

Plenary Minutes February 16, 2018

Attendance

Present: Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Brewer, Pierpaolo Cordone, Isabel Dominguez Seoane, Kristofer Eckelhoff (Proxy Evan Moskowitz), Shun Feng, Kishore Gangangari, Wataru Gima, Nicholas Glastonbury, Felix Grezes, Ian Haberman, Roderick Hurley, Kyueun Kim, Raj Korpan, Jaime Lindsay, Soohyun (Ashley) Lee, Sean Kennedy, Mary Jean McNamara, Marlene Nava Ramos, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, William, Novello, Teresa Ober (Elizabeth Che), Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks, Leah Persaud, Saira Rafiee, Jeremy Randall (Proxy Mounira Keggola), Cecilia Salvi, Patty Sanchez, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Hamad Sindhi, Richard Smith, Iris Strangmann (Bernadette Ojukwu), Jeffrey Suttles (Proxy Sami Sauma), Armando Tapia, Nga Than, Charlotte Thurston, Jennifer Ware, Alicen Weida, Tellisia Williams, Anais Wong

Absent: Rachel Bogan, Carlos Cuestas, Sugandha Gupta, Erika Lanham, Khanh Le, Jessica Murray, Claudia Pace, Ana Perry, Roxana Piotrowska, Taha Poonawala, Jennifer Tang

I. Approval of Agenda

Tellisia Williams (Psychology): Called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Liza Shapiro (Comparative Literature) moved to approve agenda with emendations: New Business Item #5 which is Presentation of Changes to the DSC 2017-2018 Budget. Raj Korpan (Computer Science) seconds. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2018

Andrew Alger (History) moved to approve the minutes. Nick Glastonbury (Anthropology) seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

At a Rep suggestion on Accessibility, we are printing a few copies of reports out and making reports accessible right at/before the meeting time through a shared Google drive. We hope these moves can make these meetings more accessible to reps! If you have any specific accessibility needs, please do feel free to contact us.

There are three active chartered orgs! Please sign rosters, now, or at the Chartered Organization Collaboration Mixer next door, starting at 7:00 PM! Hosted by our very own QUNY.

Advertise your events on chartered org site!: opencuny.org/charteredorgs

Elections: 151 students nominated

If you Didn't nominate yourself but still want to run? Write-in name for elections! Ask me/email me to see if yearr program has rep nominated. Official elections open up around April 1st and close May 1st.

PSA Leaders: Let me know if you want to use Votenet for program elections! Or, relay this to your PSA leader. (or, talk to be abt becoming a PSA so you can use it!)

Food Pantry: Student Affairs has asked us about student interest in collaborating on food pantry. (perhaps note, in light of increased masters fees, this is notable) (also wanted to get a sense: would students be comfortable staffing such a pantry, or having it be student staffed and therefore ppl can see which students are picking up food).

Title IX online training for student leaders (necessary to take!)
–https://platform.everfi.net/new_registration (Registration code: 441e0ce9)

Nurse Practitioner: Student Services, Grad Council sent a letter to Provost/President urging them to hire a Nurse Practitioner.

Room Use: rooms available for events, conference, etc use. Program/chartered orgs have 1ce-a-year exception to reserve more than 6-8 wks out; please give extra time for weekend requests!

Non-DSC Room Request: contact me if you end up charged for room! (or if you're a chartered org/PSA leader who wants to use a non-DSC room)

Questions:

Jennifer Ware (Philosophy): Some students in department were concerned by satisfactory progress requirements that went into effect in fall, things like incompletes rolling over, audits counting as credits for enrollment, and how audits count for faculty teaching courses. If anyone else is concerned with these changes, please contact Jennifer.

Charlotte Thurston (English): Thank you bringing to our attention.

LS: Food pantry, do they want input or collaboration from students?

CT: Student Affairs will be managing and just want input and possible help, but it won't be our responsibility.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

Recent Past Meetings since the February plenary:

The Middle States Review Steering Committee met on March 20. This was an orientation meeting, of sorts, to the 2-year review process. More details are forthcoming. Thank you to everyone who agreed to be part of a working group for that! You should be contacted soon if not already.

Members of the DSC EC met with the Provost on February 26. The meeting seemed to go well and we are following up on several of the issues discussed, including:

- Fellowship Award Letters and Transparency of Fees
- Participatory Budget Initiatives
- Weekend Room Reservation Requests for Non-DSC Rooms
- Concerns surrounding Funding for Master' s Programs and Fees
- Faculty Anti-bias training
- An artistic initiative to re-envision "classroom pedagogy" ("The Shed" ... more details forthcoming)

The GC Budget Committee met on March 6. Both the DSC Co-Chairs for Business and Communications are the student representatives currently serving on this committee. During the meeting, a new GC budget website was presented: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Business-Finance/Budget>. [It is easiest to find by searching "graduate center budget" in any web browser.]

The DSC Co-Chairs met with OSA on March 14. During the meeting, the following issues were discussed

- Health Services: The nurse practitioner will not be returning under the stipulations of the previous contract. As a reminder, if you have a health emergency, please see the OSA.
- Changes to the CUNY-wide Student Activity Fee Policy: This will be added to the agenda probably for the April Board of Trustees meeting.
- Claire Wilson has been appointed as the official disabilities person in the OSA.
- The rent at the GC apartments is not going to increase for the 2018-19 academic year.
- As a reminder, please see the DSC first for concerns about program governance. If we are not able to help you, please consider contacting the OSA.
- Food Pantry at the Graduate Center: As mentioned during the previous meeting, in an effort to reduce food insecurity on campuses, Governor Cuomo is mandating that all college campuses have a food pantry. If any chartered organization leader is interested in working with the Office of Student Affairs on this issue, please let either myself ccc@cunydisc.org or ccsa@cunydisc.org know.

The most recent Graduate Council meeting took place during the afternoon of March 14. During the meeting, several new courses were added to the program for the Master' s in Digital Humanities and the Master' s in Data Analysis and Visualization. In addition, a new master's degree program was established in Biography and Memoir. Several students protested by holding signs against the proposed master's program premium fees during the course of the meeting, a concern that still seems to resonant among many members of the student body.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The DSC EC will be meeting with President Robinson on March 29.
- The DSC Co-Chairs and the Office for Library and Technology will be meeting with Prof. Matthew Gold on March 30 to talk about the changes to the current library concourse level.
- The DSC Co-Chairs and the Office for Library and Technology will likely be meeting with IT before the semester is over.

- The Center for the Humanities Director Keith Wilson will likely be organizing a library town hall in April. You should expect to receive an announcement about it shortly.

General Announcements:

- Please spread the word about the upcoming elections period which will be April 1-May 1. Those of you who were nominated should have already received an email stating which positions you were nominated for. If you do not wish to be considered for a specific position, please be sure to complete the form that was linked to that email before March 22 ONLY if you wish to decline the position.
- The Advocate issue is set to come out around March 19. Please be on the look-out for this and consider submitting to future issues.
- Dissertation Showcase Conference: Thanks to the two DSC representatives who are willing to serve as review committee members!
- Shannon Azzato Stephens, a member of the CUNY community, is conducting research on Non-Teaching Adjuncts at CUNY. If you would like to share your experience as a current or former NTA, please email: shannonazzatostephens@gmail.com.
- Graduate Council Committees 2018-19: Please nominate yourselves or others! A sign-up sheet should be circulated. The Committees include those which deal with the following issues at the college-level:
 - Curriculum and Degree Requirements
 - Structure (this is essentially program governance)
 - Services
 - Research
 - Committee on Committee
 - Instructional Technology

Questions:

For further question, please email the Co-Chair of Communications, at ccc@cunydisc.org.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

- Deadline for receipts: May 25th: Grants, Chartered Organization and Program Allocation: June 1st. That doesn't mean you have to hold on to them till then: you can give them in now!
- Reminder to reps about receipt submission: original receipts should be taped to 8.5x11 sheet of paper with node number on request. Staples jam the copier. Check email for node: it should be the email attached to your Works account. You can always email ccb@cunydisc.org to confirm that the receipts are received.
- Reminder of the ways to spend program allocations: student conferences, speaker series, or workshops; honoraria (not for CUNY faculty); APO gifts; Small furniture, art, decorations for program lounges; Supplies for tea/coffee as well as coffee makers/tea kettles; Books or journals for shared student use
- If ordering something online, please have it shipped to the Graduate Center rather than your home address. Makes the Business Office question when they see things shipped to a non-GC address.

- Sits on the Budget Committee with Teresa; if you have particular questions you want the committee. Reach out to Teresa or Liza. Advisory body; ultimate decision falls to Provost and President, doesn't mean we can't ask for things like a line item budget like we have

-

Questions:

HS: Can you explain what goes on in depth in Budget Committee Meeting

LS: One meeting that mostly discussed the new website. We did not get agenda till day of, so didn't know what was happening at the meeting. CR was making the case for program premium fees. Little unclear what we will be doing at the next meeting; Liza will ask for agenda in advance.

WN: Who else is on this committee?

LS: President, Provost, Council of EOs, and Sebastian Persico of the Business Office.

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): Any constraints on conference registration fees for money?

LS: Something that people from smaller programs started asking for; seems like a lot of students could ask. LS asked the representative to decide a small amount of money that can be distributed to all, for equity, considering the difference in fees and how many conferences people go to. Student has to register first, and they can't upfront pay for conference they don't go for.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

The USS Plenary was held on March 4.

- The Resolution 1718-P11: CUNY Academic Excellence Fees (AEF) adopted on Feb. 2
 - Called on the Board of Trustees to table all requests to establish or increase AEF at CUNY.
 - Called for fee waivers for graduate students who are unable to pay tuition due to financial hardship
 - Final resolve called for a Task Force comprised of students, faculty, and administrators to review AEF to determine their justification, investigate how CUNY is taking money from students, and to document the impact these additional fees will have on time to degree for masters' students.
- The Student Activity Fee (SAF) Task Force will review student activity fees at all CUNY campuses. The Board of Trustees is seeking to adopt proposed amendments during the Spring 2018 semester. Changes to SAF will be implemented during the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Resolution 1718-P12: CUNY Student Activity Fees (SAF) adopted on March 4. It Called for a halt on these proposed changes to SAF and demanded the BoT initiate town halls, campus visits, and meetings with elected student leaders on each campus.
- USS created a page on the website to house all of Student Activity Reform:
<http://www.usscuny.org/student-activity-fees>
- Every CUNY campus has different allocations. Compare them with the link above.
 - SAF Collections and Surplus Summary
 - The is currently over 30 million dollars in student activity surpluses. See the breakdown above.

- CUNY Bylaws
 - College Association Guidelines are crucial to the management of student fees.
 - The Queens College Settlement is often cited as the impetus to the proposed reforms.
- CUNY Board of Trustees Public and Brooklyn Borough Hearing was held on March 12 at 4:30 at Brooklyn College. During the meeting over 116 speakers signed up to testify on Calendar item number 3 B- Excellency Fees for MA students. Students also spoke out against changes to the SAF. There was concern raised over the vague language of SAF proposed changes. The feelings from students were that students shouldn't pay for resources, invest in the university. Students should hold majority on college associations. There was a question over whether the BoT motivation was to take away student rights and raise tuition and fees. There was outrage over the proposed elimination of earmarks. There was a protest outside during the public hearing
- CUNY Board of Trustees March 2018 Board Meeting
 - Date: Monday, March 19, 2018
 - Time: 4:30 p.m.
 - Location:
John Jay College of Criminal Justice 860 11th Avenue
2nd Floor Cafeteria New York, NY 10019

Questions:

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Thank you for a great report. Is there some action planned for this date, March 19, should people look to go to John Jay around this time.

TW: Excellent question, there are protests proposed. AW will report on it. We are up in arms at this time.

Jason Nielsen (English) Can you summarize the gist of the proposed changes to the SAF?

TW: You can go to the USS link and you can read all of them. I can't do it justice at this time. It's a lot of changes.

Dominique Nisperos (Sociology): Net effect that it takes away from students who chose too?

TW: That's what happening in a nutshell. Decision making body to administrators.

5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)

UFS met earlier this week. What came up was a policy by legal team for sanctioned use of computing services on the Cloud. This policy is going before the BoT for adoption at some point. This policy affects us as instructors but perhaps could be extended to student government. Non-public information/student information in cloud violates FERPA and federal law. Example, keeping grades in Google sheet. Punishments for not using these services in designated away, including termination of employment. They don't offer sanctioned cloud computing services, just ones not. UFS is going to draft a resolution but wanted to get everyone enraged.

Questions;

RK: Very confused by this, because they transitioned all our emails to Microsoft, and we communicate with students through that email so it's already on Microsoft. What's the difference between that and using cloud service like Microsoft 365?

NG: Notably they didn't include Microsoft Office in that list. My sense if trying to get to adhere to a contract with them. fallacious argument they are making because we communicate with students via emails and those could be breached.

Ander Alger (History): Had a chance to review and was concerned by Section 3.c: overly broad definition of what constitutes work. Anything could fall under that document. Section 4a2a: public data that presents no risk to CUNY is acceptable for Cloud, so the gist is that this document gives whoever has power to make these decisions wide latitude of what constitutes acceptable use of cloud computing programs. When do they seek to enforce this doc? Who will be arbitrators of fair use? What can students do to make sure prospective students and faculty are taken into account. My recommendation for how this could be amended would be on those parts of the document.

NG: Or not taken up. Gives CUNY Central carte blanche what they want in sanctioning how we use the internet to teach and do university business

DN: What stage is it at? Officialized, or "we're still drafting"?

NG: I think it's still a draft. Only came up earlier this week. Just heard this morning that this was drafted without input of IT or any faculty. Thinks it's still in its early stages

DN: I think we should organize in opposition in collaboration with faculty members. Everything we do is on a cloud server so anyone can get it on a cloud anyway.

HS: Heard from unverified sources--they are still redrafting this and now are going to form a committee with faculty. Any input that USS has on who goes to this committee, would you bring up that students should be included too?

NG: Happy to make the case that students should be on the committee. Not sure if the president of UFS will be willing to do that.

WN: When are they going to present this publicly?

NG: I don't know

WN: Public meeting?

NG: It's possible. This came out of left field earlier this week. UFS members are outraged and figuring out how best to respond. Looks like they're going to be putting a committee

DN: CUNY Committee and TLC and Pedagogy Centers around CUNY are very opposed to this, they are discussing it on twitter. Moving off of free and open source is one way to frame this. We lost this the longer we are not affiliated with campus. Pay for play platforms gets in the way of us being good pedagogues in the long run.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)

Grants deadline is today! Nothing else to report!

Can still apply for start up grants, 200 dollars, at any time.

AA: Can you give us a rough figure of how many dollars remain to be distributed for last round of funding?

RK: Roughly 7,000

LS: The number will be in the budget that will be presented.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Nothing to report! Please stay in the room because two items of new business.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)

Wellness Center has decided not to fund NP for the foreseeable future. This is of concern to DSC because students without regular insurance coverage have relied on NP. If you know students who need that support, please tell them to contact AA.

Holding a health insurance information session with Scott Voorhees on Wed. April 11th at 2:30PM in 5409 .

Wellness Festival by the office of Student Services and Officer for Wellness, we'll be raffling DSC mugs and movie tickets, an opportunity to get eyes and ears checks, NYU Dentistry will not show up. Tuesday MAY 1st: all day event in the Concourse. Please email with any suggestions!

Finally, come to attention through Student Affairs that some students who have NYSHIP insurance, their NYSHIP premiums have not been deducted from check and their coverage has stopped. Confirm that money is being taken out; find out sooner rather than later. \$16 Individual, \$104.58 Family

Questions;

LS: Supplementation: Told that any time you change your adjunct home base, you have to tell Scott Voorhees that you have changed campuses. They don't talk to each other. Your NYSHIP is handled by Scott, so Scott needs to know if you change campuses or title. If you go from NTA to adjunct, adjunct to fellowship. you need to tell Scott.

HS: I've known people in the past who have fallen into the cracks (e.g., coverage dropped), is there any way to get student affairs or Scott Voorhees to setup a system so that students can check their NYSHIP status?

AA: Suggested calling the NYSHIP number on card about coverage. In cases of surprise bill, Voorhees has been able to negotiate directly with a lab and bring down fees considerably. Talked to Voorhees directly and he can do something about having them lowered or eliminated altogether.

RK: Any way they can proactively send you a notification that your coverage is being dropped?

AA: Don't know, I have to ask him about this. I can ask him about what it would take so that

Isabel Dominguez (LAILAC): If you are looking for doctors in directory, sometimes they leave NYSHIP. Best thing you can do is to call before going to any doctor.

AA: Absolutely true: Recommends that. Double check with NYSHIP and they can answer right away.

CT: There is some FAQs on the OpenCuny website about NYSHIP and coverage.

AA: Yes, the FAQs are there. Also, the website is being updated but info is there

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

The informal immigration related hangout session is scheduled for the 18th of April 6pm in room 5414. There will be drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) at the hangout. Once again please ask any international students who might find this relevant to reach out to outreach@cunydisc.org. Please keep your eyes open for emails for reminders and updates on other projects for May. Each student has different relationship to country's infrastructure, so wants to have a room to enjoy beverages and talk to SB about their issues.

Questions:

There were no questions.

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

Meditation sessions: decreased signups, had to cancel one session because no one signed up. If there is interest for meditation but issues with the scheduling please reach out to me. Potential scheduling Tuesday or Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm.

Beautiful Trouble training on non-violent direct action tactics happened last Thursday. There were some useful takeaways for organizing towards the fight for a contract and against the MA fee. Reach out if you want more info/ want to get involved. Beautiful Trouble makes various tools and resources available online:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0BwOTpLpIsKkdbVhaSIRKSjdJaGs>

Students organized against the Masters fees took action this week: there was a silent protest at the labor management meeting on Monday, and some of us also went to the Board of Trustees hearing at Brooklyn college to rally and testify (I testified to voice my concern against MA fees in general in the context of the fees being proposed for 3 MA programs at Hunter College). AW was about number 375 to speak against masters' fees. At yesterday's Graduate Council meeting, several of us also voiced concern about the implementation of fees for the new MA programs and then silently protested against MA fees by holding signs, especially new programs who do not yet have any students. Please join the opposition before the fees get requested to the Board of Trustees! This might happen in April BoT meeting. Email Chase Robinson and Joy Connolly to voice concerns about the lack of transparency regarding the fees and the threat to the affordability and accessibility of MA programs at the GC. Flood the Community Meeting with the President on Wednesday, April 18th (3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the William P. Kelly Skylight

Room 9100). Protest at the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday at 3:30 pm at John Jay. Wear red

Board game nights will be back! 2 dates this semester: Wed 3/28 @7pm in room 5396 + end of semester date TBA.

Questions:

ID: Some colleagues are interested in self-defense class. Should I email?

Anais Wong (Political Science): Yes, email me.

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): Meditation session, would it work if you did with Friday?

AW: Availability is only Tuesday/Wednesday, and the room tends to be open 1-4

AA: Question on length--1.5 hours of meditation? Can you tell us a little about what that involves?

AW: You don't have to stay for the whole session. He talks a little about how to prepare, does guided meditations.

Mary Jane McNamara (Classics): Who is the instructor?

AW: Harry Miller, instructor from Zen Buddhist Center from the Bronx.

WN: When is the Board going to take on the issue of MA fees going on at the GC?

AW: Provost and President will probably put in request in either April or June, likely will be requesting it so May Board of Trustees meeting it will be voted on. Hearing for it at the end of April.

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

Needs Assessment Survey: There were 161 survey respondents. The top three technology priorities are: functional printers, remote access software, and more computers (slight preference of PC vs Macs). Over 50% of respondents strongly agree that we should enter the MaRLI program as full members. I will be using survey responses to incorporate them into three statements related to 1) NYPL-GC library collaboration, 2) First floor of the library, and 3) Technology priorities for next year and moving forward.

NYPL- GC Collaboration Statement: Now that we have more understanding of student research and library needs, I will be completing a statement which we started in January and outlines our existing relationship with the NYPL and our desired points of collaboration for the future, ie MaRLI, access to resources, such as e-books and a selection of databases. It is likely that I will make the recommendation to create a new committee within the DSC in order to push forward greater access to library resources.

Library First Floor: I plan on putting together a statement on top priorities for students' desires based on both the preliminary and online surveys. If you would like to get involved in this process, please email me. Also, the Adhoc Library Committee and co-chairs met with Keith Wilson on February 21st where we learned he is planning on hosting a town hall in April. He

will be framing the discussion on the significance and meaning of being a public institution within today's world. The framing definitely resonates with students and overall vision for CUNY as a public institution, and the discussion will continue to center on these large questions (vs specific desires). Two of things that come up in responses: use of working spaces and accessibility. Any input on those two, please contact MNR.

STF Committee Meeting: The STF committee met on March 1st and we approved a budget. We had \$750,000 to work with, however after accounting for large bulk expenses such as contractual obligations (~\$400,000) and funding for Library Resources (\$260,000), the STF Committee is really only working with \$100,000 for all other needs. We discussed printers (top 1 priority for survey respondents) and IT indicated that they are already worked out in strategies to quickly resolve interruptions in services (i.e. storing a supply of toner and printer equipment at the GC in order to avoid multiple and unnecessary technician trips). Remote Computing System (Top #2 priority) was also discussed and there are several issues with trying the 30 day trial including labor and training time, the vendor is vague, but it seems like the GC would also need to host access to hardware material. Although a difficult decision, we should encourage GC central to enhance Virtual Desktop and make available missing software. We made a partial allocation towards IT computer replacement proposal (top #3 priority). I will be drafting a statement in order to try to lobby more resources from the President's and Provost's office. Based on proposals submitted by Criminal legal program at John Jay, issues expressed by students in Political Science informally, and survey results that we have bigger technology issues that can be resolved through the small STF budget. In addition to requesting support from the institution to allocate more funding for technology, we should also request to see a breakdown of Library and IT budgets in order to be better prepared to request more funding.

Questions:

HS: Explain the line item, assistive technologies, Student Affairs

MNR: Can send you the entire proposal, but basically there's a proposal by Student Affairs specifically to get software to assist students with audio-to-text software. Allows us to be able to say something and type it.

HS: Maintaining?

MNR: Additional, I think. Need to double check

RH: Who sits on the STF, is there a call for proposals from students?

MNR: There was a call sent out early February. Attempted to advocate and compile several of those. We couldn't fund it all. We basically had 100,000 after library and contractual obligations.

RH: Out of 750,000, DSC has...?

MNR: No, this is STF committee, students, faculty, IT, staff members.

RH: 100,000 fluid, rest accounted for?

MNR: More or less unless we wanted to defund portion of library resources. Relationship with NYPL is crucial for this reason. Library is mostly maintained by STF fees. Hope is to increase resources through collaboration with NYPL and to advocate to president. If you are interested in joining this body next year I will figure out.

RK: Context on Assistive Tech. Braille embosser that is now obsolete, replacing that. Items for students with hearing impairments, mobility impairments. This was requested because OSA doesn't have funds for this technology. Proposals: IT sent a request in January
MNR: We did a follow up in early February.

LS: OSA has a person whose sole responsibility is disability services, so probably related to that. We've been fighting for this for years!
MNR: You can also learn more about it from Student Affairs

V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Members

Two new at-large representatives: Roderick Hurley and William Novello. Appointed by steering per our constitution when we ran out of runners-up for at-large representatives. Steering appointed them. But they have to be ratified to body. AP moves to ratify them. MNR moves to second. The motion passes. Welcome Roderick and William!

2. Constitution and Bylaw Changes

These changes were presented at last plenary, and you received an email with these changes in writing, alongside the agenda. AP will do them one by one. They require a 2/3rds vote, and we have that in the room. Please stay.

AP explains Bylaw 3.3.2 and changes made to it (striking language referring to library archivist, a position that no longer exists). AP moves to change Bylaw 3.3.2. DN seconds. WN Co-chair will be keeping and maintaining this information and doing archive themselves. AP: Yes, this is something CCC already does.

WN: This involves officiating something that's already being done? AP: Yes.

AP presents changes to Bylaw 6.4: Change to quorum counts that is allowed in Roberts' Rules. AP moves to pass the proposed constitutional amendment to 6.4.

Kieran O'Reilly (Mathematics): Does this lower quorum?

AP: Yes, active seat is seat created through petition or election. Sometimes these seats become empty because someone graduates, misses two meetings, resigns. Then they count against quorum. Now we would count number of representatives rather than number of seats. Number of seat gaps is 4.

DN: Registering opposition. I recognize the work that governance committee does, and I know it's hard and detail oriented. I'm opposed to lowering threshold of democratic body. I know it takes a lot to keep seats filled, but I don't think the answer is lowering the threshold but increasing engagement and making sure people are accountable.

AP: This is a concern we also have about this.

MNR: How many votes do we need to vote this particular change or emendation?

AP: All constitutional amendments needs $\frac{2}{3}$. We need 43 votes in favor to pass this amendment. You have to stay in the room to vote.

Sean Kennedy (English): Clarifying question. Alison, thank you for your work. You said that this change would bring this part of the constitution in line with the rest of bylaws and constitution?

AP: This is only place in constitution is the only place in the constitution where we refer to voting seats. The rest refers to representatives.

Nora Bartosik (Music DMA): Is there any language about minimum numbers, like in case active representation drops too low?

AP: If all seats killed the DSC doesn't exist. Quorum remains the same. So if we got rid of all active seats we wouldn't be allowed to vote on anything. The minimum number is a simple majority for anything except this (voting on constitutional amendments).

RH: Say there was a catastrophe and people protested and left seats and we had ten people. Would six people in that case be a majority that could actually pass things? Or is there a minimum under which we cannot function?

AP: If catastrophe happened and we had ten representatives left: Yes, that would define quorum at six. That's a concern.

Alexis Brewer (Biology): Counterargument, we'd be ineffectual at such low numbers.

AP: We do have to fulfill seats and fulfill certain functions. Certain aspects of the body would be able to run, but democratic body would be at risk.

WN: Expresses concern with what has been previously expressed. Difference in outreach and qualification would be a better amendment than this. This lowers the bar too far from what our standards should be.

SK: I want to make a comment in support of this change. Due respect to former co-chairs, this is our current co-chairs and steering committee that has thought about this and are dealing with changing graduate student body that is different from 5 years ago. The DSC is having serious problems engaging people and that isn't going to change from changing quorum between representatives and voting seats. SK wants to give respect to the people who thought this through and give them benefit of doubt. Roberts' Rules is all over the place on quorum, so this moves it to middle ground which makes it easier for more progressive initiatives to be brought to body and passed, like controversial resolutions. Also lets just make this consistent.

MNR: In the last few plenaries, because 1-2 individuals abstained, those initiatives failed to pass. So this particular change gives the DSC an ability to find representatives for those vacant seats. Allows us to be able to participate a little more democratically and does not bind us to what became a higher weight of individuals over the majority in the past instances. It holds us to a higher democratic process rather than a lower one.

AP: Clarify for those not here in fall: 2 abstaining votes were a reason a chartered org didn't pass. There were an error and it turned out the math was wrong, and they did pass, we corrected it, but this was part of C&B's concern motivating this change.

DN: Who gets to talk about who is on the body, as former co-chair. I see the problem with this as more broadly expanding the power of few. We saw this in Obama's presidency, there was an expansion of executive orders, and now we see in the Trump presidency those tools used in ways most of us don't agree with. Few voices, it means we need to be moderate and think about what gets passed and they need a broad base of support and that's a good thing. I don't think it would get to catastrophe numbers, but if that is worst case scenario, they could pass what they want. So this is a small measure that can prevent this from happening. So think about how you would feel if a small number passed something you didn't agree with vs. something you did.

HS: Really glad this is happening, that we are having a constitution conversation this long! As member of constitution committee, we proposed this, thought about it, put a lot of work into it, so I do appreciate all the voices and different opinions. I am also sensitive to thinking about these concerns. We have an option of tabling this and thinking about it more. I'm willing to motion to table this and send it back to C&B if that's amenable. I motion to table and send it back to C&B to reconsider.

WN: Seconds

SK: With all due respect, what purpose does it serve to send this back to the committee? They've put in the effort. Let's do the vote. This is the third controversial measure opposed by former co-chairs of DSC. I don't understand that tension. Status of a few voices having too much weight over what happens.

RK: On the funding committee, we have the option of having nine members. But if we had all nine, we'd need 5, so it should be through the constitution. I want to vote in favor, so I don't want to table it right now.

CS: I am a former co-chair and also in favor of tabling. Because I am concerned about democratic process and we want to take the concerns and I want to table it and consider it a little more.

AP: I am in favor of tabling it. Tabling can mean tabling it indefinitely, and I also really agree with the concerns so whether this gets tabled and comes back or whether we revise according to concerns and then people decide to vote it down, that's fine.

DN: Points out that every member of body has equal voice. Anyone else can have sway. I care about the DSC and its future and how the body is used to say things on behalf of all students.

Felix Grezes (Comp Science): Will there be a preview on what could be added or changed in revision.

AP: C&B meets regularly, so we would have to meet discusses.

FG: Do you have a sense of what you would change, since it's only the few people on the committee discussing it?

AP: All the concerns that are raised today will be addressed.

RH: Quick question. Seat closes removed from total number?

AP: Yes

AB: Tabling now or voting down, what's the difference?

AP: Difference would be that tabling would give it time to make revisions to it before it is voted on again. Tabling it indefinitely means it doesn't get passed. Bringing it back as is would allow people to vote against.

AB: If we vote now, what is the difference between voting it down--can it not come back if we reject it now?

AP: It cannot be voted back except for by the winners. If it's voted down today, the people who voted it down may, according to Robert's Rules, decide to bring it back.

HS: As the proposer of the motion, to clarify. We can do what we want with this, it's on the table. The motion is to table it and send it back to C&B, which means that it's to go back to committee. We can revise it, bring it back next month, rather than going through process of re-presenting it.

SK: If this is the product of C&B committee, and now C&B committee are speaking against the measure, what does that mean about the process or changes we are making to it?

DN: Anytime something goes before the body, it's not the ownership of authors anymore. We as group have power to change aspects of it. It becomes all of our collective duty to consider and vote on it.

MNR: Want to hear from C&B, what's making you uneasy about voting on it now?

AP: As chair and drafter: We cannot think of every single thing in a meeting. I stand by the change, but I do think that, given the concerns, there needs to be some sort of safeguard in case the number of representatives drops too low, in case subsequent co-chairs and steering are not diligent in filling these seats, there'd be a bigger issue with constitution and fulfilling their duties. If we do make changes to lowest number representatives, that will safeguard the majority.

CS: Neither Hamad, Alison, or I said we were changing our mind. Because concerns were brought up, that's not changing our mind, that's listening to the body. Sometimes authors of resolution will table it because they want to make revisions based on listening, not because they don't agree anymore with the resolution.

NB: Number of representatives was my concern, not just disaster scenario, but even it failing a little low. Clause about it should be added.

AP: Only difference between this and resolution: we have very strict ways to make changes to constitution. We can't vote on a proposed change without following procedures of changing the constitution.

MNR: Can we make motion now?

AP: We can't, needs to be sent 10 days in advance in writing to the body.

AA: I don't intend this to be a modification, but one way to guard against precipitous drop would be to use both seats and representatives to define majority. There can be a threshold of quorum based on seats and then beyond that quorum based on representatives. I think that might resolve some of the concerns.

DN: If this is tabled and goes back to C&B: Are the meetings open to anyone, any member of the body or DSO?

AP: Yes, the C&B committee meetings are open. Anybody may submit 10 days in advance before the meeting constitutional amendments they want to make.

SK: Process observation: this was presented at last plenary, but none of the concerns came up. Why do they come up now when we have to vote on it?

Motion passes all were in favor except for those conveying objections, including SK, RK MNR, Pierpaolo Cardoso (Biochemistry).

AP presents Bylaw change 3.2.e--regarding the expedited review process for revise and resubmit process for grants. AP moves to pass bylaw change, LS seconds.

RK: Proposed this change. Just clarifies the process we already follow. Just wanted to make the process we already follow explicit.
Motion passes unanimously

AP presents Bylaw change 8.2. AP explains that it is a reminder for the leader of PSAs that are not also program reps that program reps are the ones allowed to submit check request. AP presents following bylaw, 6.1.d. These last two are related, so AP moved to pass the proposed changes to Bylaw 8.2 and Bylaw 6.1d.

HS seconds.

LS: Point of information, because LS frequently answers question about who gets to decide how this money is spent. Points out phrasing about deciding money in the most democratic way possible.

3. Presentation of Chartered Organization Proposal

a. Students of Enlightenment Thought (SET)

Charlotte Thurston presents the context around Chartered Orgs and the things to look out for when reviewing a Chartered Org. Proposer presents the group and details its mission and possible work they will do.

Questions:

AA: Would this group be open to having students workshop their dissertation chapter, workshop papers, etc.?

MK: Absolutely, looking forward to it

SK: It's a great initiative. In terms of the geographic context, you named the Ottoman Empire. Why don't you mention Asia?

MK: I could add it, I'm just unfamiliar with the research in this area.

SK: Would you want the group to address South East and East Asia?

MK: We're hoping to bring a lot of voices in. We want to educate ourselves and speak to people in other fields.

SK: It might be useful to bring in Asia, I'm particularly interested in African and Asian exchanges through European imperialism. Maybe mention Asia, because people studying Asia may not realize the group is for them, too.

MNR: Seems exciting organization to have on campus. I support those changes. Friendly suggestion to send it to Herman Bennett.

MK: Doing some fantastic work! I have talked to him

MNR: Send it to him for language of constitution/mission statement. Also change name perhaps? When I saw SET, I thought it would be narrow definition of enlightenment. When I first read it I didn't think you were as great as you are.

MK: Trying to stay broad as possible.

CS: Currently active seeking members or no main members now? Have you put an event together before?

MK: Often meet around a professor. We haven't been meeting each other outside of class, which is why we want an organized club.

CS: I'm curious if a group of students is currently interested in this apart from a class. Are there other people who would show up if a flyer/ poster went out?

MK: I think so!

NG: As someone not engaged in Enlightenment thought, I thought this sounded interesting.

MK: We'd like to engage people, so that's great.

4. Resolution in Support of Student-Led Movements against Gun Violence (Voting Item)

DN motions to pass this resolution. LS seconds

AP: Those who didn't read--it also does include a be it resolved to move April 20 plenary to April 27. Just in case you didn't see.

HS: Motion to amend resolution to include 2nd last clause "be it further RESOLVED that the DSC condemns all past, present, and or future proposals to arm educators at CUNY, or any other educational institution."

CT: Minor change to first clause from "Graduate Council" to "Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council"

RH: Are our public safety officers armed? Should we speak to it?

HS: As former co-chair, we met with John Flaherty, and he said there is only one designated officer on duty at all times with a gun.

Motion passes to amend

RK: Wants to speak in favor of motion and of moving the meeting. We should honor the mass walkouts and protests.

The motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously.

5. Presentation of Changes to the DSC 2017-2018 Budget

LS explains changes to the budget. The DSC budgeted to allocated 6000 to health services in the fall. We have not given it because there are not health services to give it to, without the NP.

Making donation to Petrie fund on behalf of DSC and earmarking this money to health/emergency services. One way to keep the faith of this allocated budget line and add something to a service that we have advocated for for students. Also moved some funds to the childcare center--raising by \$3,000. Program Safety net for programs with lower allocations--that line was 5,000, but programs last year requested less than 900, so cut it to 3,000. LS proposed increasing the supplies budget line for main office, like coffee, tea, snacks, compostable cups, sponges, feminine products, medicines, etc. These are the changes we would be voting on next plenary.

Questions:

Bernadette Ojubkwe (Speech-Language Hearing Sciences): I have a question on health services we have been using. This is independent of Wellness Center and nurse?

LS: Previously those budget lines were earmarked for half of the NP's salary. We had a referendum to de-earmark that funding so that we could remain

BO: Money donated to Petrie fund?

LS: That's what we are considering doing.

BO: That's only for emergency services, what we will give?

LS: We will give the money for medical services specifically.

BO: What does this Petrie fund help with generally?

LS: List some costs it deals with.

HS: If we give them that money, would we have any control? Would we be able to earmark it? How could it be transparent, how can we keep control?

LS: Talking to Student Affairs about this. Matt says there is a committee that distributes those funds, and he said LS should sit on this committee to advocate for health services.

VI. Announcements

1. Nominations for Student Representatives on Graduate Council Committees

CT explains what committees are and hands out a list.

LS reminds that meeting has been moved to April 27 due to resolution passing.
HS reminds to go to the chartered org party!

2. Concerns of International Students

AW: Students have been in touch about problems they are having with the Office for International Students. Please contact the Officer for Outreach if you have concerns or issues.

VII. Adjournment

TW: Motioned to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent. There were no objections. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.