, and we're in challenging times for any funding at all. Let's hope we can keep federal funding sources robust and that foundations will pick up the slack. The word "Sponsored" in the name of the office refers to activities sponsored by external funds that are rewarded by the university. The office itself does not have money; they facilitate grant applications. (CUNY does have something akin to a bank, the Research Foundation, so that they hold money at an arm's length & don't have conflict of interest.) They also help us navigate the contracts associated with grants. Here is the website: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Research-Sponsored-Programs>. To find it, you can go to the Graduate Center homepage (<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/>) and then go to "About GC," then "Provost's Office." Use the left nav bar to get to "Research and Sponsored Programs." There is a lot of info about grants there (stuff about funding opportunities, proposal preparation, etc). Students are usually eligible to apply for 2 types of competitions: (1) Where the award goes straight to the student [usually a foundation]; (2) Where the institution applies on behalf of a student (or faculty), and it gets distributed to the student through a stipend. To identify funding sources, go to the library first; they have a data librarian that will help you navigate Pivot and the data directory. You can use keywords to identify the funding sources that are applicable to your research. It can take a lot of hours to identify good fits. For example, you can only spend money during the "award period," which might not match up with your needs. Some grants are aimed at particular types of people. And so on. In addition, you can ask your mentor for tips; see if articles in your field mention grants in their acknowledgments section, etc. Email the "program officer" at the agency with any questions, or to request a brief phone conversation. (Listen to them carefully to see if they are implying whether or not you'd have a good welcome at their agency.) While international students aren't eligible for federal grants, they can look into foundations or organizations in their country of origin. After making a list of possible funding opportunities, make an appointment with EG for a meeting. It takes a while to prepare a grant proposal so make sure to start early. Their office will largely help you fill out the fields and such, but the Career Development Office will help with editing. There are two models for getting paid: either paid up-front, or reimbursed for expenses. (Make sure to thank whoever you got your award through!) You need to set up

NSF and NIH log-ins through the office/university, but once you do they will last a lifetime. You can also go to grants.gov (which is the portal for federal grants generally), but their office will help with navigating this website. EG organizes about 8 grant-writing workshops a year. She does them on a wide variety of different types of agencies. The frequency of these depends on people's interest, so make sure to express your interest to EG. The federal government has decided that universities who accept their funding (i.e. all of them) have to teach their researchers about ethics. To be fair this is a good idea in itself. For example, there may be conflicts of interest with your professor, who stands to benefit from the research, and plagiarism etc. CUNY has a 3-pronged approach for this: (1) Face-to-face training; (2) Online training through the CITI program, most known for having human participation online training which you must do if you have human subjects; (3) Mentors should actively address ethical issues if they arise in the conduct of the research and open to discussing these. This is an evolving program and this may not be the last word on it. The Doctoral Student Research Grant (DSRG) is a fund of money that AK gets from the state and gets to distribute to students year 2-6. This is not highly competitive; most students who apply will get some funding. They are able to fund many students up to \$1500 to travel to a conference, do research, compensate subjects, buy supplies, etc. The deadline is the end of January and in February your faculty will deliberate over which students/projects should get funded; this gets announced in March and the funds are distributed in June. Why bother applying for federal grants, then, since they're extremely competitive (15-18% success rate)? First of all, you obviously have to apply to win, and people do win, including students in this building. You have to be able to give an "elevator speech" and focus and communicate, which are good skills to build. You also get reviewer comments which will help you reassess your research process; if they don't understand your writing, you need to work on communicating your ideas. Also, it's a prestige to be awarded or even to get an honorable mention. You establish a track record for funders (can build on previous grants, establish relationships with funders, etc); trying is a good start for your scholarship. Finally, it's good for your CV. If your department has interest in a targeted workshop, contact Edith Gonzalez (egonzalez3@qc.cuny.edu). A group of 3-7 students can also get a "group session" by emailing EG.

Questions:

Kerri-Leigh Heeseman (KLH): Most in the Audiology program are in a 3-year program; are we eligible for the DSRG?

Answer: Yes. Most of you are working so that has its own complications, but you are indeed eligible.

Kyla Bender-Baird (KBB): Are the in-person workshops mandatory, and if so, when do you need to do them?

Answer: If you haven't heard about it, you don't have to worry about it. The federal government has only been doing this for the past few years, so CUNY has only been doing this with rising first-year students. This will not be a requirement for people who have been here longer. Though you should attend the workshops because they're good info.

Teresa Ober (TO): It's the faculty in the program who decide how much to award of the DSRG, but how does your office decide how to allocate its money to the programs? Second question, could you give me more info about CUNYFirst RCR tracking?

Answer: (2) We don't have CUNYFirst yet so I don't know exactly how it'll work, the administration is still a little bit at sea. I'm optimistic, but I don't know for sure. (1) The money that's divided is dependent on the "ask." So if more anthropologists apply, Anthropology gets a bigger piece of the pie. So you're doing your fellow students a good deed by applying, as long as you have a reasonable project of course. There are some programs where people aren't spending much money, while there are others where all the students need to travel for research.

Julia Kolak (JK): I was informed today that certain fellowships count against what you've awarded from your grant?

Answer: The DSRG is not in competition with anything else. As for other fellowships, I can't say; that's an odd thing to hear. Some fellowships are awarded through the Provost's Office, so the question would best go to Rachel Sponzo of the Provost's Office.

Raj Korpan (RK): Is there a limit for number of times you can apply for the DSRG?

Answer: You can apply any # of times but can only win it once every other year from years 2-6.

Erin Cully (EC): A lot of 7th-year students are paying tuition and are teaching, so they may need the help from the DSRG. How can we advocate for extending this term?

Answer: This is something our office decided on because after your 6th year people should be leaving soon, and if someone graduated before spending the money we can no longer hold them to the terms of the grant. So we need to make sure that every single graduate student will still be involved with the GC at the end of their funding. I don't see a climate where we'll be able to ask for more money from the state for the DSRG. I empathize with your concerns; the best way would be looking for external sources, though of course that doesn't help with e.g. travel expenses.

EC: What do you mean you don't have a "hold" on them?

Answer: We need them to be a student during the entire period they're spending the grant. Our office is in room 8309.

Liza Shapiro (LS) calls the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Alison Parks (AP) moves to approve with emendations: (1) Add ratification of new members as new business item 1; (2) Add new business item 6, tuition remission. Jeremy Randall (JR) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of March 17th, 2017

RK moves to approve the minutes. JR seconds. Minutes approved via unanimous consent.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Cecilia Salvi, ccsa@cunydisc.org)

Please vote in our elections. We are at 5.5% of the student body voting, and we'd like 10%; I am working with PSAs on their elections; 4 out of 46 chartered organizations are active; I am working on Title IX trainings for chartered org leaders; The Fiscal Affairs Committee of the BoT met on 4/3 USS and I will write a letter to the FAC asking that SGAs and students in specific programs be informed when a fee increase is proposed. We also want a detailed chart indicating how the fees will be spent.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi, ccc@cunydisc.org)

EC met with Provost on March 29. Talked about tuition remission, student access after hours even 24-hours access to all students, gender-neutral bathrooms, accessibility at the GC, particularly with a note about front doors and other access issues to the building. Thanked her for advocating for student lounges. Co-Chairs met with Student Affairs. Lots of questions about wellness center funding. Also talked about access to the building after hours, particularly the computer lab. Just need to communicate this to security.

Questions

RK: Why can't we have library hours extended during finals time?

Answer: The answer we always get is "budget," but we keep advocating this. If we see any progress toward this we'll let you know.

EC: What's the budgetary argument if some people get 24-hour access? How many more people would they have to hire?

Answer: They would need more security personnel, and also lighting/electricity. We have a meeting with President Robinson on Thursday and we will bring this up with him (i.e. just how much is the cost?).

Jacob Russell-Madonia (JRM): Department chairs are able to grant 24-hour access.
Answer: Chair/provost politics is its own thing.

Jason Nielsen (JN): Summer hours are profoundly short.
Answer: We'll bring that up too.

TO: One of the things the DSC has done to promote accessibility is to put doorstops in the elevator lobbies. These occasionally go missing; make sure to leave them there, or if you hear grumbling about them let us know.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro, ccb@cunydsc.org)

Deadlines for receipts: Grants- May 25th; Program Allocations- June 1st; Chartered Organizations - June 8th; Since USS approved funds for legal consultations, I will touch base with the lawyers to see whether legal consultations can be provided through the end of June; Ad-hoc Committee on Gender-Neutral Bathrooms e-mailed Chase Robinson following his visit to plenary asking for a timeline for the first floor all-gender bathrooms. He has not responded; Alcohol update: as per memo from Vice Chancellor Chris Rosa, it is now again permissible to use DSC funds toward alcohol.

Questions:

David Nagy (DaN): Why did we have the alcohol policy in the first place?

Answer: It was the business office that insisted it was illegal to fund alcohol; Student Affairs was never behind it.

Jennifer Prince (JP): Will the policy be including grants money?

Answer: No, we still can't use grants for alcohol.

Hamad Sindhi (HS): To clarify, it's not state law, but there are certain provisions in CUNY's bylaws that says Presidents of colleges can veto student activity fees being used for alcohol. So this is another reason they're asking us to tell them when we're purchasing alcohol.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams, uss@cunydsc.org)

Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion: Timeline created to start GC climate study on diversity; One on one interviews and focus groups slated for Spring 2018; Want graduate students to help with this study; Plan to meet with the DSC Ad-hoc student committee soon to brainstorm how we can work with the administration to make sure action steps are created

Approved USS Budget Request: \$520 to fund the massage therapists at the GC Wellness Festival (Tuesday May 2, 2017); \$1,200 for a DSC Social Event (Spring Party); \$1,500 for Legal Consultations (ongoing throughout Spring semester); \$1,000 for CUNY Women in Stem NYC March for Science (Saturday April 22, 2017)

USS Scholarship: Deadline to apply is today, April 21st; Further information and the application can be found at <http://www.usscunyc.org/#!application/x48ba> and in the Student Affairs office Room 7301; All applications must be received by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue - Room 7301-- New York, New York 10016, by April 21st.

Sunday, April 9th USS Plenary held at Guttman @ 12PM: College For All Act resolution passed; calling for college education free for all, not only New Yorkers; CUNY Fossil Fuel Divestment resolution passed; Next meeting is Sunday April 23rd @John Jay for USS CUNY Graduate Student Leaders; Next USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st

5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober, ufs@cunydisc.org)

The most recent UFS Plenary was held on Tuesday, March 28. The next and last UFS plenary meeting will be held on May 16. The agenda items from the March meeting included: A visit from Member of the CUNY Board of Trustees, William Thompson, Jr.; And a visit from the President of the SUNY University Faculty Senate, Peter L.K. Knuepfer; Student Affairs Committee Resolution (approved); Nominations for Executive Committee At-Large Members; Some of the topics that came up during the meeting were: Tuition assistance for part-time students, which was also a main focus of the resolution; The impact of the Excelsior Scholarship on the CUNY and SUNY university systems; One of the most recent additions to the scholarship, revealed in the recently approved New York state financial budget, includes residency requirement that turns the scholarship into a loan unless the recipient lives and works in New York state for up to five years after graduation.

The Board of Trustees hearing was held this past Wednesday, April 19. This was the hearing for the meeting to be held on Monday, May 1 at 4:30 PM.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña, funding@cunydisc.org)

No report submitted.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks, governance@cunydisc.org)

Membership: We currently have 68 Live Seats and 64 Active Reps (20 At-Large and 44 Program Reps. If your program is currently underrepresented (MALS, Econ, Bio, and Urban Ed) and you'd like to have that seat filled for the next plenary please contact me.

Governance: The last Constitution and Bylaws committee meeting will be held in May. There will be a constitutional voting item at the May plenary so please keep your eyes out for an email from HS that will appear in your inbox with the text of that amendment approximately 10 days before the May plenary.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (David Nagy, health@cunydisc.org)

We'll be hosting a Mental Health Resources workshop with the Wellness Center next Thursday from 1:30-2:30pm, in room 5409. We'll be talking about the mental health services the Wellness Center provides, as well as general tips on things like how to find the right psychiatrist. There will also be free food! (Nothing fancy though.) Please share this information with anyone you think would be interested.

This year's Wellness Festival will be held on Tuesday May 2, from 10am to 4:30pm, on the Concourse level. There will be plenty of wellness-related information and services, so please stop by! As usual, the Health & Wellness Committee will be funding massage therapy; that will be from 12:30-4:30pm in room C198. You will have to sign up for these the day of on a first-come first-serve basis, so if you want a massage make sure to show up early! (Note that faculty and staff can also get a massage but will have to pay \$10.) Finally, we'll be funding a small "goodie bag" for the first 50 or 100 people or so who show up to the festival; it will include a bag of seeds and some other wellness-related item (I haven't decided precisely what yet), so that's another reason to show up early!

We're having a second Navigating NYSHIP workshop on Thursday May 4, from 3:30-5pm, in room 5409. The last one went really well (even I learned some things) so if you couldn't make it, please come to this one!

We're going to have finals relief stations (probably—need to confirm with the massage therapist) on Monday and Wednesday of finals week (May 22 and 24) from 12:30 to 4:30pm. These will include free massage therapy as well as things like scented oil to help you relax during finals. As

with the wellness center, you will have to reserve a time for the therapy on a first-come, first-serve basis. I will provide details in a follow-up email and at the next Plenary.

Remember: if you're willing to be a safer sex point person, please contact me!

Questions:

LS: What are the seeds?

Answer: I don't know.

Charlotte Thurston (CT): I think herbs or flowers of some sort.

4. Officer for Outreach (Nick Glastonbury, outreach@cunydisc.org)

We held a Know Your Rights workshop for international students on April 5th. The workshop was on how to deal with law enforcement and was run by CUNY CLEAR through CUNY Law School. It was very well attended! Props to CCSA Cecilia Salvi (CS) for all her work on it! Due to popular demand we'll be having another workshop with CUNY CLEAR in May specifically on traveling, crossing borders, etc. as an international student. We want to squeeze it in before folks go away for the summer, but also it will be useful for people who have research trips in their future. Date and time is still in the works but be on the lookout for that!

CS: We are currently looking at May 10 for this workshop, and we would really appreciate you contacting international students.

5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho, services@cunydisc.org)

Our recent self defense class was a success. Planning more soon. Coffee Hour at Noon on April 26th in 5495. Salsa Class on May 1st at 2PM in 5414. Essential oils still available in the DSC office

6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall, library@cunydisc.org)

CUNYFirst is coming this May. Outdated computers will be replaced over time after being removed, probably in December.

Questions:

Iris Strangmann (IS): Some people in my program have problems with the U Drive.

Answer: There is no more U Drive. They're transitioned to OneDrive, and we get it through portal.office.com through our gradcenter email address.

IS: What's new for us that I can report?

Answer: Banner's going away. CUNYFirst will apply to all our information. In the optimistic world, there will be no more Banner this summer going forward.

TO: So there's no update regarding if, say, a supervisor at another campus can check your grades as an adjunct?

Answer: That hasn't come up, we've mostly been focusing on undocumented students; presumably this won't be a problem but we can't say for sure.

TO: I've heard that Citrix is getting phased out.

Answer: During our last ITF meeting we've discussed dealing with overlapping products but this takes a while. Citrix will go away and will be integrated into the larger CUNY system.

V. New Business

LS calls for a quorum count; quorum is present.

1. Ratification of new members (voting item)

AP moves to ratify Alana Derovicz as new representative from Linguistics. Shoumik Bhattacharya (SM) seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

2. 2016-17 DSC Budget changes (voting item)

LS: Student Affairs has confirmed that our Wellness Center allocation has gone down a lot (as the Nurse Practitioner has been on extended leave; the number might even go down to 0) so now we have a lot more money. Some of the changes include adding money to steering discretionary, program allocations, the health and wellness committee. Numbers for program allocations and chartered orgs have not changed since those are in the bylaws, but they've changed to more accurately reflect what we've actually allocated. We've also finally put money toward the Child Learning and Development Center. Added money to the affiliates after discussing with them; the Advocate's new editor was excited to have an extra \$5,000 so he can commission more articles. More money for meetings so we can now have e.g. soda; the Services committee finally has a budget. Had thought we'd be transferring money to the reserve fund, but it turns out that won't happen until next year because that's when the fund matures.

EC: We voted on whether we should allocate money to the Wellness Center, but what's the connection to the Nurse Practitioner being on leave?

Answer: We had the referendum which un-allocated the \$45,000 per semester that went to the Nurse Practitioner's salary, so that can go to "wellness services" in general. That was her salary, and her contractual agreement was what that amount was based on.

Follow-up: What was the original amount we voted on?

Answer: We voted for \$40,000 during Spring Semester, and then we were told by Student Affairs that they did not have to pay the Nurse Practitioner so much because she was on extended leave. Also, we hadn't written a check to the Nurse Practitioner yet. Basically, there's nothing else to allocate this money to because we had specifically said it was going to the Nurse Practitioner.

Follow-up: What about the \$30,000 for the Wellness Center?

Answer: That was already paid in Fall because it was before the referendum.

Follow-up: So next Fall we can decide what to do with that money?

Answer: Yes.

RK: So then, are they looking to get a new Nurse Practitioner, or what?

Answer: Let's save that for when we look at next year's budget (but we don't know and neither do they).

LS: Note the "Program Allocation Safety Net." This is for programs that ran out of their program allocation money and might want more money; this is also for small programs like Classics or French who only have \$400 for the whole year, and this pot might let them realize a project or initiative for the program that they can't do now since they have so few funds. This would be based on how we structured Knowledge Grants before; people would come with a write-up of what they planned to use their money for, receipts etc, and we would prioritize programs that have used up all or most of their money. This could also give people chances to fund smaller program events that grants might not be able to fund. It's a test initiative; if it works well, we can do it next year too. It's also a good way to incentivize folks to spend their money.

RK: What is the process for allocating this money?

Answer: First and foremost, the program must have already spent all their allocations; then we would go to first-come, first-serve. There could even be a set of money that would be guaranteed for the smaller programs in case the larger programs spend their money first, but that probably won't happen. I'm still working this out, but it would be a nice way for programs to build community and give them more money without us having to change the Bylaws.

Amy Martin (AM): Maybe we can change the minimum amount small programs would get, though I understand this would require a bylaw change, but have you thought of that?

Answer: I have not, but I could take that into next year's budget. We can hold off on deciding on that until I can calculate how much extra that would be.

JP: When we did knowledge grants, we formed a committee for that. Who would be the one(s) to analyze and approve each grant that came in?

Answer: For things that are program-based, I would leave this to the Co-Chair for Business to decide, based on the program allocations, and I would ask for the funds to be requested by the program rep and whoever wants the funds. At least for this semester because of the lack of time I would like to streamline with myself as the decider.

Sean Kennedy (SK): The Adjunct Project had agreed to shift our new funds into organizational development so the new numbers for events would be the \$800 we already have and the printing and supplies \$150.

Answer: There was also money that was allocated from steering for printing and supplies, so you still have the same amount. We can adjust the numbers if you want.

Follow-up: Once we vote on it is it a done deal?

Answer: Perhaps we can propose passing the budget with one specific emendation.

JP: Not that I don't trust you, but I'm a bit concerned about this safety net regarding how it would be used. I think the DSC's budget is generally pretty transparent and even things like steering discretionary funds are voted on by Steering so there's a record of that in the minutes, but this seems to be lacking that transparency and records-keeping that means we're doing due diligence for the school.

LS: Are you suggesting we have a committee that votes?

JP: I'm suggesting we have some sort of procedure that is more transparent, whether this be a committee that keeps records or a more outlined process about who gets granted this money and how this decision gets made, or else we won't be able to see how you made these decisions unless we FOIA your emails.

JRM: How about we allocate those funds to the steering discretionary funds?

Answer: My intent was for this to go back to programs, as Steering can also allocate money for things like the office.

AM: What if the budget line were still there, but Steering had to have final approval of any requests?

Answer: I'd be fine with that, as I do take the point that transparency and a more streamlined process are important. So then, proposals would come to Steering, and that might give people a little bit more time to think about what they want to spend their money on. I'd be fine with that.

RK: I like that idea, though I think Steering already has a lot of work on its plates, so for next year maybe it could be part of the Grants Committee's work?

Answer: Thank you; this feedback is helpful.

JN: Perhaps the Grants Committee could also work with you on this this semester.

Answer: My 'tyrannical' answer of "just the CCB decides" was based on the thought that people might not have the time or energy to want to do this at the end of the year, but if you do, great!

TO: Do you have guidelines requiring how programs spend the safety net? Second, perhaps we should form an ad-hoc committee to decide?

Answer: I wasn't thinking of an ad-hoc committee; it should work like DSC funds work. Again, people have to have spent their program allocation, or maybe show they're planning some big purchases that would benefit their department or the DSC and their regular allocations wouldn't cover it. I wasn't really meaning this to replace Grants totally, as that stresses interdisciplinarity, etc.

Follow-up: I was just thinking we could create guidelines for how this money could be dispersed assuming a program has overspent.

Answer: I agree that I should not be responsible for this whole process, so however this committee is formed we can set the guidelines based on existing DSC guidelines for previous fund allocations.

KBB: I would recommend that the committee that decides this be Steering only because of the timing of it; the DSC rep status expires in May, but Steering expires in June, right?

JP: Actually your jobs as reps continue through June 30, if there are jobs to do, which there may be.

Carol Hamaz (CH): So this line item would be available next year? Answer: Any leftover funds would be left in the DSC account. Question: So the line item wouldn't necessarily be there next year?

Answer: Yes, because the new reps will decide how much money is allocated to which areas in the budget.

LS: I'm happy to take suggestions, especially the ones regarding more transparency and streamlining.

Rachel Chapman (RC): Is an ad-hoc committee going to form?

Answer: No, just Steering.

SK: Regarding the Adjunct Project, Events decreased to 700, Organizational development increased to 4494.

LS: If something is not covered, we can use Steering discretionary to cover it (probably). So it's fine to make the events line smaller.

SK: What you had said in emails is that in addition to money Steering had allocated, Steering was going to increase Events to 400 and Organizational Development by 300

(Minute-taker's note: I honestly have no idea what they're talking about at this point so this may be an inaccurate summary).

Jennifer Prince: If you are in agreement about what the overall amount should be and it's balanced right now, I don't think there needs to be movement there.

RK motions to approve the budget. JRM seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

3. Presentation of proposed 2017-18 DSC Budget (info item)

LS: This time the green lines are the increased budget. I underestimated the amount we would receive in the hope that if registration goes up we would receive more money. Grants is in blue because it's set by our Bylaws. Health Services is the part that's in flux. The Wellness Center wasn't concrete. This is the lowest number we've ever proposed, but sometimes I think it's nice to go low and say that this is the lowest number we could come up with. This is a conversation that will be ongoing because decisions haven't been made yet. But I want to make it clear the DSC won't be bankrolling this all by ourselves. Again, I only want to continue the program allocation safety net if it goes well. Also, I'm setting aside money for participatory budgeting. This was done in previous years and has been brought up again; it would be a great way to get people who aren't reps involved. I have info about how this has gone in the past and want to talk to people about what worked well and what didn't work well. This will be a year-long process. Again, this is a presentation, so I'm happy to spitball ideas with you or even shifting money. I've allocated \$2,000 for parties but I'm also thinking about asking USS for funds for parties. Finally, new student orientation to get students up to the DSC for snacks and coffee, introduce them to the DSC, and warn them about the administration. I'm also hoping that more people will be enrolled so we can have an even larger budget.

JP: I would recommend adding a little bit more to the new student orientation budget if you are interested in providing snacks, if you are also going to provide folders with additional DSC information that would cost around \$200.

RK: Did you mention the grants?

Answer: Grants is up there, \$19,000.

Follow-up: Is that the same as this year?

Answer: No, it's higher (this year was a bit over \$17,000).

TO: I think it's important to emphasize that there is a decision in the works regarding health services, and I'd like to emphasize that the DSC is open to input from reps to get a sense of what types of health services people in your program might want. It's very important to have input on this decision.

LS: We also want to make sure the admin doesn't make a decision without us. If there are good ideas and needs, then yes, we need to stay on the ball.

AM: In your discussions with Student Affairs about next year, has it been proposed that they do research and come to you with options as soon as possible, so we can vote on the budget?

Answer: Matt Schoengood is going to be calling people to find out what the options are. They are indeed doing the research.

AM: I just wanted to make sure they were, because they get paid (a lot) more than us.

4. Arab Crossroads Chartered Org petition presentation (info item)

CS: This is being presented by two co-chairs, Ola Galal (OG), and Jeremy Randall (JR). My only job is to verify that they have met the requirement.

OG & JR: This is an interdisciplinary platform about culture and artwork from Arab-majority countries. The goal is to build connections between the GC and people in the broader NY area. The main reason for having this organization is that, while spending time at the GC, the events I go to is mainly focused on the GC community, especially with regard to music; there isn't much of a dialogue between the academy and the outside world, so that's the main thrust of this organization. I was part of an ensemble, led by a GC alumnus, which performed at the GC and outside, which gave me the idea to make something more enduring that could continue that effort of bringing together the academy and the outside artistic/cultural/musical world, that has to do with Arabic culture and also the crossroads between Arabic culture and other cultures (hence the name "Crossroads"). This is basically a group for students to engage in cultural and social activities, and also to engage the larger CUNY community and their connections to outside people, to bring them to the GC, including things like cooking lessons; this would also be a space for people to speak in Arabic. This last point is very crucial because we're seeing a decrease in investments from the GC/CUNY admin in the Middle East Studies Center, which was downgraded from a Center to just a position with a secretary, so that's another reason why this is important.

Carol Hamaz: Is there a special focus on music?

OG: It's just that I have a personal interest in music, but it's other aspects of culture as well (of course music is a very important part of culture).

5. Ad-hoc Committee on Accessibility renewal (voting item)

CS: Ad-hoc committees expire if we don't renew them.

CS motions to renew. SB seconds.

HS: When will it expire?

CS: This is not clear in the Bylaws; my interpretation is we renew it now so that it will continue until the next year.

SV: Can you tell us about the excellent work you've been doing?

Answer: The doorstep initiative, letters to the admin. We've also started putting things on syllabi so people know who to contact if they have accessibility issues.

Javier Otero Pena (JOP): What is the doorstep initiative?

CS: It's the doorstops that keep doors open, so people don't have to open the heavy doors.

LS calls motion to a vote. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Tuition remission (info item)

HS moves to table this item to the next meeting. CS seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Announcements

CS: The party will be held on May 19 after Plenary. Please come and get "happy." Jeremy

Randall: The theme is "espionage," so wear a tuxedo or dress if you can.

TO: Membership to the Accessibility Ad-Hoc Committee is now open.

RC: May Day is coming up, and our union is asking us to teach-in; however, several of us are calling for a walk-out, and there's been a petition calling on universities to cancel classes so we can get on the streets and demand change. We will send out a petition and have a walk-out at noon.

JR calls for applause for LS for the hours of unpaid labor she put in on the budget. Applause is given.

VII. Adjournment

LS moves to adjourn meeting by unanimous consent. No objections noted. Meeting is adjourned at 7:20pm.

Minutes submitted by David Nagy.