

## Plenary Minutes February 16, 2018

### Attendance

*Present:* Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger (Proxy Mountira Kephloa), Nora Bartosik (Proxy Joe Xiangyu Zhou), Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Rachel Bogan, Brewer, Carlos Cuestas, Isabel Dominguez Seoane, Shun Feng, Wataru Gima, Nicholas Glastonbury, Felix Grezes, Sugandha Gupta, Raj Korpan, Khanh Le (Proxy Angela Dunne), Soohyun (Ashley) Lee, Sean Kennedy, Kyueun Kim, Mary Jean McNamara, Jessica Murray, Marlene Nava Ramos, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks, Ana Perry, Leah Persaud, Roxana Piotrowska, Taha Poonawala, Saira Rafiee, Jeremy Randall, Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Hamad Sindhi, Iris Strangmann, Jennifer Tang, Armando Tapia, Nga Than, Charlotte Thurston, Jennifer Ware, Alicen Weida (Proxy Scott Ratner), Tellisia Williams, Anais Wong

*Absent:* Aishwarya Bhattacharjee, Carlos Camacho, Pierpaolo Cordone, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Sean Enos-Roberston, Kishore Gangangari, Ian Haberman, Grace Kim-Lambert, Erika Lanham, Jaime Lindsay, Richard Smith, Jeffrey Suttles, Claudia Pace

### I. Approval of Agenda

Teresa Ober (Educational Psychology): The meeting was called to order at 4:57 pm, following the presentations of Nicole Elden (Assistant Director of the Wellness Center) and Kristen LaPerry (Wellness Center Counselor) from the Wellness Center and Christen Madesen II, Director of the Quantitative Reasoning and Consulting Center (QRCC) at the Graduate Center. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda.

Tellisia Williams (Psychology): Moved to amend the agenda date to read "February 16, 2018" and with the addition of "Ratification of New Members" to the agenda as the first item under "New Business." Shoumik Bhattacharya (English): Provided a second to the motion.

TO (Educational Psychology): There was time for discussion. Seeing that there was no interest in discussion, the motion was called to a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### II. Approval of Minutes of September 15, 2017

Liza Shapiro (Comparative Literature): moved to amend the minutes with two friendly emendations from the previous meeting such that the names for the new MALS representatives are included in the document and that the formatting is corrected with names written out the first time and initials are clearly indicated.

Jen Tang (Environmental Psychology): Provided a second to the motion.

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

TO (Educational Psychology): There was time for discussion. Seeing that there was none, the motion was called to a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

### III. Executive Committee Reports

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

**Chartered Organizations.** There were 19 chartered orgs have submitted rosters; none active yet, because they need 20 signatures from interested students. Please sign chartered organization rosters. Some discussion of re-presenting GC DREAMers at plenary—student leader unfortunately unable to lead it this semester, so not being re-presented now. The student who first brought forth this group has alerted us to some fellowships/scholarships that undocumented students can apply for that we will send out.

**Hardship Funds.** Hardship funds still available. Application on GC website; half the funding for the year has already been used in the 2 months it's been available, which is certainly concrete evidence of the economic precarities students face. Student Affairs have also brought up possibility of starting food pantry for students dealing with food insecurity, and are curious if GC students would be interested.

**Accessibility.** Please let us know if there are accessibility needs we can fulfill during meetings. *CCSA is the DSC Ombudsperson:* This means I can help you figure out next steps in tricky situations (who to talk to in GC, etc.), and speak to offices like Student Affairs on your behalf, in order to keep things confidential. Speaking of, if you're a rep for an off-campus program, resources like Student Affairs, Wellness Center, ombudspeople, DSC are one's worth spreading the word about, because sometimes students do not know these resources exist.

**Room Reservation Policy.** Remind constituents of room availability, especially considering that this is the time of year where there are a lot of conferences. Generally, 6-8 weeks out is when DSC steering approve room requests, but as program reps, you can get once a year exception before that period for your program (also chartered org leaders get exceptions).

**Room 5396.** New room as of this year to reserve. Good for intimate gatherings and study groups!

**Non-DSC Rooms.** For program? Ask APO, and let CCSA know too in case of charges for room use. For chartered org/PSA? Ask CCSA! (if charged, let us know so we can see if Student Affairs will write a letter asking waivers).

**Elections/Nominations.** Election nominations are open until March 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:59pm. Remember to nominate yourselves! Spread the word to your programs, and interested students. Elections for voting open April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do send any q's my way; if you have trouble with the votenet system (linked) then email me your nominations

**Interested in starting a PSA?** Talk to CCSA if interested in starting a Program Student Association. They can be a way of gathering student power in order to have more participation in program governance.

Questions:

Mounira Keghida (Proxy for Andrew Alger, History): What are program student association?  
Charlotte Thurston (English): Groups of students who are involved with running of programs and committees. We can help you create a group to work on program governance

SB: PSA are a good place for reps here to talk about how program funds are spent. Creates more transparency

LS: Follow up to your question. Funds don't roll over but PSA's can fundraise and programs can keep money to cover additional projects.

## **2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)**

**Meeting with NYPL Staff Member (01/09).** The Co-Chairs and Officer for Library and Technology met with NYPL Staff. Topics discussed included the following:

1) Closure of SIBL, and maintaining the preferential ILL arrangement between NYPL and the GC regardless of the planned closure of SIBL would be a key resource for GC community members.

2) Making sure students know that the NYPL services are available to them. We also requested to have a report produced in early April or May to provide information changes in usage of NYPL services during our April or May meeting.

3) The one-credential log-in at the NYPL which would grant access to all online resources available. We also discussed the possibility of having MarLI resources available to first-year students as they sign up at OneSTOP during the GC orientation every year in August.

4) Feasibility of incorporating the GC into the existing MarLI collaborations.

**Joint meeting with OSA and IT (01/16).** We discussed the feasibility of transitioning the website off the GC server. The Co-chairs meet with the OSA and Elaine Montilla of IT. We learned that the cost of maintenance of the DSC Works site in Drupal is difficult to justify given that it is the only site within the GC web services that operates on Drupal. The DSC has submitted a proposal justifying the request, which will ultimately be reviewed by the STF committee.

**Meeting of the Ad-hoc Committee on Participatory Budgeting (01/18).** Thank you to everyone who took part in the Participatory Budget process by voting. During the Participatory Budget Ad-hoc Committee meeting, we collectively settled on allocating the award money as follows:

Water Bottle Fountain: \$3000

Student Column: \$500

English Lounge Renewal: \$2500

This decision was made based on the ranked scores. The top three highest ranked projects were awarded within \$6 of their full requested amount. Rank points were determined in the voting system based on both the order and number of votes for a particulate project. There was a total of 387 voters, roughly 10% of the entire student body. In general, project proposals that were detailed, well-justified, and discernibly interdisciplinary, seemed to be more successful. In the

future, these will likely be requirements for proposals. We are also thinking of including a requirement that individuals cannot submit project proposals two years in a row. Any additional feedback about the PB process is welcome, and will also be a discussion topic later in this meeting. Please email [dsc@cunyds.org](mailto:dsc@cunyds.org) or you can email me directly at [ccc@cunyds.org](mailto:ccc@cunyds.org). For each successful proposal, project liaisons from the Participatory Budget Ad-hoc Committee have agreed to work specifically with representative(s) of one project to assist them in project implementation. We are now also trying to meet with the Office of Facilities to work out the details of installation and equipment/furniture purchasing.

**Library Walk-throughs (01/24 and 01/25).** The Director for the Center of the Humanities, Keith Wilson, and staff arranged for two walk-throughs of the first-floor library space to discuss some tentative changes to the first floor. In attendance were library staff members and students. We have attempted to follow-up to schedule a meeting to discuss next-steps for data collection around library renewal interests.

**Meeting with Prof. Duncan Faherty (01/30).** As part of the CUNY Strategic Plan, programs are required to demonstrate that they are supporting students in seeking external funding sources. The suggestion in this regard was for individual programs to create websites that list external funding opportunities and maintain them separately. This could involve a sort of crowdsourcing, where faculty send the APO or another staff member a list of external funding opportunities that are specific to their discipline and that gets maintained from year to year.

**Meeting with OSA and Office of Facilities (02/15).** The DSC Co-Chairs met with these offices to discuss the project implementation for Participatory Budget Initiative.

**Meeting with OSA (02/16).** The DSC Co-Chairs met to discuss various issues including:

- 1) Health services and nurse practitioner: At present there will be no renewal of a contract with an on-site nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.
  - 2) Faculty mentorship and anti-bias training in light of a recent incident. If you have any experiences with this, please let CCSA know.
  - 3) The Student Activity Fee taskforce and concerns regarding the restrictions that may be imposed with SAF. The USS will provide more information on this issue.
- During the next meeting, we intend to focus on the issue of the CUNYFirst transition.

*Upcoming Meetings:*

- Middle States Steering Committee Meeting (02/20)
- Some DSC steering officers and Ad-hoc library Committee members will be meeting with Keith Wilson, Director for the Center of the Humanities to discuss library changes on (02/21)
- EC will be meeting with Provost Connolly (02/26)
- GC Budget Committee (03/06)
- Co-Chairs will be meeting with OSA (03/14)
- EC will be meeting with President Robinson at some point this semester

*In other news:*

- As you may already know, Middle States Accreditation is required by the College to be recognized as an official institution of higher education. The GC will be undergoing evaluation

this semester. If any of you would like to be part of the Middle States Working Groups, please indicate by signing up on the sign-up sheet being passed around. This would entail about 1 meeting per month and is open to about 6-7 interested students. It may be a good opportunity to provide information about the success and challenges that the college faces.

-The Office of Communication and Marketing is seeking student nominations for individuals interested in serving on a review committee for an upcoming "Three-sis" Conference. It should require the commitment of a few hours over the course of 1-2 meetings this semester to review submissions of students who are likely in the dissertation defense stage. If you are interested, please sign-up on the paper being passed around. They are only looking for 1-2 students to serve so please only put your name if you are seriously considering.

Questions:

There were no questions.

### **3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)**

**Legal consultations are still available!** If advertising to students, please let them know that consultations can sometimes take between 1-2 weeks to happen because several students may be requesting them at once and lawyers who work with DSC are adding GC students to their existing schedule

**Tracking Program Allocation.** Please let me know if you have trouble accessing Google sheet to track your program spending! Spend your money and use those tax-exempt forms :)

**GC Budget Committee.** In March, Teresa and I will be meeting with the GC Budget Group- newly convened to advise the President and Provost on the GC budget. This will be interesting.

**Impending Changes to Student Activity Fee Policy.** In the next report from our USS Delegate you'll hear about pending changes to the Student Activity Fee policy which may have direct impact on how the DSC can its money. All of our money comes from the SAF! We are the most transparent organization compared to undergraduates but we will all be impacted by these changes. We want to have control over how our funds are being used. Please sign up to testify at the next BoT public hearing--I will be!

Questions:

KA: Legal Consultations. Can you tell us what the requirements are?

LS: Usually ask to send schedule and availability and a very general description of the topic

Carlos Cuestas (Music) Can they answer questions about immigration?:

LS: They are not specifically immigration lawyers but they have taken them on. If you have recommendations for possible networks we can work with please let me know.

### **4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)**

**USS Plenaries, January 21st & February 4th.** Actionable items to report back to your program:



- The Student Activity Fee (SAF) Task Force will review student activity fees at all CUNY campuses. The Board of Trustees will vote on any changes to how student activity fees are spent.
- The SAF Task Force met three times in December to discuss student run referendums, earmarking of funds, and the spending of surplus funds. Recommendations from the SAF Task Force will come to the BOT by the
- We were able to push for student representation but no GC students• John Aderounmu, USS Chairperson and Hunter College Delegate. Here are the student members and their CUNY affiliation

- Trevor Collins, NYCCT Student
- Ben Hollander, Brooklyn Class Student Government Deputy Speaker
- Fernando Araujo, USS Executive Director and Brooklyn Graduate Student Organization

Vice President

- Francesca Royal, USS Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs and Hunter College Delegate
- Kawthar Abdullah, USS Vice-Chair for Disabilities and BMCC Delegate

\*Note that there are no Graduate Students from the DSC on this Taskforce

*Preliminary findings:*

- General Council Hernandez is being tight lipped with new language changes. There will be changes to the referendum process which allows SGA to decide how funds are spent.
- There is talk to do away with the referendum process because General Council believes they are unconstitutional and not viewpoint neutral and to only allow College Deans or Presidents to initiate referendums.
- USS fears that there is a new push to give authority to college Presidents to decide how SAF are spent and Delegates are worried that the SAF will turn into an administrative fee.
- USS fears that the BoT is trying to change the language about how SAF are spent to take away student power in decision making.

**The Board of Trustees is trying to have a universal policy and fee for all campuses.** New language will come to the BoT in March so they can be approved in June. Student governments should be vigilant depending on what the proposed changes are.

- The SAF Task Force will poll student governments to see how changes to the SAF will impact campuses.
- The Task Force is asking for feedback based on these preliminary findings.

**DSC steering officers sent concerns on February 2nd.** If you have comments or concerns please email me at [uss@cunydisc.org](mailto:uss@cunydisc.org). USS is creating a FAQ sheet to distribute to all CUNY students and there will be a Town Hall this month to prepare students to testify and share their concerns at the March BoT Hearing. FAQ sheet is in progress. Date, Time, and Location of SAF Town Hall is TBD

**CUNY Board of Trustees Public Hearing.** CUNY Brooklyn Borough Hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. This is a joint meeting with the public hearing on the Board's policy calendar.

DATE: Monday, March 12, 2018

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Brooklyn College

Gold Room in the Student Center  
2705 Campus Road (at Amersfort Place) Brooklyn , New York 11210

IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE HEARING: Persons wishing to speak are asked to please notify the Office of the Secretary via email at [hearings@cuny.edu](mailto:hearings@cuny.edu) prior to 4:30 P.M., Friday, March 9, 2018.

Questions:

JT: Background on what the student activity fee is, how much we pay and CUNY-wide how much is the sum, what money and power do we have here?

TW: Paying into it yearly funds programs like student organizations we have. Legal consultations and other events. Refers to Liza for more specifics.

TO: When you receive your award letter, you should see the amount taken out on a semesterly basis.

JT: How about other campuses?

TW: Varies by campus. We do not know the amount of funding CUNY-wide.

KO: Asks to see second slide about referendum. What other ones called in the past?

TW: Refers to referendum about nurse practitioner, where we decided whether we wanted to earmark funds automatically for a Nurse Practitioner salary.

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Thinks JT's question is really important. SAF are really important. It is how DSC operates, the DSC's operating budget. If we don't have control over that we don't have control over how we use the money. What's your opinion about what we can do?

TW: Encourages that people testify. Voice your concerns, including that graduate students are not represented. Look out for FAQ sheet too on actionable items to testify on.

HS: Other than testifying, other things we can do?

TW: Any suggestions, please email.

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): For SAF, do individual students have any say over how money is spent? In starting referendums?

TW: Asks co-chairs past and present to elaborate.

HS: Enumerated in DSC's constitution how to referendums around Student Activity Fees (clarifies he is a previous CCC). DSC would need to start referendum process and he believes individual students too. Eventually it does go to the president's desk after voted on by student body .

TO: We don't have one happening now. We don't have earmarks on funds because of NP referendum. But we would lose power to make those earmarks.

KA: SLS for clarification. Final say is president?

TW: This would change it so that presidents only can start referendum.

MK (Proxy for Andrew Alger, History) BoT, how many?

TW: You can check this information on the website.

TO: The food is here. Let's take a break and reconvene in 15 minutes. We will reconvene at 5:50 PM.

The meeting was resumed at 5:50 PM. The order of the agenda items had changed slightly to accommodate food prep. We are resuming with the report of the Co-Chair for Business following by the report of the University Faculty Liaison.

### **5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)**

The UFS Chair has declined attempting to establish a permanent position for a GC doctoral student and adjunct member of the UFS.

Questions:

Raj Korpan (Computer Science): Where is the justification for her decision?

Nicholas Glastonbury (Anthropology): Sufficient non-full-time representation on the body was the reason she gave. Terms to election to UFS different than terms to DSC (different timing of the election), so UFS would have to add something to constitution to add GTF representative to the body. NG doesn't see it as so hard because we change our constitution at the DSC when we need.

LS: The UFS constitution may specifically state that GTFs are not eligible.

Break until 5:40 PM for food.

## **IV. Steering Officer Reports**

### **1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)**

**Update on Grants.** There were 15 grant requests reviewed at the February 5th meeting for a total request of \$9837. Twelve (12) were approved for \$6930, 3 were asked to be revised and resubmit. The total amount for grants approved so far this year is \$14892; \$5108 remains. There were two (2) start-up grant under review for \$200 each:

Critical Sociolinguistics Interviews

Back-to-school Party for Free Tuition + \$7k

The remaining grants deadline is March 16, 2018 (Meeting: April 9, 2018)



Questions:

Mary Jean McNamara (Classics): I'm new. What are the parameters for the grants?

RK: Two types of grants. We like to fund grants at GC that are student run for students. It doesn't have to be one event, can be series of talks, and can be publication, too. Look for the proposals to be interdisciplinary.

LS: As representatives I think our frequent request is to ask if DSC representatives were approached about program allocations. If you are interested in co-sponsoring a grant if you don't use all of your program allocations this is a good opportunity to contribute to an event.

RK: If you are planning an event reach out to me. I'm always happy to provide information. Even if you are looking for help please come to me.

Taha Poonawala (Middle Eastern Studies): What are the two types?

RK: explains the details

CC (Music): Will grants be coming from SAF?

RK: Yes, that is how we get our budget. So far, we have spent about \$14,000 and we have about \$5,000 left.

Wataru Gima (MALS): Where can we find the grants that have been approved?

RK: Check the flyers because they should say funded by the DSC.

## **2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)**

**Membership.** Two seats have closed since the last plenary: Nursing and Urban Education. If you know anyone in those two programs who would be interested in re-opening the seat, please get in contact with AP. We currently have 46 Active Program Representatives (out of 47 Live Seats) and 16 Active At-Large Representatives (out of 18 Live Seats).

**Governance.** The last C & B meeting was held on 18 December 2017. We approved changes to Article III.3.2, Article VI.4, Bylaw 3.2.e, Bylaw 8.2, and Bylaw 6.1.d. These changes will be presented during New Business as required by our Constitution.

**GTF.** The Governance task force is launching a survey to find out about shared governance practices at the Graduate Center program level. There will be a survey for students and another one for EOs/APOs it will be launching before the next plenary so please keep an eye out for it, fill it out, and encourage your colleagues and your EOs/APOs to fill it out. Furthermore, if you know that there are issues with shared governance in your program and you start the survey and realize your program has a problem please reach out to the DSC and we can help provide you with the tools that you need to push back against the administration in your program and help advocate on your behalf at higher levels if it reaches that point.

Questions:

TO: How many reps have no idea about program governance documents? They are online.

Alison Parks (Political Science): There are links in the survey.

### **3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)**

*Report presented by TO on behalf of Officer for Health and Wellness, who was absent:*

Health and Wellness Coordinator, Alison Cabana, and I met to discuss the Wellness Festival in May. We arranged for Juli Cooper to return, offering short massages to students for free (paid for from the Health & Wellness Committee fund and Steering Discretionary funds.) We will also have 100 dollars to spend on free giveaways for guests. Please send me any recommendations. The Health and Wellness web page needs to be updated. If you have any outstanding healthcare providers to recommend, please get in touch. It will be updated in time for next Plenary.

Office hours for H&W are Tuesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 in 5495. Stop on by if you want to chat about healthcare issues for students or need to pick up some safer sex supplies.

Question:

TO: Please email [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org) if you have specific questions or concerns.

### **4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)**

Three events are in the works for this semester. A party, targeted at off-campus students, two immigration/legal status related events. One of these events will be more informal, a space to discuss concerns and anxieties however vague. One will be run by people with more of an institutional or legal approach. ("What are your rights" events). These events will likely be in April. Will meet with committee at the end of February and March. I look forward to work with Charlotte to help PSA setup, especially for departments with a lot of off-campus based students. Please ask international students with concerns, big/small, to reach out to [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org).

Questions:

Yuliya Barycheuskaya (Proxy, History): what are the concerns?

SB: The concerns are multiple. Provides examples. There are valid concerns that are 12 hours long, but the concerns are about everything literally. I can speak to the people who make decisions about these matters. However vague your question it should be taken seriously so please come to me.

TO: Clarifies that for legal issues related to your visa as an international student, you should go to Office of International Students

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

**Meditation sessions.** The first session was held last Tuesday with Zen Buddhist instructor Harry Miller. We plan to have weekly sessions this semester. Next session is planned for Tuesday February 20th, 2:00 - 3:30pm in room 5414. Sign up is via email at [services@cunydisc.org](mailto:services@cunydisc.org). Feedback is also welcome on scheduling times: potential alternative options are Tuesday or Wednesday between 1:00 and 2:30 pm (starting time for a 1.5 h session).

**Non-violent Direct-Action training.** Happy to announce an upcoming workshop with Beautiful Trouble on Thursday, March 8th (international women's day!) at 7:00-8:30 pm in room 5414. RSVP to SLS email.

**Budget Transparency & Democracy (BT&D) Working Group.** Quick recap: Last semester a group of students coordinated by the SLS committee came up with a proposal for budget transparency and democratization at the GC, which was shared at the Community Meeting with President Robinson on November 2nd, asking the following things from administration:

1. Releasing itemized budgets for the GC for the past 3-5 years.
2. Releasing a report on how the budgeting process has worked at the GC in the last few years. Specific names and offices involved in the process, and what steps they take in order to create a budget.
3. Creating a Budget Oversight Committee, made up of faculty, students and staff, which will look at past budgets, proposed budgets, and recommend changes to the process by which the budget is created.
4. Moving toward participatory budgeting, where all faculty, students, and staff will have a say on proposed budgets

We hope to organize further coordinated actions to reiterate these demands.

**Tuition Increase through Special Fee Targeting MA Students.** President Chase Robinson and Provost Joy Connolly proposed a plan to effectively increase the tuition for masters' students at the Graduate Center by proposing a \$100/credit 'program premium fee' (previously referred to as an 'excellency fee'). Opposition to the MA fee was documented through a petition that gathered over 500 signatures, and resolutions adopted at the PSC, DSC and Graduate Council. Yet the fight is far from over: the MALS program students have already been informed that a fee will be implemented in the near future, and other MA programs are sure to be targeted as well. Had a meeting just before this one with concerned students and we decided to organize a Town Hall to share info and strategize to stop this impending fee targeting MA students. Mark your calendars for March 1st, 6:00-8:00pm! Also want to encourage all to come to testify at the Board of Trustees hearing on Monday March 12th by emailing [hearings@cuny.edu](mailto:hearings@cuny.edu).

Questions:

There were no questions.

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

**GC-NYPL Library Resources.** In early January, co-chairs and I met with Melissa Gasparotto, the Assistant Director of Research Services at the New York Public Library, the office which oversees areas concerning NYPL Research Libraries and their relationship with the CUNY Graduate Center. In 1968, the NYPL was mandated to work with CUNY Graduate Center and provide resources in exchange for public funding from the state and the city. As a result, DSC has viable opportunity to strengthen relations and increase library resources, such as the MaRLI program. Melissa agreed to schedule regular meetings with DSC body, expressed continued commitment to ILL, agreed to look into inviting the GC as a member into MaRLI program (this would increase electronic resources of books), and same log-in credential for NYPL and GC Lib. Next steps: identify whether students use NYPL resources as an extension of GC Library

resources, identify NYPL resources which are most pressing to GC students (i.e. Gale and ProQuest Databases), begin structuring communication lines between NYPL Research Libraries and DSC and identify strategies in order to advocate

**Adhoc Library Committee.** Katya Bezborodko, committee member and proxy from last plenary, compiled all survey results, digitized responses, and provided an initial analysis, [see here](#). The biggest takeaway is that the first floor of the library is underutilized and needs improvement in order to meet student needs. Also, students are strongly satisfied with the Dissertation Reading Room, strongly dissatisfied with the sculpture, and oppose losing workspace over curated gallery items. A few of us also participated in an initial walkthrough with Dr. Wilson. Major takeaway points are that he hopes to tear out carpet flooring in the first floor of the library by the summer. We will be holding a follow up with Dr. Keith Wilson and I would like to invite everyone to participate, on Wednesday, Feb. 21st at 11AM. Please let me know if you're interested in participating.

**Student Tech Fee and IT.** The Student Tech Fee Committee will be meeting on March 1st. At this meeting, proposals for tech initiatives will be considered. Initial proposals are due TODAY February 16th, and if you haven't already, I highly encourage all students to submit their proposals by Monday. Notes other members of the committee in the room who students can reach out to (Raj Korpan, Jeremy Randall, and Jessica Murray)

**Comprehensive Library and Technology Survey.** Lastly, because we have different moving pieces related to the physical space of the library, library resources and IT, next week we'll be distributing a comprehensive survey on each of these issues. It would be much appreciated if all DSC officers and representatives helped to distribute this survey to students in their program. We're hoping this survey will give us an indication of the library resources which are needed, inform the design of the 1st floor of the library, as well as any technology priorities students might have. New survey will come out Thursday of next week.

Questions:

Alexis Brewer (Biology): I have a question about removing the carpet. What will they do about the sound problems?

Marlene Nava Ramos (Earth and Environmental Sciences): He will open up the first floor. We don't know yet his thoughts on how this changes the sound in the library. We will bring up noise level at the meeting and also ask how long the library will be functional. This work will happen over the summer. There are multiple fazes to redesigning the library, there are more grand scale ideas to transform the space. We need to make sure our needs are being met in this process. MNR interested in him hiring a community organizer who can make sure library staff and student voices are heard.

Taha Poonawala (Middle Eastern Studies): Please explain the MaRLI Program

MNV: Provides clarification. MNR thinks it would be good to be full members to have more access to libraries at NYU and Columbia

YB (Proxy, History): Can we access the NYU and Columbia Library? How does the MaRLI Program work?

MVR: Yes, if you take a class there or through the MaRLI Program.

TO: You can apply for MaRLI and it expires on a yearly basis.

Jeremy Randall (History): Go to the NYPL website and follow the instructions.

MNR: Clarifies that we essentially are using Columbia and NYU as members of NYPL, not GC.

## **V. New Business**

### **1. Ratification of New Members**

AP: Chemistry has a new rep. I move to ratify this new rep. Kishore Gangari.

SB: Seconds.

TO: There was time for discussion. There was no discussion of the motion.

Motion is approved unanimously.

### **2. Presentation of Constitution and Bylaw Changes**

AP: This is not a voting item, but it will be at the next plenary. There will be a few bylaw changes, including:

- 1) The change involves some reworking of the wording around the description of the CCC job due to the position of the GC Archivist no longer existing.
- 2) The next change is to article 6.4 quorum. Currently it is  $\frac{2}{3}$   $\frac{3}{5}$  voting majority seats. Some seats remain open for a long time and they count against quorum until filled so we are proposing counting voting seats to count towards quorum.
- 3) The next change involves clarification on the revise and resubmit instructions for a DSC grant application.
- 4) Next, there was some additional language change for bylaw 8.2 on the spending responsibilities of the program representative.
- 5) Next one is about carrying over funds because DSC funds do not carry over to the following year unless you have PSA so this bylaw clarifies that.

You will be receiving these in writing ten days prior to the next plenary.

Questions:

KA: Clarification question. If a program doesn't use allocation what happens to the money?

LS: The money stays and goes back to DSC but if there is a large surplus the money may go back to the state because of the CUNY audit.

KA: Does the surplus just sit there?

LS: Process for allocating surpluses funds that depends on timeline where body votes. All SAF funds are put into DSC accounts. Allocation of those funds are up to us. We as a body can vote on surplus and what to do with it, but I have to project what kind of surplus we might have.

**3. Ad hoc Committee on Accessibility (Voting Item)**

CT: explains that ad-hoc committees have to be renewed every year so I am standing here to see if we are interested in creating a committee on accessibility issues. To further clarify for this to happen we have to motion to create the committee and whoever makes the motion will chair the meeting.

Cecilia Salvia (Anthropology): Motions

SB: Seconds.

TO: Calls for discussion. Seeing that there was none, the motion was called for a vote.

Motion passes unanimously.

**VI. Announcements**

**1. Submission of Student Tech Fee Proposals**

RK: speaks to student tech fee proposals. Pushing for a more democratized student tech fee. Please reach out to members of the student tech fee.

TO: Is the deadline today but can the committee bring proposals to the meeting?

RK: Yes, deadline was today but let us know and we can bring the issue up to the committee

YB (History, Proxy): The scanner in history is broken can we do anything about that?

RK: Yes, email.

MNR: Yes, but include details and prices. There is a form she can send to interested people.

YB (History Proxy): The large scanner in the library is broken all the time

CC: Budget limit?

RK: There is no limit.

MNR: Hardware and software

TP: Let's make the scanners accessible to students and repair broken overhead scanners.

TO: You can also do some research and submit proposals.

**2. Program Governance Survey**

AP: Announcement and reminder to fill it out when it happens.

Encourage APOs/EOs to fill it out if you are comfortable doing so. These documents should be updated.

**3. Participatory Budget Initiative**

TO: Next year it's possible that this will continue but that is contingent on the budget. Please email me.

**VII. Adjournment**

TO: Motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.