

**Plenary  
 MINUTES  
 May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Khalid Al Hilli, Reethee Antony, Cassandra Barnes, Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Rachel Bogan, Carol Brathwaite, Shelley Buchbinder, Allison Cabana, Stephanie DiBiase, Maria del Rocio Carranza Brito, Ivana Durovic, Margit Edwards, Miranda Fedock, Nicholas Glastonbury (Proxy Ola Galal), Ian Haberman, Emese Ilyes (Proxy Prakriti Hassan), Philip Johnson, Sean Kennedy, Raj Kochar, Julia Kolak, Amy Martin, David Nagy, Jason Nielsen (Proxy Susan Kalaz), Dominique Nisperos, Marcelo Nomura, Teresa Ober, Javier Otero Pena, Yasemin Ozer, Alison Parks, Irena Parvanova, Jennifer Prince (Proxy SAJ), Robert Robinson, Jeremy Randall, Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Charlotte Thurston, David Topel, Stephanie Vella, Alicen Weida, Janet Werther, Nicole Whalen (Proxy Anais Wong), Tellisia Williams, Alexander Wood

**Absences:** Carlos Camacho, Rachel Chapman, Pierpaolo Cordone, Erin Cully, Andi Çupallari, Federico di Pasqua, Chloe Edmondson, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Luke Elliott-Negri, Rebecca Fullan, Ernesto Garcia, Kerri-Leigh Heeseman, Marino Mugayar-Baldocchi, Michael Murphy, Leann Osterkamp, Ana Perry, Jacob Russell-Madonia, Matthew Stuck, Iris Strangmann,

Cecilia Salvi (CS) calls the meeting to order at 3:10pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

CS moved to approve agenda with unanimous consent. No objections were noted. Agenda approved.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2017

Alison Parks (AP) moved to approve with corrections. Kerri-Leigh Heeseman (KLH) was marked as absent, but was in fact present. David Nagy (DaN) seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Cecilia Salvi, [ccsa@cityu.edu](mailto:ccsa@cityu.edu))

Voter turn-out was a little lower than usual this year. Even so, this should not detract current DSC members from the accomplishment of having been nominated or re-elected. In the next year, the DSC will have to make greater efforts towards outreach and recruiting new members.

Graduate Council met on May 10. The Sociology Program Governance document was not approved. In this document, it was stated that the faculty membership committee was responsible for approving the doctoral students' dissertations proposals. This stirred some contention amongst council members. A revised version of this contentious governance document will likely be voted on during the fall meeting.

The Provost has been receptive to the request for letterhead for students. Students should be able to ask and receive that from their respective departments in the near future.

The Coordinator for Organizing and Action at OpenCUNY is stepping down. The position is open now and a hiring process will soon start.

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

DSC EC met with President Robinson on Apr 27 2017: invited 2 members of the PSC-GC chapter Exec Committee, including Luke Elliott-Negri, and Ahn Tran; CR invited Matt Schoengood as well; major agenda item was getting CR to commit to a strong statement of support and more clarity on policies for students (i.e., undocumented, international, Muslim, etc.) who may be negatively impacted by the executive orders of the current presidential administration; CR agreed to issue a statement that provides language of commitment in terms of what the GC will do; only willing to address what he can deliver on, and hesitant about providing false sense of security and about over promising; CR agreed to organizing regular opportunities for legal counsel for aforementioned students as well as one on one meetings to offer more privacy for students who are already hesitant about disclosing immigration status given the recent policies of the Trump administration; possibility of a hardship fund (e.g., Petri Foundation) for students who may be seeking citizenship or otherwise negatively impacted by current admin was also discussed; this will be a form of emergency funding for students; CR willing to collect stories and testimonies from students to encourage donations from the GC Foundation; also discussed possibility of surveying students from aforementioned population about their experiences, needs, and including an option to submit contact information for further follow-up; we also discussed what would happen for healthcare services at the GC if the nurse practitioner cannot return; no options were discussed yet, but MS reminded CR about the re-allocation of funds and the situation with the nurse practitioner; lastly, discussed building hours, advocated for keeping the building or library open for longer hours

Co-Chairs met with Student Affairs today: informed that 5396 will be a bookable room; building hours update: getting some costs calculations about keeping library open longer; talked with JF about officers not kicking folks out the computer lab on the 5th floor; extending grace period for stickers and access to building beyond first paycheck period at CUNY; asked for announcement of when grace period ends; remind graduates that they can't keep insurance; service terminates 28 days following current adjunct appointment or graduation date, whichever is earlier; if have a Grad assistant appointment through August, then it terminates after that end-date; graduation regalia: purchase is \$2,000, \$250 for renting; brought up that this is an issue, they will look into it

Questions:

DaN: Is it necessary to go to graduation? HS: No, it is not necessary. You must wear the gown to walk, however.

David Topel (DT): Would you please repeat the hours for the library? HS: Monday-Friday, it will be 10AM-9PM, Saturday, 10AM-8PM, Sundays closed.

DT: How is "graduation" defined according to these terms? Is that the date of commencement, when the dissertation is deposited, etc.? HS: We will follow-up with Student Affairs to find out exactly.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro, [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org))

In terms of receipt deadlines, representatives must have active status to claim spring allocations. Please paste your receipts to a piece of paper. Student Affairs is allowing us to be reimbursed for alcohol purchases. Legal consultations are still available, and there is a possibility of them being available until June. The final announcement is about the program allocation safety-net. We resolved some of the issues and those will be posted on the website. We can request funds only if all of the program allocation has already been spent. Steering will then vote on these requests, and if the majority approve, then the funds will be granted.

Questions:

Janet Werther (JW): Two questions: the first, what is the mechanism for submitting the emergency allocation? LS: the mechanism would involve submitting, in writing from the program representative to the CCB, stating why additional funds are being sought and for what purpose. A budget would be helpful.

JW: Second question, does the program representative need to submit for the program members? LS: Yes, the program representative must submit.

Amy Martin (AM): What is the status on submitting reimbursement for alcohol purchases? LS: You may now purchase and be reimbursed.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams, [uss@cunydisc.org](mailto:uss@cunydisc.org))

USS Graduate Student Leaders Meeting was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at John Jay. Funding for graduate students at CUNY: Tuition remission beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> year; Exploitation of adjunct labor at CUNY; Need more funding streams for grads. Employment Opportunities: Most campuses claim the increase of the Academic Excellence fee to \$500 per semester will be used to improve career services; Delegates suspect this is a ruse to increase tuition; Wish list: Networking Career Fair for Graduate Students; More partnerships with CUNY for funding and employment; Spreading information about CUNY CAP; Teach a course and the state covers 6 credits; Paid minimum wage, 225 hours per semester, 15-20 hours a week per semester; Part time college assistant line. GC website is a great resource for grant funding. Design USS Graduate Symposium: Objective is to provide an opportunity for graduate students to present research, network, and participate in panel discussions; Representatives at Baruch College volunteered to host the event there. Transitionary/advisory memos are needed because many of the graduate delegates are transitioning out and we want to get some of these agenda items started at the beginning of the academic year. Most of the beginning months of USS plenaries involve elections and it is difficult to get to new business.

USS Funding: April 24<sup>th</sup> finally heard back from USS. Liza sent canceled check and we can expect funds in two weeks, \*still\* waiting! Below is the list of co-sponsorships approved:

DSC Social Event	\$1,200	
The Annual Wellness Festival	\$520	
CUNY Women in STEM March	\$1,000	
Legal Counsel	\$1,500	
<b>Total Disbursement Amount</b>		<b>\$4,220</b>

No new business for USS

Next USS Plenary is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 PM at Guttman Community College

5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober, [ufs@cunydisc.org](mailto:ufs@cunydisc.org))

The most recent UFS plenary was held on Tuesday, May 16. This was the last plenary meeting of the semester and academic year. During the meeting, Vice Chancellor for Finance Matthew Sapienza spoke about budget negotiations with the City. Dean for Enrollment Management James Murphy spoke about enrollment trends at CUNY, focusing particularly on the specifics of the Excelsior Scholarship. Based on the information provided on enrollment with respect to the Excelsior Scholarship and the conspecifics of that. More information can be found on the enrollment website here: <http://www2.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/excelsior-scholarship-fags/>. Recent information suggests that currently enrolled undergraduate students may be eligible. However, students must be on track to graduate in their 4th year. Students must take 30 credits a year, including summer/winter terms, which is a better arrangement that previously thought. After graduating, students live and work in New York State for 4-years to receive the scholarship. If state/federal taxes are not submitted for NYS, the student will be billed for the tuition expenses. If a student decides to attend graduate school in another state after completing the requirements for the scholarship, then may do so, but upon graduating, must return to NYS to live and work for 4-years. The nominees for at-large members to the UFS Executive Committee provided 2-minute speeches and the positions were then voted on by members of the body. A Status of the Faculty Report on the CUNY Master Plan is available online as is the Status of the Faculty 2016-17 Year-end Report. Both can be found online here: <https://sites.google.com/a/cunyufs.org/cuny-ufs/senate-action/senate-digest>.

The next plenary meeting of the UFS has not yet been announced, but will likely take place the third Tuesday in September.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña, [funding@cunydisc.org](mailto:funding@cunydisc.org))

There was a meeting with the Officer for Student Life and Services and another meeting with Laurie Hurson from OpenCUNY which involved brainstorming ideas for the funding website. The Officer for Funding has committed to work on it during June so that by the time the new officer for funding starts in the upcoming term (July 2017-June 2018), they will have a starting platform to connect students to potential sources of funding.

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

Nothing to report. Just would like members to stick around for the voting items.

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

First, there will be a finals relief station that includes massage therapy. It will be between 12-6PM. It is on the first floor of the library. Be sure to show up early, because the massage appointments fill up quickly.

4. Officer for Outreach (Nick Glastonbury, [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org))

Jeremy Randall (JR) reporting on behalf. NG has been working on a website for international students. Please share with constituents.

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

JR is reporting on behalf. CC says there will be self-defense classes next week, Monday and Wednesday, particularly. This consisted of a self-defense class geared towards women on Monday at 4pm in 5414, and a self-defense class geared towards LGBTQ folks on Wednesday at 4pm in 5409, both with Center for Anti-Violence Education. CC has also been working with DaN, Officer for Health & Wellness, to arrange Finals Relief Stations to make sure there will be yoga and aromatherapy tips.

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

Konica Minolta will replace all of the Dell printing devices in student lounges very soon. There was a recent outage, but this should not happen with the new Konica printers. Library hours over the summer have been set, and were reported by the Co-Chair for Communications. They will be: Weekdays 10AM-9PM, Saturdays, 10AM-8PM, and closed on Sundays and major holidays.

CUNYFirst is not coming in May of this year. Unfortunately, this means that the implementation has been delayed and is expected to come in the spring semester of 2018.

V. New Business

CS moved to changed agenda item number 1 to become item 3 and item number 4 to be removed. HS seconded. This change was approved unanimously.

1. Chartered Org proposal: Arab Crossroads (voting item)

Ola Galal spoke and presented the proposal for the charter to the DSC again briefly as a reminder. CS moved to charter the organization. Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB) seconded the motion. All were in favor of chartering the organization. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. 2017-18 DSC Budget (voting item)

LS presented on the changes to the budget. The budget was circulated to the representatives before the meeting. The preliminary budget was essentially the same as that last presented;

however, there have been three minor changes. One major difference was that the budget for The Advocate had about \$400 allocated to their supplies. In speaking with current advisory committee members, it was requested that \$200 of this be allocated towards the social media marketing. This has been a point of discussion in the past. Within the money that had already been offered, \$200 will be reallocated but will still be contributed towards The Advocate.

There was another change involving a calculation error. Previously Steering Discretionary was proposed to be about \$8000, but is has since been balanced.

The final change to the budget involved a decrease in the amount towards participatory budgeting, changing the amount from \$7000 to \$6000.

CS moved to approve the budget. JR seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.

### 3. Constitutional amendment III.2.3 (info item)

The addition to the Amendment in question was discussed by multiple members of the DSC Steering Committee. If approved, this new text would be added to the existing amendment. The language would allow for newly DSC-inaugurated programs to have representation based on number of students that they have. With the new master's program being formed, we want to give them representation. The current language mirrors existing language for soliciting program representatives.

AP moved to approve constitutional amendment. Dominique Nisperos (DN) seconded.

#### Discussion:

Raj Korpan (RK): Right now, programs appoint a representative. A lot of master's programs are already part of programs that currently exist. How does this affect them?

AP: As it stands, programs have representatives. For example, programs with PhD/Master's tracks have the same representation. "Stand-alone" master's programs will be given their own representation.

CS calls the motion to vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

## VI. Announcements

CS and HS thanked the DSC and Steering for their work over the past year.

LS mentioned that the movie tickets were available in the offices and encouraged representatives to remind their constituents.

HS also commented that gifts were available for the outgoing representatives.

In order to thank HS and CS for their years of service and dedication, AP and LS presented gifts to them.

## VII. Adjournment

CS moved to adjourn meeting by unanimous consent. No objections noted. Meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.

Minutes submitted by Teresa Ober.