

Plenary
Minutes
September 21, 2018
4:30 PM

Attendance

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

Present: Sara Akant, Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Yulia Barycheuskaya (proxy Adam Kocurek), Kyla Bender-Baird, Ekaterina Bezborodko, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Elena Chavez Goycochea, Elizabeth Che, Isabel Dominquez Seoane, Merrit Corrigan, Allison Douglass, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Shawn Fagan, Shun Feng, Huber Jaramillo Gil, Damaly Gonzalez, Felix Grezes, Kelsey Hom, Roderick Hurley, Mounira Keghida, Sean Kennedy (proxy Rafael A. Mutis Garcia), Raj Korpan, Mary Jean McNamara, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Yasmine Ouchikh, Alison Parks, Ana Perry, Lilianna Elizabeth Quiroa-Crowell, Kajal Patel, Marlene Nava Ramos, Saira Rafiee, Jules Salomone, Sami Sauma, Janina Leonie Selzer, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Hamad Sindhi, Anna Stenkamp, Iris Strangmann, Armando Tapia, Charlotte Thurston, Alicen Weida, Tellisia Williams, Anaïs Wong, Zhuo Yin

Absent: Anthony Capote, Carlos Cuestas, Marva Frederick, Francesco Lavini, Divya Matta, Dellamol Sebastian, Cecilia Salvi

AP (Political Science): calls meeting back to order at 5:15pm, Raj move to approve the agenda with emendations.

I. Approval of Agenda

Raj Korpan (Computer Science) moved to amend the title of the third item under New Business (previously "Resolution Regarding the Policy Change to Student Leadership Stipends" to "Resolution Opposing the Re-Classification of Student Leadership Stipends as Financial Aid or Assistance." It will remain a voting item. And to strike the fourth New Business item from the agenda.

Andrew Alger (History) seconds

No discussion on the motion

AP (Political Science): We cast our votes viva voce and record them with the clicker.

Motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2018 (3:00 PM)

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Moves to approve the minutes.

Liza Shapiro (Comparative Literature): Seconds.
No discussion on the motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Alison Parks)

Chartered Orgs:

- Please sign the rosters to show your support for student organizations! For those of you who are new, chartered orgs are interdisciplinary student organizations that are funded by the Doctoral Students' Council.
- The De-Chartering Process for the CUNY Public History Collective has been initiated. I'll be reaching out the most recently listed leaders and if they do not desire to keep the organization active I'll be sending out public advertisements to take over the organization. I will update you if that occurs.
- No chartered organization has achieved active status yet this semester.

Room Reservations:

- This is a reminder to review our room reservation policy before you book our rooms AND always check the room reservation calendar before reserving space.
- Please Note: Weekend and after-hours requests require approval from Matt Schoengood in the Office of Student Affairs and may take extra time so get them in early.
- I can take requests to book non-DSC rooms for CHARTERED ORGS ONLY! However, you are advised that if you choose to go with a non-DSC room you are beholden to the policies set forth by the Graduate Center, including that you must get all your food through restaurant associates. Additionally, if you book a non-DSC room for more than one day, you will be charged a fee.

Health Insurance:

- If you have switched appointments, PLEASE check your pay stubs. There has been a delay in enrolling transfers in NYSHIP and this may result in you not currently being enrolled.

Student Leadership Funds as Estimated Financial Assistance:

- The DSC Steering Committee has passed a resolution opposing the reporting of student leadership stipends to the office of financial to be counted as Estimated Financial. We oppose this on numerous grounds, and we encourage you all to support this by passing the resolution that is on the agenda today and by signing the petition that we will be circulating on our website.

Questions:

Ekaterina Bezborodko (Earth and Environmental Sciences): The announcements will be part of the minutes that will be available to us, right?

AP (Political Science): Yes, that's right. We typically will have reports available before the meeting for accessibility

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

Meetings:

- Middle States Steering Committee (09/05)
- Office of Student Affairs and the DSC Co-Chairs (09/21)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness and DSC Executive Committee (10/05)
- Graduate Council Executive Committee (10/10)
- Graduate Center Budget Committee (10/17)
- Provost and DSC Executive Committee (10/25)
- Middle States Steering Committee (11/08)
- President and DSC Executive Committee (mid-November)
- IT and DSC (date forthcoming)
- Graduate Council Student Services Committee (forthcoming)

Announcements:

- Social Media Correspondents want to help you share info about your student-run events! See the DSC website here for more info and to submit your event details to be shared: <http://cunydisc.org/social/submityourevent/>.
- The DSC manages a listserv that is open to all students. As has been the policy in the past, the listserv is unmoderated and the views expressed on the listserv do not necessarily represent the views of DSC representatives. Email ccc@cunydisc.org if you would like to join.
- If you are a new representative, or you notice that you have not been receiving emails with reminders about upcoming meetings, please (1) check that you have access to your DSC Works (cunydisc.org/works) account, and (2) email ccc@cunydisc.org immediately.
- Stick around because we will be reconstituting some ad-hoc committees towards the end of this meeting. All DSC representatives are eligible to chair or serve on the committees. Committees include Participatory Budget, Accessibility, Gender Neutral Bathrooms.

Questions:

Saira Rafiee (Political Science): Last semester they announced about GCFs for students who leave the GC, that other students be eligible to get those. But EOs don't seem to be aware of this.

TO (Educational Psychology): I sent out emails to APOs and the listserv about this. I will also have a meeting with the Anne Ellis about WAC fellowships. I recommend that you speak with Anne Ellis. I'm sorry the EOs are not providing this information.

SR (Political Science): Can you email the EOs directly?

TO (Educational Psychology): I will email the APOs and students directly about this

Dominique Nisperos (Sociology): Will the EC meet with the library? Can they put the tables back?

TO (Educational Psychology): Yes, we are trying to setup a meeting to discuss those changes

Zhuo Yin (Physics): Is the GCF policy also for science students?

TO (Educational Psychology): GCF is awarded to a program, and the program may decide to re-award and redistribute the funding which belonged to a student who withdrew. Science students are usually funded through an external source and I cannot speak about that in particular.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

Authorization for Program Allocation Spending:

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

Spending of Funds:

- Program allocation and chartered organization funds can be used to purchase alcohol for student-led events! DSC grants do not fund alcohol purchases. Honoraria cannot be paid to CUNY faculty. Honoraria must be paid directly to the speaker, you can no longer pay out of pocket and then get reimbursed.

Enrollment:

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

Submitting Reimbursement Requests:

- *How do you get reimbursed?* Original receipts should be pasted flat, with tape and not staples, to an 8.5x11 piece of paper. Write your node id number on top of that paper, that number appears when you receive confirmation from Works of your request being placed. If you have an electronic receipt, you can attach it to the check request, but scanned paper receipts don't count as electronic. :) You can place receipts in CCB's mailbox in 5495.
- When submitting check request through Works, choose the appropriate budget line you're requesting money from ("Program Allocation," "Chartered Organization Allocation," "Grants," etc.) from the dropdown menu and then choose the appropriate program/chartered org/grant in the second drop down menu. If the fields aren't filled out, it takes much longer to track the request and delays reimbursement.

Legal Consultations:

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

DSC Lockers:

- DSC locker lottery took place and all the lockers have been assigned. If you had a locker this past year and you were not assigned a locker will have to remove their locks by September 24th.

Movie Tickets:

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

Questions

AA (History): I am the rep for my program, can I make reimbursement requests for students in my program?

RK (Computer Science): Yes, you need their name, address, student ID number (EMPL ID), SSN, pick up or mailed.

LS (Comparative Literature): Can chartered orgs get reimbursed?

RK (Computer Science): No, reimbursement for chartered organizations cannot be issued/dispensed until the organization achieves active status (enough signatures).

ZY (Physics): Can you post these PowerPoints in order to share with our constituents?

RK (Computer Science): Yes, these slides will be filed on the google drive and this information will also be e-mailed to students.

Shun Feng (Criminal Justice): If you are purchasing something online and have it shipped, how does that work?

RK (Computer Science): For student purchases, items must be delivered to a program office, not to your home or elsewhere. This also reminds me, students cannot pay GC or CUNY faculty honoraria, and students cannot pay honoraria directly to invitees (upfront). Honoraria must be processed directly to the speakers.

LS (Comparative Literature): Can faculty receive gifts?

RK (Computer Science): Students cannot buy gifts to EO, APO, faculty

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): Cannot exceed \$15?

RK (Computer Science): I will confirm later, nominal gifts within \$15 are fine.

ZY (Physics): Is it also a violation for faculty to ask for gifts?

RK (Computer Science): That is definitely a violation of policy.

4. USS Delegate (Roderick Hurley)

Rod Hurley (Psychology): Thanks Tellisia Williams (former USS delegate) for her service. Gives some background on the USS. A lot of the issues that the USS deals with impact undergraduate students.

#FixCUNY Campaign:

- In June, CUNY'S board of trustees passed another \$200 a tuition hike, which is the 7th tuition increase in 8 years. Since 2011, tuition has gone up over 35%.

- On Thursday July 19, 2018 USS staged a protest at Governor Cuomo's office demanding an end to tuition increases and the signing of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) bill. The #FixCUNY publicity campaign was launched, to raise awareness about the many issues we need to have addressed.
- Despite being passed by both Houses, Cuomo has refused to sign the bill, which would increase funding for CUNY and SUNY in line with inflation. This bill would assist in freezing tuition and ensure that the university has the resources to provide a quality and affordable education to our students.

USS Updates:

- In addition to having a new Interim Legislative Director, Hercules Reid who was appointed earlier this year, USS also has a new Executive Director, Robert Agyemang. He was appointed in August, replacing Fernando Araujo.
- The annual USS retreat took place from August 17 to 19. It was well attended by student leaders from all CUNY campuses. In addition to team building exercises, and leadership training workshops, there were also a number of sessions dedicated to educating student leaders about the administrative structure of CUNY, history of CUNY, Roberts' Rules of Order, time management, and planning for the upcoming USS legislative agenda.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- September 23, 2018 – USS Plenary Meeting
- October 9, 2018 – BOT Standing Committee
- October 22, 2018 – BOT Public Hearing
- October 22, 2018 – BOT Board Meeting

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting:

Monday, October 22, 2018 4:30 p.m. (jointly with the Public Hearing on the Board's policy calendar)

Baruch College Vertical Campus
55 Lexington Avenue (corner of 24th Street), New York
Room 14-220

The purpose of The City University of New York Board of Trustees' borough hearings is to receive testimony and statements from concerned individuals about university issues.

IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE HEARING:

1. Persons wishing to speak are asked to please notify the Office of the Secretary via email at hearings@cuny.edu prior to 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 19, 2018.
2. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. No substitution of speakers will be permitted. Written statements are recommended. These statements may be any length.

Questions:

RK (Computer Science): Will you share the agenda of the topics that will come up at the Board of the Trustees?

RH (Psychology): Yes, I will send that out when they release the agenda.

DN (Sociology): Will you be running for any of the USS positions?

RH (Psychology): Yes, I will be running as Vice Chair of Student Affairs or Chairperson.

5. UFS Liaison (Anaïs Wong)

UFS Plenary:

- The first University Faculty Senate (UFS) plenary of the semester is scheduled for October 2nd. As my predecessors, I plan to keep pushing for the UFS liaison position to get voting membership in UFS. Teaching doctoral students should have representation on UFS given their particular status and teaching experience, not just as adjuncts but also as Graduate Assistants.

Budget Transparency and Democracy:

- Most of all, I will center my efforts on bringing budget transparency and democratization (BT&D) to the forefront as an issue that UFS should focus on. I think many other issues are related to the fact that budget decisions at CUNY are top-down.
- I will also keep advocating for BT&D at the GC-level, and anyone interested in this issue is welcome to join the BT&D group (which we will need to re-constitute). According to CUNY bylaws, college presidents are required to submit tentative budgets to a budget committee in order to get timely feedback. Yet the “budget committee” created last year was clearly not designed to serve that purpose, since the president and provost showed no intention to actually discuss budget decisions.
- The current administration has shown very little interest in the opinion of the GC community, as shows the adoption of excellence fees despite widespread opposition last year, and the hiring of not 1, but 3 new deans (the “Dean for Master’s Programs,” “Dean for Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation,” and “Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness”), when several reps pointed out multiple times that creating new expensive administrative positions was a poor budget decision.
- We need to institutionalize a genuine budget committee with actual power to review and propose changes to the GC budget.

Questions:

William Novello (MA Political Science): Do you know how much do these three dean positions cost the GC?

AW (Political Science): I know for a fact the salary that was negotiated for the Dean of Master’s programs (about \$245,000).

RK (Computer Science): The first budget committee has been scheduled for Oct. 17th and they picked a time that neither of us are available.

Marlene Nava Ramos (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Can we have proxies?

RK (Computer Science): We are asking if that is possible.

AW (Political Science): The current student committee does not have power to review or approve the budget so we’re trying to reconstitute or expand its decision-making power.

ZY (Physics): who approved the new Dean positions? Who approved the budget committee?

AW (Political Science): Dean positions were approved by higher up admins. Students did ask for budget transparency last year but unclear if this is why the budget committee was approved.

TO (Educational Psychology): Budget committee is purely advisory.

Mounira Keghida (History): Is that salary on par with other deans' salary? Or is this a special position?

AW (Political Science): I do not know if that is the average salary, but we will definitely keep tracking and see if there are big discrepancies in salary rates

ZY (Physics): Do you know who determined the salary of these deans?

AW (Political Science): The problem is that we do not have a lot of information about how these decisions are made or budget transparency.

Meeting breaks for food at 5:56 pm. We will call the meeting back to order at 6:13 PM.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Andrew Alger)

Financial Literacy Workshop:

- “The Envelope System,” a workshop about balancing your budget on an NYC student income will be held this Wednesday, September 26th, 5:30 - 6:30 PM in Room 5414. Ellen Zitani, a GC alum, will lead the workshop. Copies of her workbook will be on sale for a discounted \$10, payable in cash or via Zelle.

Grants Committee Meetings:

- The Grants Committee will meet to discuss the first round of applications for DSC support on Tuesday, October 2nd at 3 PM in Room 5495. As of this afternoon, 5 applications have been submitted requesting a total of \$5,858. The deadline is today, September 21st, at 11:59 PM.

Questions:

Alicen Weida (French): Students in my program are having emergency issues, the GC is not paying checks on time.

AA (History): There is the Petrie Fund, students can apply to it through the Office of Student Affairs and committee only responds 3-5 days, we are trying to improve that time.

RK (Computer Science): Emergency Loans are also available from the Office of Financial Aid. On the timeline there is a 3-5 day lag time because the committee that decides meets on Tuesdays, but I've heard great success and students have been reimbursed after the fact..

Shoumik Bhattacharya (English): 70% of international students have not been paid. This happens every year to a sizeable number of international students, but this lag time is due to administrative forms. International students are eligible for funds from the Petrie fund.

Francesca Silva (Comparative Literature): Payment of fellowships to international students is delayed, what is the normal schedule for non-international students?

Adam Kourek (History; Proxy): I got my paycheck in the second week

SB (English): Most international students don't know they are being paid late because they assume Sept. ending is the right time but it's not.

AP (Political Science): Just so you are aware, implementation of CUNYFirst has delayed payment of all stipends to all students. It's something we are working but our hands are also tied

DN (Sociology): Just for record, we paid \$1 million for CUNYFirst, we opposed it. And still CUNYFirst is awful and they implemented it anyway.

Rafael Mutis (EES; Proxy): It's not CUNYFirst, they are using that to cover up the changes in administrative issues. They are also reclassifying stipends for DSC leadership and the Adjunct Project coordinators as financial aid which has resulted in none of them being paid.

LS (Comparative Literature): Is there any chance to take minutes or circulate a livestream of the Budgeting Workshop.

AA (History): Excellent idea, I will look into a livestream, as well as have a small number of the books available to the student body through the DSC, and we can also suggest the purchase of this book to your EOs.

TO (Educational Psychology): IT Media Services should be able to set-up live streaming services.

DN (Sociology): I support this, and I know it's very necessary, but I also don't want to over-emphasize on our own strategies, this cannot supplement fair funding from the administration.

MK (History): I've read the book and know the student personally. It reflects on her time as a GC student living on 15K fellowship.

Kieran O'Reilly (Mathematics): Is the Petrie Fund a grant or a loan?

AA (History): It is a grant and short-term loans are available too and Raj can elaborate.

RK (Computer Science): The financial aid office has short-term loans for up to \$500.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Welcome to the DSC!

- Yasmine Ouchikh (Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences) has accepted a vacant at-large rep seat.

Ratification of New Members:

- Petitions received for two seats that had closed after spring 2018 elections: Felix Grezes (Computer Science) and Alicen Weida (French).

Questions:

None.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)

Nothing to Report.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

Outreach Committee Needs More Members:

- A sign-up sheet is being passed around, please consider signing up. Committee meets once a semester (in-person), will happen the same day as plenary. We will be meeting before the October plenary and we will be deciding on a number of things then.

Questions:

DN (Sociology): Foreign born person with residency qualify?

SB (English): Specifically looking for an international student (non-resident alien)

5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Elena Chávez)

Committee on Student Life and Services Activities:

- The Committee of Student Life and Services has met twice so far. In the last meeting, we agreed to offer for free the following activities:
 - board game nights three times this semester;
 - self-defense workshops twice this semester (one focused on a broad GC student body, whereas the second one only on LGBTQ student body). We are seeking for digital designer, please let me know.

One-Stop GC Student Activism Fair:

- We are seeking volunteers for the One-Stop Day now. It will last at least 4 hours in mid-October. I am also calling for activists at the GC.

Upcoming Events:

- Also, please reach out to me if you would like to propose specific ideas for events for the Spring 2019.

Questions:

KB (EES): Is that activism specific to CUNY or involved on other issues?

Elena Chavez (LAILAC): We are inviting GC student activists who are trying to improve GC students' lives and also working on CUNY-wide issues. This implies that this event can offer GC activists an opportunity to meet and come up alliances.

KB (EES): It is not just GC students involved in these kinds of issues.

EC (LAILAC): We are doing it this way because we want to bring together all these coalitions within the GC together.

MNR (EES): Do you have to be a well experience activist to attend? Who are the kinds of people who might be interested in this?

EC (LAILAC): We planned especially for people who are inexperienced. For example, 7K campaign, PSC GC chapter asking students to join, etc. This is open to the public and all students.

MK (History): What's the date?

EC (LAILAC): Targeting mid-October, will be announcing soon.

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

Ad-Hoc Library Committee:

- I would like to re-institute the Ad-Hoc Library Committee, which will consist of 4-6 people who will advise communication and interactions between the DSC, the larger Graduate Center student body, and the administrators and decision-makers concerning the Graduate Center Library. It will provide information on the project's timelines, frame and scope, and overall design plans. It will advocate design improvements and help design and implement a student input process which favors student voices.

Other Initiatives:

- Updating and maintaining IT/Library Blog

- Finalizing DSC Statements NYPL's relationship with CUNY Library, the Physical Space of the Library, and IT Services
- Upcoming meetings with IT Services, Library, NYPL, Keith Wilson, and Provost

Questions:

EC (LAILAC): Thank you for your work on this and taking students concerns on the library first floor. I know the Center for Humanities was planning this object library wasn't planning to allow students but now this has changed. Does this mean that you and the group you were working with achieved this or what happened around this? They are now planning to do cocktails and fundraising now?

MNR (EES): We never got the final plans and never told if there was a shift in the design concept. The first floor still seems quite empty. The Object Library is supposed to be interactive.

DN (Sociology): When they came to plenary I asked about the change in seats and number of computers, did they relay that?

MNR (EES): They never got back to us with those numbers. There is a project designed to interact with students but there has been a lot of feedback that it didn't incorporate student needs and desires.

DN (Sociology): Just to clarify, they went behind our backs and did this. Over the summer they went in and took away all the desks and computers.

MNR (EES): They did this over the summer when students need it most when focusing on research

DN (Sociology): Let's take it back over in way that's useful in a way for students. Put in our own tables and chairs and start using it

MNR (EES): If you run into any of the administrators or Keith Wilson and tell them that this is unacceptable. We need to advocate for more resources for IT and the library

MK (History): They have a very sleek announcement sign with dates and details about the launch of the object library. Stand up scanner has not worked the entire summer.

MNR (EES): Those kinds of comments are very useful to bring to the meeting, please let me know and sign up.

AW (French): People in my department are asking if the library is under construction? It is unclear.

MNR (EES): There is no plan laid out, so we don't know. Technically phase one of the project is the object library. There are other phases (tearing down walls, etc.) but we have no idea when that will happen, and no one has told us.

AW (French): For example, the floor, is that the floor now? It's ugly, no one is going to work there.

MNR (EES): The floor was not the original plan, they want to remove the carpet and use the tiles underneath but those didn't exist or were not usable. It is unclear if it is temporary or long-term.

RK (Computer Science): I spoke with IT about the computers on the first floor of the library and they said they moved them to the C-level and are in discussions to move them back.

KOR (Mathematics): What objects are they looking for?

MK (History): Things meaningful for your research.

Gwen Shaw (Art History): We should all put objects that reflect our opposition to these changes

KB (EES): I was on the committee and spent a lot of time in the library. I want to make it clear that it is not the library doing this and the librarians are not being informed what is going on.

There is possibility to work together with the librarians. We did do a survey of students last year

and what they did was opposite of that. Specifically, students did not want an art installation but that is exactly what you did.

DN (Sociology): We should submit tables and chairs to the object library. It would be so good to record our lives in a meaningful way but not by taking away student space. We should take some direct action on this.

HS (Sociology): We get tuition bills - that should be our objects. Also failed CUNYFirst screens. Students can be on your committee and can organize the types of protests that we should do.

ZY (Physics): Do you who made the decision on the library changes? Did they publish the survey results? What did most students do?

MNR (EES): The project is overseen by the Provost's Office. We did two surveys last year on the needs of students. Majority of respondents said they preferred artwork on the walls not in the physical space. We created the venue to provide student input. Our recommendation was to hire someone to plan an assessment to include student input. I will continue to stand by that process, and push to emphasize practicality, accessibility, authentic and true input process. It's not just from Keith Wilson, it is also the Provost.

LS (Comparative Literature): I would also suggest that students directly email Keith Wilson and the Provost.

MNR (EES): This is not a DSC led project, but we are working to insert ourselves into the process. It would be most useful to have the comments directed to Keith Wilson. Please cc me on those emails. I would encourage you to also speak to IT issues in the library, and resources you need. Also please say positive comments as well.

Bernadette Ojukwu (SLHS): Even the admins of the library were surprised by these changes. Don't email the librarians because they have no say in this.

MNR (EES): I will let the librarians know that they should redirect comments to the appropriate parties.

MNR (EES): Committee is not too big of commitment, you can spend as much time as you can.

V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Members (Voting)

JN (English): Presenting that there are 3 new representatives.

JN (English): Moves to ratify Felix Grezes (Computer Science), Alicen Weida (French), Yasmine Ouchikh (At-large, Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences).

AW (Political Science): Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Reconstitution of Ad-hoc Committees (Voting)

AP (Political Science): Mentions that Ad-hoc committees exists until end of June. They are first chaired by student who moves to form the committee but at first meeting a new chair can be elected. We've had several ad-hoc committees in the past (Library, Gender Neutral Bathrooms, Accessibility).

MNR (EES): Moves to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee on library.

HS (Sociology) seconds that motion.

No discussion on the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

TO (Educational Psychology): In addition, there has also been an ad-hoc committee on PB
RK (Computer Science): Moves to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee on participatory budgeting.
AW (Political Science): Seconds.
HS (Sociology): Who can be on this committee?
TO (Educational Psychology): In the past it has been open to any student.
AP (Political Science): You must be a DSC rep to chair the committee.
Motion passes unanimously.

SB (English): Moves to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee on gender neutral bathrooms
LS (Comparative Literature) seconds the motion.
Kristofer Eckelhoff (Music): Can we change the name of the committee and expand it more broadly to safety of transgender students? I teach a number of them and they don't feel safe and they feel unwelcome at the security desk.
AP (Political Science): Committee can decide that once they meet.
Motion passes unanimously.

HS (Sociology): Moves to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee on accessibility
KE (Music): Seconds the motion.
AP (Political Science): The mission of committee can also be broadened
Motion passes unanimously.

3. Resolution Opposing the Re-Classification of Student Leadership Stipends as Financial Aid or Assistance (Voting)

HS (Sociology), DN (Sociology), LS (Comparative Literature), Charlotte Thurston (English) present the resolution.

HS (Sociology): We are former Co-Chairs. Over the summer in July the DSC officers were informed of this change to treat stipends as estimated financial aid. This is discriminatory against international students and master's students.

DN (Sociology): All students pay student activities to fund the DSC's budget. We operate as an independent entity in CUNY and we have had more freedom. After the rollout of CUNYFirst, they are trying to say that the stipends are not for you to be paid. This has not just affected DSC leaders but also affiliates and could ripple out to have affects at other CUNY campuses.

LS (Comparative Literature): The 11 people on DSC steering who do a number of services for you have not been paid since July. Yes, students could be paid under this new policy, but we would have to compromise our principles as an independent student government.

DN (Sociology): As a student that took out a number of student loans, getting that deducted would be hugely detrimental.

LS (Comparative Literature): What's to stop the administration to treat other types work as financial aid.

DN (Sociology): Moves to approve the resolution with emendation to change "recent" to "undemocratic."

Ana Perry (Art History): Seconds

ZY (Physics): I don't understand the situation, can you give more details.

DN (Sociology): It was never controlled by the administration.

AP (Political Science): The Business Office met with the Office of Financial Aid in July, which is when this came up and they found out that the DSC pays stipends for the first time. Co-Chairs have been paid for at least 20 years with stipends and it seems unbelievable that no one in the Financial Aid office knew about this.

DN (Sociology): They haven't given us any specific language on why DSC stipends are estimated financial assistance.

AP (Political Science): They have given us language but they have a vague interpretation and have not given a legal memo from CUNY formally stating their interpretation.

DN (Sociology): We need to modify one of the whereas to reflect that.

AP (Political Science): This has been raised with the CUNY general counsel and the USS

LS (Comparative Literature): Also want to add that the DSC has been audited several times and there was never any suggestion that we were doing something shady. They've found that we've been in compliance.

ZY (Physics): Who does the audit?

LS (Comparative Literature): New York State and the IRS.

DN (Sociology): This is a regular thing that happens for GC entities.

ZY (Physics): What is the perspective of the state based on the audit?

LS (Comparative Literature): There was no issues, they said we are fine.

MK (History): As a historian I have to take a broader view, it seems to me that this could be happening elsewhere. Has anyone reached out to other schools?

AP (Political Science): No, we haven't done that research yet. This isn't a policy change but a new interpretation of a policy.

MK (History): This doesn't seem to be coming from a single person but coming up from farther up and seems to be intended to stifle student voices.

AA (History): Now that you've met with Phyllis Schulz, did she give a policy to support her interpretation.

AP (Political Science): She gave the same policy, and it became a debate about the policy.

AA (History): What policy?

AP (Political Science): Federal Financial Aid Handbook.

AA (History): What is the next step? Who will authoritative interpretation?

AP (Political Science): They will refer to the CUNY Legal Counsel to get an interpretation, we will discuss as steering to get a lawyer and get our own interpretation.

Rafael Mutis (EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES; Proxy): It is very interesting to see that this is very much in line with the Trump administration trying to tax Graduate Student stipends and tuition awards. The timing is also suspicious since there is currently a campaign for full and fair funding. We would like to see that that GC is more democratic in providing full and fair funding.

DN (Sociology): Question about disincentivizing students, such as master's or international or undocumented students, whether or not they would be eligible for service.

RK (Computer Science): Director of Financial Aid commented that individuals would not be barred from receiving funds, that all students would be treated the same.

Mary Jean McNamara (Classics): Could we all get the clause from the Financial Aid Handbook so we can all read it and get better informed on this decision that Phyllis Schulz has made

AP (Political Science): Yes, this is from the federal financial aid handbook

TO Educational Psychology): There is a link on the DSC website with a link to the steering plenary. We have not received precise legal language.

- TO (Educational Psychology): Offers to include a link to the EFA language.
- MK (History): We should look at this in context. This incident should be written up as a letter to the NY Times. We are part of the city and state. Taxpayers should be made aware of this.
- HS (Sociology): The first thing that we want to do is to make students informed.
- AW (French): Question about how student activity fees are allocated
- AK (History): Also have a sense of conspiracy in all of this. When OFA Director stated that such students would not be impacted, is there any way to make sure?
- AP (Political Science): This estimated financial assistance, would now be counted towards the maximum amount that you are supposed to earn. It also reduces the amount of financial aid that a student can be eligible for.
- TO (Educational Psychology): We sent out a statement to all students about this situation
- RK (Computer Science): Phyllis told us today that if we don't do this and we are audited then all GC students will lose all federal aid.
- HS (Sociology): Is approving of all of these suggestions.
- DN (Sociology): The DSC Steering is authorized to do this without the approval of the resolution.
- AP (Political Science): Any further discussion? Seeing none, call the motion to a vote.
Motion passes unanimously
- TO (Educational Psychology): We will be sending out the petition as a link.
- AP (Political Science): We can also post the policy that is open for interpretation. You also have access to the fiscal accountability handbook.

VI. Announcements

1. Rescheduling of December Plenary Meeting: Now December 14

AP (Political Science): Reminder that the December meeting is no longer taking place on December 21. Due to concerns over low attending holding the meeting on the very last day of the semester, the meeting date has been shifted to December 14 (one week earlier). The meeting start time (4:30 PM) and location (room 5414) remain the same.

2. Concerns from Students

AW (French): Some students have been confronted by security in a way that unsettles them, which they believe may be a form of discrimination against their gender identity.

AP (Political Science): We should meet to discuss this issue further.

3. Other Announcements:

JN (English): I want to thank you the various members of the DSC for sitting through the various meetings and advocating for this issue.

TO (Educational Psychology): I want to thank Alison, co-chair of student affairs for chairing her first meeting

VII. Adjournment

AP (Political Science): Moved to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent at 7:54 PM.