

Plenary Minutes September 15, 2017

Attendance

Present: Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Kyla Bender-Baird, Rachel Bogan, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Alexis Brewer (Proxy Lilian Boladz Nekipelov), Carlos Camacho, Pierpaolo Cordone, Carlos Cuestas (Proxy Elaine Sandoval), Sean Enos-Roberston, Shun Feng, Rebecca Fullan, Nicholas Glastonbury, Ian Haberman, Sean Kennedy, Kyueun Kim, Raj Korpan, Soohyun (Ashley) Lee, Jaime Lindsay, Jessica Murray, Dominique Nisperos (Proxy Roderick Hurley), Jason Nielsen, Teresa Ober, Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks, Leah Persaud, Taha Poonawala, Ana Perry, Roxana Piotrowska, Saira Rafiee, Jeremy Randall, Marlene Ramos, Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Hamad Sindhi, Richard Smith Jeffrey Suttles, Armando Tapia, Charlotte Thurston, Jennifer Ware, Tellisia Williams, Anais Wong

Absent: Aishwarya Bhattacharjee, Lisa Cirrincione, Tatiana Cozzarelli, Stephanie DeBiase, Isabel Dominguez Seoane, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Marva Frederick, Rianna Greene, Zahra Hejazi, Grace Kim-Labmert, Khanh Le, Emese Ilyes, Erika Lanham, Claudia Pace, Iris Strangmann, Jennifer Tang, Nga Than, Deepti Wadhera, Alicen Weida, Alexander Wood

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

Andrew Alger (AA) moved to approve the agenda. Anais Wong seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2017 (3:00 PM) Plenary, and (4:30 PM) Plenary-Elect

Cecilia Salvi moved to approve the minutes from May 19 3PM. Hamad Sindhi seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Jennifer Ware moves to approve the minutes. CS seconds. There was no discussion all were in favor.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Charlotte Thurston)

CT spoke about a few items, including the issue of chartered organizations. As of today there is one active organization, AELLA. CT asked that everyone sign chartered organization rosters. CT will be initiating the DE chartering of certain chartered orgs. If anyone interested in dechartering then, they should contact CT. If you are interested in starting a chartered organization, contact CT. There is also a chartered organization website to find out more about what they are doing. There was a chartered organization fair at the beginning of the semester. In terms of room reservations, there will be a new room available. Remind constituents that there are 3 rooms that

can be booked. Events must be student-run. Just to let people know about non-DSC rooms. If people are trying to get a non-DSC room, please let CT and DSC know so that students won't get charged.

Information about Program Student Associations.

If people are interested in forming one, CT is working on a PSA informational session. There should be student representation. This allows students to work with the program.

(Below is CT's official report; however, in the attempt to be concise and stay within two minutes, perhaps not every word of this was actually said).

Chartered Orgs (for anyone new, these are interdisciplinary organizations that are supported by the DSC via funds and space):

I've updated statuses and rosters for this semester. As of today, 1 chartered org is active: congrats, AELLA, or Latino and Latin-American Students Association. We have nearly 50 chartered orgs, and some are close to # of signatures needed and just need a few more in order to gain active status. Please encourage your constituents to sign up for chartered orgs, and do so yourselves. Chartered orgs do a lot of rad events and meetings, and in order to give them the support to do this work, we need to see that they have student support. Sign up via DSC Works: Cunydisc.org/works

Held chartered org fair for New Students at Orientation, which seemed to go well: about 10 orgs present to talk to students about their orgs. I am beginning the process of dechartering a few chartered organizations, b/c they have been inactive for three consecutive semesters: The Crypto-Math Group, the American Studies Area Group, and Nature Ecology and Society. I am reaching out to their most recent leaders to see if they have interest in reviving their groups; if they do not, I will open up advertisement to see if anyone else is interested in taking over leadership. If no one is, I will announce these groups de-chartering in a future meeting, and at that point that group or a similar one cannot be chartered for 3 semesters.

If YOU are interested in reviving one of these groups, or know someone who might be, let me know.

On the flip say, I'm excited to say that, yesterday, I heard from 3 new possible with applications for NEW chartered orgs: Puerto Rican Studies Group, a CUNY STEM Outreach group, and CUNY Material Research Society. I am hoping to put these chartered orgs on the agenda for Oct plenary, because I must verify registration of applicants and have a chance to review them and give feedback to the people starting these groups.

If YOU or a constituent is also interested in starting a chartered org, please contact me and check out the "start a chartered org" section of the website for what you need to do.

Am overall thinking through how to get more students involved in chartered org events and in chartered org leadership, as well as on committees generally; any thoughts on this, let me know.

One way I plan on doing this is by trying to get more chartered orgs using our very neat Chartered Org site, so that students have a consistent hub for hearing about relevant events:

<http://opencuny.org/charteredorgs/>

Will be trying to meet with Kristen Hackett of OpenCUNY to work on this site.

Room Reservations

We will, this semester, thanks to the work of our previous CCSA Cecilia and others, be opening a fourth DSC room for reservation. This room mirrors the DSC office in Room 5495, with a couch, table, and some games, and so should be a good space for holding social or study events. I'm in the process of offering the extra furniture in the room to current chartered orgs, and will be contacting Security/Facilities about #s the room can hold and about keeping it unlocked. Any suggestions for what to call the room on the Room Reservation website are welcome (5414 is "social lounge" for example; 5409 is "working lounge")!

A reminder to encourage you and constituents to make use of DSC rooms, including the one we're in, for any student organized and run event. This space is here for your scholarship, socialization, organizing, and we hope it can be useful to you for anything from self-care and activism events to meetings discussing political theory over donuts--as long as they are STUDENT run. Just try to schedule a little in advance, to give Steering time to schedule it and to make sure your room is available.

Reminder: if a chartered org or PSA wants two DSC rooms over one day, or one DSC room over two days, they DO have a once-a-year exception they can use to reserve that room(s), and to reserve it BEFORE the 6-8 week window. Any more than this--2 days with 2 rooms, for ex--needs to be reviewed by Steering, however.

Non-DSC Room Reservations

I have had a full orientation with Gayle Moynihan, the person in charge of GC room reservations; just to give you a little info on that:

Weekend room reservations are not possible for non-DSC GC rooms. Events must end at 9:30pm.

I have authorization to book rooms for CHARTERED ORGS only, and I am trying to clarify with her whether I have authorization for booking rooms for Program Student Associations: if students want a non-DSC room on behalf of their program, they need to contact their APO.

THAT SAID: if you or someone you represent is trying to get a non-DSC room, do contact me/DSC about it, because we want to be aware if any student is ever being charged for using a non-DSC room. As of right now, if students host an event in a non-DSC room one day, it is free; if it is more than one day, they do have to pay at a discounted rate--10% of outside rental costs. We will be pushing Provost Joy Connelly on that, so that students are not saddled with this cost to use GC space even at this discounted rate; however, if students do end up charged, we can bring it up with Student Affairs to see if we can get that charge lifted. This is part of why I do want students to let me know if they are trying to reserve a non-DSC room: even if I am not the authorized person to do so for them, we want to avoid students getting charged as much as we can.

If you are organizing a conference or all-day event, please email me first to see if a DSC or a GC room is a better choice for you. Again, I am the only person who can contact room reservations for student-organized and led activities.

Program Student Associations

I will be sending an email to current PSAs soon, and setting up an informational session about PSAs, in order to encourage programs to sign up for one. The DSC tries to encourage students to form Program Student Associations within their programs, which are student governments for the program. They can increase student communication, engagement and power within programs. This is important because there are programs that have internal practices that run counter to GC bylaws or sometimes don't act in the best interest of students. And on the practical side, PSAs gain access to the "Votenet" voting system and more direct connection to DSC resources. If you hear about any students who are organizing within their own program and need some guidance, please point them to the PSA section on our website and send them to me.

Internal DSC

Have sent out an email to convene the first Governance Task Force meeting of this year. This task force has members who include Executive Committee, former steering, and other interested students. GTF works with programs whose governance documents need updating or review or are not being followed.

Student members need to serve on GC committees such as faculty member, admissions and awards, etc. in order to ensure that student voices are heard.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

The Co-chairs and the Officer for Library and Technology met with Library Staff on September 11. During the meeting, we discussed issues concerning access to e-databases, as well as printer issues on the second-floor library. The Provost joined meeting as well and discussed changes to first floor library space

The Co-chairs met with staff from the Office of Student Affairs. During the meeting with the we discussed issue of on-site health services. We were told that it is estimated that about 66% of current GC students have NYSHIP and approximately 80% are insured all together. The Institute for Family Health now provides services to GC students on a stop-gap basis and there is an ongoing search for a replacement to the nurse practitioner or alternative services. There is a new coordinator for students' accessibility and accommodation issues. They are currently looking to hire new full-time student activity coordinator.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

Per DSC Bylaws, programs with more than one representative must send me, CCB, an advisory memo indicating which representatives can authorize expenditures. The same policy applies to Chartered Organizations with more than one leader. All representatives can authorize, or a particular representative can be designated with this desk, but the preference should be made in writing.

Program allocation and chartered organization funds can be used to purchase alcohol for student-led events! DSC grants do not fund alcohol purchases. Those reimbursements may take longer because Student Affairs has to sign off on them before they go to the Business Office; this was the compromise w/ CUNY Central.

Next week we'll receive enrollment numbers from the Business Office and I'll calculate program allocations. Program representatives will receive an email linking them to a spreadsheet where they can track their allocations.

How do you get reimbursed? Original receipts should be pasted flat, with tape and not staples, to an 8.5x11 piece of paper. Write your node id number on top of that paper, that number appears when you receive confirmation from Works of your request being placed. If you have an electronic receipt, you can attach it to the check request, but scanned paper receipts don't count as electronic. :) You can place receipts in CCB's mailbox in 5495.

When submitting check request through Works, choose the appropriate budget line you're requesting money from ("Program Allocation," "Chartered Organization Allocation," "Grants," etc.) from the drop down menu and then choose the appropriate program/chartered org/grant in the second drop down menu. If the fields aren't filled out, it takes much longer to track the request and delays reimbursement.

Legal consultations are continuing on case by case sign up. Interested students should e-mail CCB with their schedules and requests.

DSC locker lottery is open until September 18th. If you had a locker this past year and would like one for this year, you have to apply for the lottery again. Those with lockers who do not receive one will have to remove their locks by September 25th.

Movie tickets are available! Angelika and Regal are \$8.50, AMC tickets are \$10.25. Available either through credit card/PayPal purchase or check/money order. Please check office hours before purchasing.

Questions:

AA: Said that we should add the node number, which appears at the end of the request, to the receipt document.

CS: As an at-large representative, is she allowed to submit check requests for funds through Works.

Pierpaolo Cardone (Chemistry): Question about the tickets? LS: They are more like passes than tickets.

HS (Sociology): Was under the impression last year that if you purchase alcohol, it must be associated with an event. Wondering if they should be purchased as supplies.

SB (English): Clarification about "tickets." Was not sure what was meant by this

Sean (Criminal Justice): Question about conference travel. TO: The applications have not yet been opened.

PC (Chemistry): Question about purchasing Trader Joe's giftcards. Wanted to know if students could get reimbursed for this. LS: You cannot buy giftcards using program allocation.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

The first USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th at 12:00 PM at Guttman Community College. This is a nominations plenary.

The Board of Trustees Manhattan Borough Hearing is scheduled for Monday October 16th at 4:30 PM at Baruch College. This is a joint budget hearing and public hearing. Students can sign up to testify and give statements on agenda items. There is information about how to sign-up and give a testimony.

5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)

NG had nothing to report on. The University Faculty Senate meeting is taking place...

Some students have been around long enough to know the Policy on the Freedom of Expression has been an issue that we have been resistant to in the past. As of last summer, we thought it had gone away. It was brought to the attention of NG that it might be brought back this fall.

Questions:

CS (Anthropology): UFS is usually the first body to hear about this. Getting the UFS on-board, might be a good approach

TW (Psychology): Suggests that people interested in this issue

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): Invites all to come to the USS Plenary meetings. He advocates for International Students on the USS.

IV. IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)

DSC Awards grants for cultural events, conferences, performances, professional development activities, publications, seminars, and other projects organized by students for students. It does not provide grants for conference travel or research.

The grants budget for 2017-18 is approximately \$20,000. The maximum award amount for 2017-18 is \$700 and the start-up grant amount is \$200.

Grants committee has been established with 7 members.

The grants submission deadlines are September 15, 2017, October 20, 2017, November 17, 2017, January 19, 2018, and March 16, 2018.

Five grants submitted for September 15th deadline for a total of \$2,400.

Grants Committee is working on 3 projects this year: launching a web-database of funding sources such as fellowships and scholarships, which should be a communal resource that everyone can add to and modify, sending out a survey to the student body to get feedback and solicit ideas on DSC Grants, and building a repository of flyers of past DSC-funded events.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership:

We currently have 65 Live Seats and 65 Active Reps (18 At-Large Reps, 47 Program Reps)

Several programs are currently under- or unrepresented:

- Anthropology
- Classics
- Economics
- MALS

If you are a representative for one of these programs or you know someone from one of these programs, please tell them to contact me at membership@cunydisc.org.

Governance:

The Constitution and Bylaws committee will be convening its first meeting of the semester soon. We plan to bring the changes approved at the end last year to the DSC body for the October plenary, so keep an eye out for emails regarding that.

Attendance:

Proxies: Please fill out the requests in advance using DSC Works. Also, please be advised that it is not guaranteed (verging on unlikely) that you will get a proxy if you request one from us. The best course of action is to appoint someone you know can attend.

Reminder: Two consecutive absences will lead to removal from the body. You will receive a "warning email" after your first absence.

Rosters: If there's a misspelling of your name on your clicker, you change your name, or you go by something other than what is listed please let me know and I can make sure that all of that information is updated in our records.

Clickers: Please return your clickers at the end of the meeting!

Questions:

Shun Feng (Criminal Justice): What if you have two consecutive proxies? AP: That's ok. If you have a proxy, you are counted as present.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)

Scott Voorhees and I will be leading an information session on student health insurance, Navigating NYSHIP, on Thursday, October 19th at 3:00 PM. Students are encouraged to come with questions. Location TBA. Students have the opportunity to ask questions to Officer for Health & Wellness and GC staff.

The Nurse Practitioner continues on medical leave this semester. Her colleagues at the Wellness Center report that she is doing much better. The future of the position, however, has yet to be decided by the Wellness Center. Is interested in knowing more about the needs of students who are insured or uninsured.

CCC and I have been working on polling the students about their health insurance coverage. This poll will be conducted to determine how best the DSC can assist students in meeting their healthcare needs, especially of those students who do not have health insurance through CUNY.

Another goal is to update and expand the DSC's list of recommended health care providers. To that end, Health & Wellness will solicit student feedback on this matter as well.

Questions

CT (English): Any social media or websites that we can look at to learn more about medical providers. AA: There is a list of medical service providers on the Health and Wellness.

JN (English): Still have safer sex supplies? AA (History): Yes. Also looking into getting condoms that are made out of materials other than polyurethane.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

The Outreach Committee will be meeting later this month. Anyone interested in joining this Committee is welcome to join.

LS (Comparative Literature): Does your Committee have funding? SB: Yes, it does.

5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Anais Wong)

Nothing to report yet. Has not met yet with the Committee but will very soon. Any suggestions should email AW.

6. Officer for Technology & Library (Marlene Nava Ramos)

Printer Locks

Last year, we voted for the installation of new printers, unfortunately these were installed with locks on the paper trays which created issues for users to restock paper and fix jammed paper. We heard from a number of students over the summer and have confirmed with IT that they will be removing these locks soon; we will keep a watchful eye for this.

Citrix

The Student Tech Fee Committee voted to eliminate our Citrix accounts which gave students the ability to access GC computer software remotely including very specialized software. During The voting process, students were made believe that those affected would be very few and it was also assumed that all software would be available on CUNY First remote desktop.

Between then and the summer, we have heard from several students who have been negatively affected. We will be working between the library and technology staff on campus to suggest installing needed software into the laptops which can be check out by students 2 weeks at a time. This is currently acting as a temporary solution and it may become temporary if it seems to solve the issues expressed by students. As a long-term solution, however, I will be working with the Student Tech Fee student representative to distribute a survey to identify student needs and figure out how to place necessary software into Remote Desktop. If you are negatively affected and you have alternative proposals for solutions, please contact Library@cunydisc.org.

NYPL Resources

There are two issues we hope to address regarding the NYPL: 1) the NYPL has a very extensive budget which can substantially increase the number of library resources available to CUNY doctoral students; and 2) our access to existing sources are currently very clunky and changes depending whether you're access these databases/journals on campus, in a NYPL branch or at home.

Library Floorplan Changes

There's an exciting proposal to meaningfully transform the first floor of our library in order to make it more inviting to students and accessible for key receptions/events, you can find a summary of a representation that was given to students at our last plenary on line -- I encourage you to access it for more information. Moving forward, however, I will be working on creating a platform to receive student input for planning suggestions on how this space could be used, as an active library user one quick change that comes to mind is the installation of power plugs which are in hard-to-reach places right now. It is likely going to happen in the form of an online survey, and potentially a few workshops. But I am also hoping I can invite students who are into planning and/or library use join me and create an informal working group to specifically address these changes. Individuals interested in this project, can email me at library@cunydisc.org.

Another quick point, are changes which are expected to happen on the concourse level of the library -- these changes are part of the 20/20 CUNY Plan. I have served as Officer of Library and Technology for a short period, so 1) I plan to learn more about these proposed changes and 2) our brief conversations with Library staff lets us know that there is a potential need to assist coordination/communication between the Library, which is losing the physical space, and the new tenants of the space, and 3) most importantly, opening up the process in order to ensure that proposed changes work for students and provide a seamless transition to the new uses of the space.

HS (Sociology): Always curious about plans to change space. Would like to be part of this working group. Also, two years ago they promised wireless printing. MNR (EES): If you search

on the internet for wireless printing at GC, you can log-in and print through wireless in the library. If there are suggestions for improving the system. HS: Suggests letting more students know the wireless printing system exists.

Sean (Criminal Justice): Question about having Citrix removed. MNR (EES): The impact of the extent of the change might not yet have been made known.

JM (Psychology): AtlasTI, NVivo, HLM, and Stata. MNR: Anyone who has been negatively affected by this, should let us know. Sean (CJ): The remote computing issue has created a lot of problems for students who are at other campuses.

TW (Psychology): Question about changes to the library. MNR (EES): Would like to bookmark these changes. Would like to make sure that how the space is transformed is beneficial to students. There is some discussion about making the space useable as a reception space. CT (English): There is a speaker's corner downstairs going on during this meeting. This is chance to voice some of your concerns.

I.V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Members

The first order of business is the ratification of new members.

AP (Political Science): If a program has not created a seat during the election process in the spring. The list of names are people who have been nominated are as follows Kyueun Kim (Theater), Isabel Dominguez Seoane (HLBLL) Shun Feng (Criminal Justice), Erika Lanham (Audiology), and Jeffrey Suttles (MALS).

AP moved. RJ seconds. There was no discuss. JS (MALS) asked if he could ask questions about being a new representative.

2. Resolution on Executive Decision to End DACA

TO (Educational Psychology): Student council typically releases statements and resolutions for issues which are concerning to students. We released a statement and now we're following up that statement with a resolution. We want to emphasize that students affected by rescinding DACA are supported by the DSC, we have several resources through Immigration NOW. This is not only a symbolic gesture, but also a resolution that highlights the services available to students.

CT (English): The DSC will release certain statements, often when there is silence from the administration. The DSC and resolutions help to make public our position as body.

CC (Sociology): motion to pass

CS (Anthropology): motion to second

There as a discussion of the motion.

HS (Sociology): The resolution reads very strongly; is it worthwhile to call the NY state legislators? We are CUNY and publically funded so we should advocate the legislators in NY state, specifically. Therefore, NYS legislators should be named in this resolution.

HS moved to amend the original motion to add language to the resolution to call on congress, members of the New York State Senate to pass DACA.

SK (English): Language in the resolved clause is already consistent with legislative process.

MNR (EES): Not sure how to change existing resolution language but want to make apparent that there are other groups of CUNY immigrant students affected by immigration policy not reaching the media spotlight, such as the short 6-month renewal of temporary protected status for Haitians.

MNR (EES): Change language under “resolved” clause which opens up meaningful immigration reform in light of discriminatory immigration, detention and deportation policies.

HS (Sociology): Moved to pass the emendations

SB (English): Seconded the motion, with the idea to work to create additional resolutions which speaks to the points expressed by Marlene, and site this very strong resolution.
No discussion.

SK (English): Would like to suggest writing a new resolution about the issues facing immigrants in general.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. DSC 2017-18 Proposed Budget Presentation

Enrollment will finalize the pool of money. This existing budget has already passed during the May Plenary. The budget is based on new money.

The items which are highlight blue correspond to bylaws, such grants and awards, health and wellness, and cannot change. Regarding health services, since we don't know what services we will have, we have yet to finalize the amount under this section.

Nurse practitioner line will likely be different since the service will not be provided during the fall.

The items in orange have larger allocations, including the child learning and development center, legal and financial fees, and affiliate budget lines.

The domain registration has been lowered slightly. Leadership development was increased to 800. There are other changes, including the increase of funding to the Outreach Committee. There was an increase in the parties budget from 2000 to 3000. It may be possible that we have 2

parties instead of 1 this year, particularly if USS will fund us. The Student Services Committee will now also have money as well.

Reminder: These are the changes on the budget, pending the final enrollment numbers. Next time, we will be voting.

HS (Sociology): Last year, in the proposed budget, there was a line for participatory budgeting. He would like to know the plans for that. LS: During the EC meeting, we discussed this issue. It will be discussed during the next steering meeting. The process may take some time, so we need to understand what we are doing first in order to structure it. If interested in PB, or know people on the DSO who are interested, then contact CCB.

AA (History): Thanks CCB for producing it. Wonders whether it might be possible to publicize this. LS: As representatives, you can send this to your constituents. Second, all of the DSC budgets are posted on the DSC website so they may remain public. CCB is responsible for sharing the budgets. As reps, however, you also have the power to circulate among your constituents. Once finalized, then you as representatives are responsible.

JN (English): Any materials sent for the meeting are public and should be distributed to constituents. LS: Once the budget is revised in accordance with enrollment, then it will be voted on.

4. Reconstitution of Ad-hoc Committee on Gender-Neutral Restrooms

LS (Comparative Literature): We had an ad-hoc committee for Gender-Neutral Restrooms last year. Would like to reconstitute a committee. LS (Comparative Literature) motions to reconstitute this committee. RK (Computer Science) seconds.

HS (Sociology): What other goals would this committee have? LS (Comparative Literature): Would like to include more signage. Also wants to make sure to include the Provost in conversations, as she may be positioned to help this situation. Recently had a new student approach during New Student Orientation. This is a real need. It could be a communal committee. NG (Anthropology): Last year, it was suggested that the first-floor restroom was reconstructed. When we brought this up to President Robinson, he considered this request, but never followed up. This is a public restroom that anyone can use.

GS (Art History): The lactation room is difficult to find.

RK (Computer Science): On this committee two years ago, they actually had an architect come in and suggest how to convert rooms into Gender Neutral bathrooms. The motion was approved unanimously.

II.VI. Announcements

There were no new announcements

III.VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 7:09 PM.