

Plenary Minutes December 15, 2017

Attendance

Present: Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Aishwarya Bhattacharjee, Carlos Camacho (Proxy William Novello), Pierpaolo Cordone, Carlos Cuestas (Proxy Lynne Stillings), Stephanie DeBiase (Proxy Katia Henrys), Isabel Dominguez Seoane, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Shun Feng (Proxy Nathan Connealy), Rebecca Fullan (Proxy Jeannette Huaman), Wataru Gima, Nicholas Glastonbury, Felix Grezes (Proxy Bertrand Ithurburn), Sugandha Gupta, Kyueun Kim, Raj Korpan, Soohyun (Ashley) Lee, Ian Haberman, Sean Kennedy, Erika Lanham (Proxy Lisa Millseps), Jaime Lindsay, Jessica Murray, Marlene Nava Ramos (Proxy Katya Bezborodko), Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos (Proxy Muhammad Dalhatu), Teresa Ober, Claudia Pace, Alison Parks, Ana Perry, Taha Poonawala, Jeremy Randall, Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Richard Smith, Iris Strangmann, Jeffrey Suttles, Armando Tapia, Nga Than (Proxy Bernadette Ojukwu), Charlotte Thurston, Tellisia Williams, Anais Wong

Absent: Rachel Bogan, Alexis Brewer, Sean Enos-Roberston, Rianna Greene, Grace Kim-Lambert, Khanh Le, Mary Jean McNamara, Kieran O'Reilly, Roxana Piotrowska, Saira Rafiee, Leah Persaud, Francesca Silva, Jennifer Tang, Deepti Wadhera, Jennifer Ware, Alicen Weida

I. Approval of Agenda

Liza Shapiro (Comparative Literature) calls the meeting to order at 5:13 PM
 Ana Perry (Theatre) motions to approve the agenda, Andrew Alger (History) seconds
 Lisa Milseps (Urban Ed) abstains, motion passes with everyone else approving

II. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2017

Nick Glastonbury (Anthropology) motions to approve the minutes, Jeremy Randall (History) seconds
 LM (Urban Ed) abstains, motion passes with everyone else approving

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Let constituents know they can reserve DSC rooms (including for study groups and writing); room 5396 is a great space for more intimate cozy gatherings of social and study varieties. Title IX: as student leaders, it's something we all need to do. Three options: Online Haven training (see link in email, or send an email to Student Affairs for link); In-person training (this spring); evidence of training at other campuses. Hired new social media coordinator: Ashna Ali (congrats!). Be on the lookout for new posts to Twitter and even Instagram accounts!

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

As of Dec. 4, I'm chair of Student Services Grad Council committee. Please let me know about issues or concerns you want me to bring up to this committee.
Currently composing a letter on behalf of this committee on the importance of the school funding NP.

Set up election for Participatory budgeting: please vote! Find link to vote here:

<https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc/login.cfm>

Student emergency grant funds, for the first time, applicable by GC students! *NOT loans, money does **not** need to be paid back!* All matriculated students in good standing are eligible—includes masters & international students. (This is partly the result of co-chairs over the past year asking Provost and Pres and Stud Affairs for this fund, in light esp precarious situations grad students in generally and also as a result of administrative policies).

Application is on Financial Aid GC webpage

Can also contact Financial Aid for small emergency *loans*.

There are 28 active Chartered Orgs. Consider taking a moment to sign them!:

- American Studies Area Group
- CUNY Public History Collective
- CUNY Women in STEM
- Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group
- Feminist Studies Group
- Food Studies Collective
- GC-ISO: GC Chapter of the International Socialist Organization
- Middle Eastern Studies Organization
- Nature, Ecology, Society
- QUNY
- Religion and the Sacred in Art and Critical Theory Studies
- Thought Club
- 3Text Studio

FYI: Announcement on chartering of orgs from last meeting will be coming up in OGM Alison's report. Chartered org website for events: Please share! Opencuny.org/charteredorgs.

Questions:

William Novello (Political Science): Where is the student emergency grants located?

Charlotte Thurston (English): Located on the financial aid website, we'll add to our website

Jason Nielsen (English): What is the letter for the nurse practitioner from the Grad Council?

CT (English): NP may be coming back in the spring. Although DSC removed its ear mark for this we will push admin to fund it.

IS (Speech Language Hearing Sciences): Title IX is it required? What is requirement for emergency fund?

CT (English): Yes, for new students, right now encouraged to do Title IX training. Regarding emergency fund: need to be a matriculated student. It will cover emergencies but not things like covering tuition or paying debt (list of things covered is on the website).

Kristofer Eckelhoff (Music) : Can we get help with being reimbursed for mental healthcare? I have had issues.

AA (History): Send an email to officer for health and wellness and I will help.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

The DSC Co-Chairs and Office for Library and Technology met on November 29 with Library staff and a former member of the New York Public Library Advisory Council. They met to request some background on the NYPL Advisory Council and how to approach demands for student representation and acknowledgement of students' need for electronic resources. Since then, we have scheduled a follow-up meeting with library staff which will take place in early January.

The DSC Co-Chairs met with the Office of Student Affairs on December 13. During the meeting, we discussed

- Maintenance of the DSC website on the GC server: We are in communication with IT about this
- Access to on-campus health services or a suitable alternative: There seems to be a contract forthcoming
- The switch to CUNYFirst: This is coming mid-spring
- Conference Travel Support: there may be some changes to this. If you have any thoughts about it, please let us know.
- Child Care Center: The waitlist appears under-enrolled. If you or a colleague are considering enrolling your/their child, please sign up on the waitlist.

Graduate Council met on December 13. During the meeting, a Resolution was brought forth and was adopted. The resolution called on GC President and Provost to reconsider the 'program premium' free for master's students. As it had been proposed, the fee would require master's students to pay an additional \$100 fee per course credit in addition to existing tuition expenses. Representatives of the DSC in conjunction with members of the PSC had been working diligently to collect signatures on a petition against the proposed fee. The fee had formerly been called an "excellency fee" and was intended to be implemented on a college-wide basis. CUNY Central redirected this plan on the grounds that a fee could not be implemented on a campus-wide basis. Now, as we understand, the proposal is to have a fee added on a program-by-program basis. Please be on the look-out for this in the future as any program changes to existing and pending master's programs will require approval of the Graduate Council. If you are on Graduate Council or know someone who is, please contact the DSC if you are interested in organizing around this issue.

The DSC hosted a Participatory Budget Town Hall on December 14. During the meeting, members of the GC community got to interface with fellow members who had submitted proposals to be funded by the DSC Participatory Budget campaign. The proposals were due on November 30 and were reviewed by the Committee on Participatory Budget Eligibility. Of the 9 that were submitted, 7 were considered eligible, 2 decided to synthesize into 1 due to having similar project aims, and 1 withdrew. You all should have received an email (probably multiple emails, actually) with a link to vote on the proposals. Please vote and encourage other students to do so as well. It takes only a few minutes, at most.

In other news, the Petrie Foundation is sponsoring a Student Emergency Fund, which is being managed by the Office of Financial Affairs. You all should have received an email about this titled "New Student Emergency Fund." If not, please let us know.

In still other news, regarding the DSC listserv. Please be reminded that you are responsible for the things you say on the listserv and even if you are responding to inflammatory remarks, you may actually be helping to inflame a situation. (Also, any comments about chairs, will be taken as a personal affront against our current chair throughout the course of this meeting.)

Questions:

LS (Comparative Literature): What is the due date for voting for PB?

Teresa Ober (Educational Psychology): December 31st

LM (Urban Education): What does the "retroactive" part of the program premium fee?

TO (Educational Psychology): If there is a change for programs already in existence it has to be approved within the program and at Grad Council. You wouldn't be charged retroactively.

Anais Wong (Political Science): At Grad Council they said they are not moving forward with the fee for now but we need to keep our eyes open in case they try to do something else. Also does it have to go through grad council?

TO (Educational Psychology): I think so or at least through some governance at the GC.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

- a) Fall allocations roll over from fall to spring, but not from spring to fall, so spend those allocations in the next semester!
- b) "Program Allocation Safetynet" created to provide additional funds for programs with smaller allocations. If your program receives \$200 a semester, or slightly above that, this line is intended to encourage you to sponsor more student activities for your program.
 - Funds for for student needs and student-organized, program-specific, initiatives.
 - May be requested once program allocation funds are used up.
 - Requests should be submitted, via e-mail, by program representatives to the Co-Chair for Business (ccb@cunydisc.org) with an explanation of why additional funds are being sought and a budget.
 - Funds cannot be spent on alcohol or honoraria for CUNY faculty.
 - Requests will be reviewed and voted on by the DSC Steering Committee and will require majority approval.
 - Priority will be given to programs with allocations of \$700 or less.

Questions:

Isabella Dominguez (LILAC): How does the authorization for spending the money work?

LS (Comparative Literature): Only for the Safetynet funds need to go through the authorization

ID (LILAC): Do I need to spend it as the rep? Do I decide how to spend?

LS (Comparative Literature): You submit the check request, but you don't have to be the one who spends the money

CT (English): To come back to the Graduate Council question, you can fill in for your grad council rep if they are not able to go to that meeting

LS (Comparative Literature): These fees go through program standing committees so if you don't have that or don't have students sitting on those then we can't stop it

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

MOE update from the University Student Senate (emailed on 12.4)

- Several campuses have passed resolutions in support of the MOE Bill
- Brooklyn Borough President Eric L Adams wrote a letter to the Governor in support of this bill
- A petition was circulated with 22,000 signatures from SUNY and CUNY endorsing the MOE Bill
- The UFS adopted a resolution endorsing the USS MOE resolution to call on the Governor to sign the MOE Bill
- On Tuesday, December 5th the USS dropped off petitions at the Governor's NYC Office (633 3rd avenue, NY, NY) and the Albany Office.
- The next steps to articulate to your constituents is to continue to write letters to legislators using the script and information on advocacy included in the November 19 USS email update

*If the bill is not signed by Governor Cuomo in December then it can be pocket vetoed. The resolution to adopt the MOE Bill is to put pressure on the governor to fully support CUNY.

*The tuition freeze resolution was to demand that the BOT stop raising tuition for students. As you recall the City University of New York - Fiscal Year 2019 University Budget Request continues the predictable tuition policy, with an annual increase of \$200 at the senior colleges.

2. Predictable Tuition Policy

- The Predictable Tuition Policy, first enacted by the State in 2011 and renewed in 2017, enables the University to implement modest and predictable annual tuition increases. In the first iteration of the predictable tuition, CUNY colleges used the revenues from these increases strategically to directly benefit students. Over this timeframe, approximately 1,000 new faculty lines were created.
- A new, more modest four-year policy was enacted beginning in FY2018, which provides for annual increases of up to \$200 at the senior colleges.
- The University seeks to implement a similar policy at the community colleges. A tuition freeze was committed to in FY2017 and FY2018. Ideally, an extension of this rate freeze would continue in FY2019; however, a tuition increase of \$100 will be required to cover strategic plan needs if the City does not provide funding for additional full-time faculty and advisors at the community colleges.

3. Continue to advocate and spread the word about the MOE Bill

- Send tweets to Governor Cuomo to sign the College MOE (Maintenance of Effort) Bill and to make the promise of Excelsior real through true investments in CUNY!
- Sample Tweets:

***Excelsior requirements exclude part-time students, who are often parents and low-income New Yorkers! @NYGovCuomo#DontVetoCUNY #MOE4CUNY

***@NYGovCuomo Show how much you care about making CUNY truly free and high quality. First step: Sign MOE bill! #MoneyOwedtoEducation #MOE4CUNY

***50% of ALL CUNY STUDENTS work more than 20 hours/week. 79% work for living expenses. They deserve real free and quality CUNY. @NYGovCuomo #StopStarvingCUNY

****CUNY students are paying more tuition but few benefit from Excelsior. @NYGovCuomo All New Yorkers deserve free and quality college education! #DontVetoCUNY make the promise of Excelsior real through true investments in CUNY!

- Keep making phone calls! Call the Governor's office at [518-475-8390](tel:518-475-8390) and urge him to sign the enhanced Maintenance of Effort Bill (College MOE)!
- Link to the petition and sample script:
- <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/gov-cuomo-sign-the-college-moe-bill>

4. Board of Trustees

- Link to the October 23, 2017 Board of Trustees Minutes:
- <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/MIN1017.pdf>
- At the November DSC plenary I reported that the BOT voted to grant in state tuition to students from PR and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Here is a detailed account of what was said in the Chancellor's Report:

"In response to Governor Cuomo's request, the Board is scheduled to vote on a resolution to grant in-state tuition rates for students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who may wish to temporarily continue their studies. The University has launched a private fundraising campaign to further defray the costs of attendance, given the substantial difference in residential tuition between New York and Puerto Rico.

The University has a new website that will serve as a clearinghouse for information on what CUNY is offering, including information on giving, admissions and financial aid, and faculty resources, among others. The administration is developing plans for winter term courses for students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. CUNY will also use the time in the spring session to align the University's schedules with when UPR is operational so that students could take courses at CUNY either physically or online and then get back into the sequence at UPR."

- Link to the December 4, 2017 Board of Trustees Disposition:
- <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/DISPO120417-1.pdf>
- Summary of actions taken based on the calendar items:
- <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/CAL1117.pdf>

5. How To Testify at a CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing

- Description:
 - The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive testimony and statements from concerned individuals on items on the calendar (agenda) for the January Board Meeting.
 - Persons wishing to speak should notify the Office of the Secretary via email at hearings@cuny.edu indicating the calendar item number they wish to address. Should no requests to speak be received, the public hearing will be cancelled.

6. Upcoming Meetings

- Next USS Plenary will be held on Sunday, January 21 at 12PM
- Next CUNY Board of Trustees Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 29 at 4:30 pm
 - Official notice and calendar items will be posted here <http://www2.cuny.edu/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/>

Questions:

JN (English): When is the next BOT meeting?

Tellisia Williams (Psychology): Should be on the website

AA (History): Where do we access Powerpoint?

TW (Psychology): In the minutes from this plenary or personal copy can be emailed

WN (Political Science): Is there any push to get the state to fund CUNY?

TW (Psychology): Continue to advocate to legislators and a bus trip to Albany

1. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)

UFS had its final plenary for the semester on December 5th. The invited guest speaker was CUNY Chancellor James Milliken. He spoke primarily about CUNY's reputation in the country as a successful public university and of the way in which CUNY acts as a ladder of economic mobility. When asked about the search for a new Chancellor, he said he expected the university to have someone by the start of next academic year.

The UFS also unanimously passed a resolution identical to the USS resolution calling for Andrew Cuomo to sign the MOE bill.

On an unrelated note, as you may already know, the UFS liaison from the DSC is a non-voting member of the UFS. I reached out to the UFS Executive Committee to get a permanent voting position for a graduate instructor on the UFS body, and the UFS Chair, Kay Conway, said that she would be "amenable to considering a change that would allow for greater part time faculty representation." The next UFS EC meeting is in late January, when they will supposedly discuss my suggestion.

Questions:

WN (Political Science): New chancellor, what is the timeline and process?

NG (Anthropology): Search is beginning, but not many details yet. BOT will be conducting the search and think they can finish by end of academic year

Break until 6:05 pm for food

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)

(1) 9 new grant requests reviewed at grants committee meeting on 12/4 - 5 approved for \$3,550, 4 asked to revise and resubmit; total grants approved so far this year is \$7,962; \$12,038 remains

(2) 1 start-up grant under review for \$200

Launch of Cross-disciplinary Working Papers Series for CUNY Graduate Students

(3) The remaining grants deadline are January 19, 2018 (Meeting: TBD) and March 16, 2018 (Meeting: TBD)

(4) Grad Council Curriculum Committee on 11/21

Approved an en-route MA for Anthropology, changes to bulletin and program requirements for Biochemistry and Classics, and a new course for MALS

They announced a new policy for new program proposals from CUNY central: new proposals must go through the Office of Academic Affairs to be circulated to all the other CUNY schools who can then object if they feel the new proposed program is too similar to a program at their school

- (5) Grad Council IT Committee on 12/6
 - GC IT taking over ASRC technology
 - CUNYFirst migration coming mid-April
 - IT budget very tight (no PCs on hand at the GC!), however other capital projects are moving forward (announcements forthcoming)

Questions:

WN (Political Science): How long has IT budget being tight been an issue?

RK (Computer Science): Been an issue for at least the past 4-5 years where budget has been cut at GC and more broadly.

WN (Political Science)): They have not addressed it in that time?

RK (Computer Science): They have not proposed a solution.

Jessica Murray (Psychology): Reason they buy Macs not PCs?

RK (Computer Science): Specific funding approval called capital project to buy new macs to replace old macs. Specific funding lines for specific projects. Also project to get funding line for projectors. They can only spend on very specific things

JM (Psychology): Student Tech Fee committee?

RK (Computer Science): Approved for buying both Macs and PCs. His understanding is they would buy both. Has to check notes.

Katya Bezborodko (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Details on how budget shortfall relates to availability to software? IT or Library reaching out to us about software. Is that about which to keep or to acquire.

RK (Computer Science): Directs to library and tech officer. But RK's answer: there is the CUNY Virtual Desktop. Survey is about what software students want on that platform.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership: Since the last plenary meeting we have had to close one seat, Physics, because a special election was held and no nominations were received. Steering also voted to approve the creation of three new seats for MALS and Classics because no seats or an insufficient number of seats were created during our Spring elections. This brings the total number of live seats to 67.

Members of steering consulted our numbers and members of EDLAB regarding the vote that occurred at the last meeting regarding the chartering of CUNY STEM Outreach. There was an accounting error on our part that stated the group needed 40 affirmative votes to pass the charter. However, the correct number of affirmative votes required was 39, which is the number they received. For this reason, we decided to grant the charter in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws.

Questions:

WN (Political Science): What are the criteria to lose a seat?

AP (Political Science): If there is an election and there are no nominations. There is a petition process to fill those seats

ID (LILAC): How many reps per 100 students?

AP (Political Science): 1 per 100, including part of 100

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)

The Nurse Practitioner has signaled that she would like to return to work in January. Her return depends on the ability of the Wellness Center to allocate funds for her full salary.

Juli Cooper, our Licensed Massage Therapist, will be here on Tuesday the 19th from 12 to 6 PM and Wednesday the 20th from 11 AM to 5 PM. The massage station will be on the first floor of the library, past the elevator. To sign up in advance, email me at wellness@cunydisc.org. Walk-ins will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please bring cash to tip Juli for her hard work!

After talking to the coordinators of wellness centers at Brooklyn, John Jay, NYCCT, and Lehman, I have discovered that most wellness centers are funded through some appropriation of a student activities fee. One reason for this practice may be that it frees up the administration from having to pay benefits to medical personnel. For a more detailed report, contact me at wellness@cunydisc.org.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

Nothing new to report this month. Happy holidays!

Thanks prison studies group for sponsoring last event.

Questions:

LS (Comparative Literature): How was your STEM RK: party?

Shoumik Bhattacharya (English): 11 people came, not much attendance.

LS (Comparative Literature): 11 people is more than come to other events.

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

The BT&D group met with PB expert and CUNY professor Celina Su to discuss strategies to push for further transparency the GC budget.

We gathered over 500 signatures on the petition against the “program premium fee” tuition increase for Masters students. Even after Grad Council adopted a similar resolution to ours on Wednesday and the administration said they are backing down for now, it is still important to document opposition to such fees in case we need to fight against a similar proposal (possibly at the level of the Board of Trustees).

Plans are slowly concretizing for a nonviolent action training workshop in the Spring and we will need sponsors to make it happen.

Email services@cunydisc.org to get involved in any of the above-mentioned.

Questions:

RK (Computer Science): Commends for all the work AW and the budget transparency did on advocating against the fee.

LS (Comparative Literature): What do you mean by co-sponsoring?

AW (Political Science): Beautiful Trouble not super cheap but good. We have a limited budget so would be good to gather funds from chartered organizations and program allocations.

LS (Comparative Literature): Also thanks for mobilizing a really effective campaign.

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

Reminder before report: please finish filling out the survey you were given when you signed in. I'll be collecting them at the end of Marlene's report and at the end of plenary.

(1) The Ad-hoc Committee was approved last month and now has the participation of 5 members, plus four DSC Officers: Katya Bezborodko (Earth and Environmental Sciences), Carolyn Loomis (EES), Joanna Dressel (Sociology), Hamad Sindhi (Sociology), Nick Glastonbury (Anthropology) Marlene Nava Ramos (Officer for Library and Technology), and Charlotte, Liza, and Teresa who are the three Co-Chairs. We will be meeting with Keith Wilson in January and presenting our survey results from this survey. The committee will also distribute an online comprehensive survey to the entire student body, so we encourage you and your constituents to participate. If you're interested in joining the committee or have any questions regarding the committee, please email Marlene at Library@cunydisc.org

(2) On November 29, we met with Chief Librarian Polly Thistlethwaite and Dr. Duncan Faherty who was once part of the NY Public Library Advisory Council in order to learn how to increase library resources through student representation in the Advisory Council. We subsequently messaged Dr. Bill Kelly who is the Andrew W. Mellon Director of the Research Libraries at NYPL. We will be meeting with Melissa Gasparotto, who head research services at NYPL, in early January. In the meantime, I am drafting a list of requests from the NYPL in order to increase library resources for GC students. If you have ideas about requests we can make to the NYPL in order to increase our library resources, please email Marlene at Library@cunydisc.org.

(3) I am working with Saira Rafiee (Rep. of Political Science) and Shoumik Bhattacharya (Officer for Outreach) in order to host informal check-ins and a conversation in the spring with students who might be affected by the Travel Ban and or have overall concerns as international students at the GC (funding, travel, housing, employment issues). On Monday Dec. 4th the US Supreme Court issued an order allowing the Trump Administration's Muslim Ban to take full effect while the legal challenges move forward in lower courts. The the ban, for now, greatly restricts certain travelers from six Muslim-majority countries -- Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Chad -- from entering the United States. Concerned international students should feel free to reach out to Marlene or Shoumik at Library@ or Outreach@cunydisc.org.

Questions:

SB (English): DSC already adopted a resolution to decry the travel ban. The meeting is discuss ways to help students on a more micro level. Things are messy and we don't know what's going - meeting is to sit together and figure things out. Not a formally organized thing - creating a space to just talk face-to-face.

TO (Educational Psychology): We should give forms to Katja or leave on table

V. New Business

1. New Member Ratification (Voting Item)

AP (Political Science) moves to ratify the named representatives, Kathryn Alessi and Waratu Gima, the 2 for MALS and 1 for Classics, Mary Jean McNamara. SB (English) seconds
WN (Political Science) Abstains, everyone else approves - motion passes

2. Constitution and Bylaws Changes (Voting Item)

AP (Political Science): Text on the outreach committee requirements - change to at least 1

AP (Political Science) motions to approve by-law 3.4.B, Ana Perry seconds

Discussion:

KB (EES): We want to make sure that if this passes then how can we ensure that we still have these representatives

AP (Political Science): Committees can't get funding if they are not constituted, Outreach Officer still will reach out to international students to get on the committee

SB (English): It is hard to get all the members to meet at the same time or to even get members to serve. We do have 2 international students currently on committee

AA (History): On average how many members are on committees?

LS (Comparative Literature): The amount varies depending on the committee and is set in the by-laws

AP (Political Science): Outreach committee needs no less than 3 and no more than 5

Motion carried unanimously

AP (Political Science): Proposed constitution change - was sent 10 days before October plenary, change in the language on the number of at-large representatives.

AP (Political Science) motions to approve change to 3.2.3 of the constitution, TO seconds

No discussion.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Chartered Organization Proposal (Voting Items): GC Dreamers

LS (Comparative Literature): Was presented at the last plenary, and now we are discussing approval of this chartered org

CT (English): Goes over the points to consider when approving a chartered org.

Jeremy Randall (History) motions to approve, Nick Glastonbury (Anthropology) seconds

Cecilia Salvi (Anthropology): How did you go about collecting signatures and notifying the GC Community?

Muhammad Dalhatu (MD; organizer for GC DREAMers, MALS): Approached people in the cafeteria and left the signature document in the DSC room

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Point of the Chartered Org is to stay with the DSC for a long time, how will you keep this going?

MD (MALS): There are 2 co-chairs so someone else will keep it going and I will continue to do more outreach in getting students involved to continue this mission with international students.

KB (EES): What's the relationship with other DREAMER groups at CUNY?

MD (MALS): We will be doing outreach to other DREAMER groups at other CUNY campuses and other groups such as CUNY DREAMers. We will facilitate workshops with nonprofits in NYC

CS (Anthropology): I have a few issues with chartering. We need to think about the political implications, the goal is provide services to undocumented students which means they are identified. How can we see how well the group is doing if students are not being documented? Second, I think that these are services that the administration should providing, not the students. Third, I think you as the organizer and people you've reached out to are very passionate. There are other avenues for promoting this issue, chartering an org is not the only way to get DSC support or to push your mission. I don't think this is appropriate for DSC chartered org.

MD (MALS): As someone who has worked with undocumented students, they are afraid to approach the administration. Through social media, I have gotten a number of people who reached out to me and wanted to find out about the DSC. They feel like there is a safe space for them. There are a lot of programs and fellowships at the GC and undocumented students don't know if they can apply for them or if it applies to them. This would be a safe space for those students to get support and it would advocate for them to the institution.

CS: Advocacy is the role of the DSC, not of chartered orgs. Some of the services are redundant with services already at CUNY, at the GC, and other chartered orgs. Last semester 2 chartered orgs already sponsored know your rights workshop.

MD (MALS): At this DSC Plenary meeting, no discussion of undocumented students has happened. There is a difference between international students and undocumented students. The workshops that we facilitate will be different from the know your rights workshops.

AP (Political Science): The DSC has been very focused on international students especially in the past year. Does CUNY DREAMers existing group already serve GC students?

MD (MALS): The CUNY DREAMers have collaborated with various campuses but not many undocumented students at the GC have gone to them. Reps from various campuses go there to work together.

HS (Sociology): I understand the argument that the GC administration should be taking on these responsibilities. I think this can be resolved in the purpose statement. One of the roles of the chartered orgs is to build community at the GC. Can you include something along those lines in the purpose statement?

MD (MALS): The constitution clarifies these questions. This is building a network of support. You don't have to be undocumented to be in this group, you can be an ally as well.

TW (Psychology): You spoke about collaborations. Are there other chartered orgs at other schools that you will work with?

MD (MALS): There are reps from 17 campuses that collaborate with CUNY DREAMers.

TW (Psychology): Clarifying, are there other versions of this organization at other campuses?

MD (MALS): Yes

Sean Kennedy (English): I am puzzled by opposition to this group because I am part of a chartered org that advocates for students so why can't this group do that. The constitution clearly states they are building community. This group is focused on a very specific group of students that have limited resources. There are other chartered orgs that do exactly this work. I don't understand how denying this org would get the administration to take action to support undocumented students. This grassroots activism is what gets the admin to do things.

KE (Music): No one in the administration listens to minority student issues or take no action on it. They do not advocate for those groups. We need this grassroots movement to combat the issues faced by these students.

CS (Anthropology) opposed. LS (Comparative Literature) and WN (Political Science) abstained.

Motion does not carry, only 39 yes votes - 41 needed

VII. Announcements

TO (Educational Psychology): Please submit your rankings for the Participatory Budget online. You all should have received emails about it earlier today.

VIII. Adjournment

LS (Comparative Literature) moves to adjourn at 7:05 PM. KE (Music) seconds. The motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.