

Plenary  
*Minutes*  
October 19, 2018  
4:30 PM

**Attendance**

*Present:* Sara Akant, Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Kyla Bender-Baird, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Elena Chávez, Elizabeth Che, Merrit Corrigan, Carlos Cuestas, Allison Douglass, Shawn Fagan, Marva Frederick (Proxy: Fikreab Admasu), Damaly Gonzalez, Felix Grezes, Roderick Hurley, Huber Jaramillo Gil, Mounira Kegnida, Raj Korpan, Divya Matta, Mary Jean McNamara, David Monda, Jason Nielsen, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Yasmine Ouchikh, Alison Parks, Kajal Patel, Ana Perry, Saira Rafiee, Marlene Nava Ramos, Jules Salomone, Cecilia Salvi (Proxy: William Novello), Sami Sauma, Dellamol Sebastian, Janina Leonie Selzer, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Hamad Sindhi, Anna Stenkamp, Armando Tapia, Charlotte Thurston, Mara Valderrama, Alicen Weida (Proxy: Angélique Aristondo), Tellisia Williams, Anaïs Wong, Zhuo Yin

*Absent:* Ekaterina Bezborodko, Anthony Capote, Isabel Dominquez Seoane, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Shun Feng, Kelsey Hom, Fadi Kaferty, Sean Kennedy, Dominique Nisperos, Teresa Ober, Lili Quiroa-Crowell, Francesca Silva, Iris Strangmann

Plenary  
Executive Committee  
Steering Committee  
Constitution and Bylaws  
Grants  
Health & Wellness  
Outreach  
Student Services  
USS Advisory Committee

Raj Korpan (Computer Science): Calls the meeting to order at 4:49 PM.

Advocate Advisory Board  
OpenCUNY Board  
Governance Task Force

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Alison Parks (Political Science): Moved to approve the agenda with emendation. As a new business item #4, "Resolution on Library Renovations with Adequate Community Input Process and that Close IT/ Library Resource Gaps" should also be included.

Tellisia Williams (Psychology): Seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

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

Ana Perry (Art History): Moved to approve the minutes.

Andrew Alger (History): Seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

RK (Computer Science): As the meeting chair, would like to remind officers that Executive Committee Reports should be limited to 3 minutes and all other reports should be limited to 2. Furthermore, a reminder that only members of this body and their proxies are entitled to voice and vote at this meeting. Please state your name and program for the minutes when you speak. Finally, under Robert's Rules, each member of the body is entitled to speak twice on each item

discussed. It is the chair's prerogative to allow more so please keep this in mind so that we may ensure a smooth meeting and enable as many people to contribute as possible.

### **III. Executive Committee Reports**

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

*Chartered Organizations:* Five chartered organizations have now received Active Status. If you haven't already, please consider signing rosters!

*Title IX Online Training:* Please complete SPARC, the online Title IX Training. The training is mandatory for all student leaders, which includes all of you as representatives on the DSC. The deadline is December 1. If you have any concerns about the content and/or your inability to complete the training because of the content, please email [eperram@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:eperram@gc.cuny.edu).

*Concerns over Student Funding:* The DSC Co-Chairs are in communication with the leaders of the PSC who are in the process of bargaining and pressuring the Provost about the conversion of WAC Fellowships to GAAs. The DSC leadership is also going to take up the work of pressuring the administration on this issue and encourage your feedback to help us make the case to the Provost when we meet with her next week. The PSC has met with the Provost's office twice on this issue. Please stay tuned for more strategic calls for action once we have a clearer picture of how the administration is operating on this issue.

Finally, the DSC Chairs met with the Office of Student Affairs this morning. The primary takeaways were:

- The NYSHIP transfers have not all been processed yet. But we were assured that so long as you submitted your transfer form regarding your new appointment, you are still enrolled, and you are still covered. Once your transfer goes through, they will retroactively charge you for all the missed pay periods at a maximum amount of \$100 per paycheck so PLEASE keep an eye on your paystubs.
- The Announcements about the Conference Travel Grants will be going within the next few days. As it was last year, there will be separate awards for Doctoral and MA students.

Questions:

None.

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

Thanks everyone who provided feedback about the last plenary meeting! Some common themes were the interest in making sure time is well-managed during meetings. With that in mind, we have agreed to try to make the officer reports more concise.

*Student Funding Opportunities:* Since the last meeting, at the request of a representative, you should have all received an email regarding "WAC At-large", as well as "Transition GAB" fellowship opportunities. If you did not, there is see the recent post on the front page of the DSC website ([cunydisc.org/2018/09/funding-source-for-some-students/](http://cunydisc.org/2018/09/funding-source-for-some-students/)). Please make sure to talk to

your APO/EO about these opportunities. As fellow students, members of the DSC are not in a position to guarantee funding opportunities, even as much as we'd like to.

#### *Recent Past Meetings*

- October 5: DSC EC met with the Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness. During the meeting we emphasized the importance of student input in evaluating the effectiveness of the assessment process. A follow-up meeting, open to all DSC representatives, will be scheduled sometime in early-to-mid December. Date and time forthcoming. Let CCC know if you're interested in attending by emailing [ccc@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccc@cunydisc.org). We are also seeking to ensure that there are not one but two student representatives on the Outcomes Assessment Committee, which provides recommendations on the assessment process throughout the GC.
- October 10: Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting. The draft of the agenda for the Graduate Council meeting on October 24 was reviewed. During the meeting, the issue that many student representatives on Graduate Council are not currently students of the programs they are representing. If you do not know who your Graduate Council representative is, we encourage you to find out. If you discover that your current representative is not presently a student of the Graduate Council, please consider raising this an issue with your APO/EO or bringing this to the attention of the Governance Task Force by emailing [govtaskforce@cunydisc.org](mailto:govtaskforce@cunydisc.org). "Student affiliates of the program" (e.g., alumni, former students) are apparently permitted by the language of the GC bylaws; however, we feel that it is most advisable to have current students serving as GC representatives because they are most in touch with the issues facing students, and "student affiliates of the program" should be only permitted when no other students are available to serve.
- October 17: Graduate Center Budget Advisory Committee Meeting.
- October 19: Meeting with the Office of Student Affairs.

#### *Upcoming Meetings*

- October 24: Graduate Council Meeting
- October 25: Graduate Council Student Services Committee
- October 25: DSC EC Meeting with GC Provost
- October 29: DSC EC and Officer for Library and Technology Meeting with IT
- November 8: Middle States Steering Committee Meeting
- November 13: Meeting with GC President and Provost

#### *Announcements:*

- The Outcomes Assessment (OA) Committee of the Graduate Center is looking for a new student representative. The OA Committee meets to discuss, design, and reflect on the assessment process at the GC. If you are interested in serving on this committee or know of a student who is and would be willing to attend the meetings, please email [ccc@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccc@cunydisc.org). The committee meets twice a year: once at the beginning of the fall semester to plan assessment for the academic year, and once in the late spring, to reflect on what the committee has learned.

- If you are serving on a CUNY or Graduate Center-wide committee, we kindly ask you to please make an effort to attend those meetings. Several administrators have expressed concern that student attendance at committee meetings are low, and we do not want this to be a justification for removing student rights to representation. Please attend when possible. If not possible, please inform the organizer, and consider asking an alternate to attend. If you are not able to find an alternate, please email me: [ccc@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccc@cunydisc.org).
- If you are serving as a current DSC Representative, Chartered Organization leader, or Affiliate Coordinator, make sure to complete the online Title IX SPARC training by December 1, 2018. You should have received an email about this earlier from the Office of Student Affairs. The training is completed online through Blackboard.
- The online submission system for the DSC Participatory Budget Initiative has opened today. Once the website is back up and running, you can find more details on the here: [cunydisc.org/grants/participatory-budget/](http://cunydisc.org/grants/participatory-budget/). The deadline to submit proposals is November 15, 2018. After which time, eligible proposals may be voted on by all members of student body in December 2018. Multiple proposals for projects that aim to have a sustained beneficial impact on students of the GC may be funded up the maximum amount of \$2000, with partial award amounts possible as well. If you have an idea that can improve the quality of life of GC students, please consider submitting!

Questions:

Yulia Barycheuskaya (History): What is the purpose of the Outcomes Assessment Committee of the Graduate Center?

AP (Political Science): Success rate of programs based on their internal audits. Programs and the GC will also be assessed in accordance with the requirements for Middle States Accreditation.

### 3. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

*Program Allocations:* If you are one of two program representatives and still haven't set an advisory memo about who can authorize DSC funds to be accessed, please e-mail [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org). Won't be able to process check receipts until memo is in. If you are the leader of a chartered organization with more than one leader, please send an authorization memo as well.

Representatives have received a tracking sheet where you can view your Fall program allocations and track your spending.

Reminder: Submit original, paper, receipts unless they are electronic by taping them flat (on all sides) to an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper and write the node number on the request (that's the number that appears in the confirmation email once you place a check request through works. Can drop off receipts in mailbox in 5495 or slip them under to door to room 5499.

*Legal Consultations:* Are available, please tell students to contact [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org) if interested. The consultations are available only to GC students because they are paid for by student activity fees at the GC

*Movie Tickets:* Remind students to come by and pick up movie tickets for AMC, Angelika and Regal

*Emergency Funds:* Petrie emergency fund is available- applications on the Financial Aid website

The DSC website back up and running.

Questions:

AP (Art History): I have a question about participatory budgeting. I noticed that in the guidelines we advise against proposals for structural changes in the building because they may not be feasible. Should we avoid these proposals.

RK (Computer Science): You can definitely submit those requests.

William Novello (Political Science MA): Speaking about the participating budgeting initiative, the most important thing is the interdisciplinarity of the project.

[Several representatives express that they have not received representative emails.]

RK (Computer Science): Representative who haven't received emails should contact the co-chairs, so they can be added to the All Representatives Listserv on DSC Works.

Mara Valderrama (Theatre): Many of the projects last year for Participatory budget were for specific programs.

RK (Computer Science): We are working to make the process more interdisciplinary as we move beyond the pilot year.

#### **4. USS Delegate (Roderick Hurley)**

##### *September USS Plenary*

The USS Plenary meeting was held on Sunday, September 23, 2018, at Guttman Community College. It was well attended, with over 50 senators present, as well as several students, faculty members, and administrators from CUNY Central, including Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Chris Rosa.

- Both Chairperson Aderounmu and VC Rosa expressed their support of the DSC's position on the student stipend issue.
- A resolution opposing a change to student activity fees that was approved.
- USS passed a resolution recognizing the work of former Legislative Director Donovan Borington.

##### *Nominations of Officers*

- Nhi Phan from LaGuardia Community College and Hussein Abdul from Bronx Community College were elected to the USS Election Review Committee.
- I was nominated for the position of VC Graduate Student Affairs.
- Elections at October USS Plenary.

##### *Co-Sponsorships*

USS co-sponsors events that benefit students CUNY-wide. If you are hosting events that are open to CUNY students and you need additional funding, email [uss@cunydisc.org](mailto:uss@cunydisc.org) to inquire about USS co-sponsorship.

*USS Budget*

The USS [budget report](#) will be presented at the October plenary meeting. Please review the budget and provide any necessary feedback.

*USS Updates*

- USS also has a new Executive Director, Cyrille Njikeng.

*USS Scholarships*

The 2018 USS scholarship awards dinner was held at the GC on Friday 10/12. A record 489 USS scholarship applications were received, and 107 students were awarded scholarships. Going forward, the application process will likely be completely online to ensure that student receive awards sooner.

*Building Bridges Conference*

The 4th annual USS Building Bridges Conference took place on 10/19 at Baruch College. The theme for this year's conference, which seeks to provide resources and opportunities, while highlighting the concerns and achievements of CUNY students with disabilities, was How We Lead. The keynote speaker was Assistant General Counsel for the NYC Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, Eli Fresquez.

*Board of Trustees Updates*

- BOT Committee meetings took place on 10/09. Several items were approved for submission to the BOT, including:
- Committee on Academic Policy, and Research - MA in Biography and Memoir at the GC.
- Committee on Faculty, Staff, and Admin - Appointment of Eric Lott as Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center
- In light of recent incidents there could possibly be discussion around an update to the CUNY [sexual misconduct policy](#), which was last updated in 2015, as well as revision of CUNY's Rules for Maintenance of Public Order (known as the [Henderson Rules](#)).
- BOT Public Hearing - Monday, October 22, 2018 at Baruch College.
- Full Board of Trustees Meeting - Monday, October 29, 2018 at Baruch College.
- All BOT meeting documents and video archives can be found [here](#).

*Important Upcoming USS Dates*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION &amp; TIME</b>
Saturday 10/20	USS Leadership Training	Hostos CC --- 10am-4pm
Sunday 10/21	USS Plenary Meeting	Baruch College --- 12pm



Monday 10/29	Board of Trustees Meeting	Baruch College --- 4:30pm
Monday 11/12	International Students Conference	Medgar Evers College --- 10am-2pm

Questions:

WN (Political Science MA): How can we access the links?

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): The links will be sent out in the post-meeting summary of the meeting.

Andrew Alger (History): You mentioned that the BoT is thinking of changing the Henderson Rules again, is that true?

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): Yes, that's what has been rumored. It is related to the instances of sexual misconduct around the campuses and does not at this time to appear to be another attempt at stifling student speech or journalists' access to the building.

#### **5. UFS Liaison (Anais Wong)**

*UFS Plenary:* The recent UFS plenary was held on October 2. Executive Director Matthew J. Cotter and Chair Martin J. Burke agreed to bring back the issue of making the UFS liaison to the DSC a full member of UFS at the next Executive Committee meeting (October 30). Waiting for written confirmation. Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz was the guest speaker. She emphasized her commitment to shared governance and diversity, as well as addressing issues of "campus climate," and asked for the cooperation of faculty with the "Students Success Initiatives." Some faculty voiced concerns over potential issues resulting from changes in curriculum, pedagogy, and scheduling. Some chairs of UFS committees spoke on the issue of faculty hires, disparity between CUNY and SUNY, and paths to tenure for adjuncts.

The next UFS plenary is scheduled on November 6.

Several members of Steering are planning to meet with Title IX Coordinator Edith Rivera to report issues of clarity and other problems related to the title IX process for students.

Questions:

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Did you say that the folks at UFS said yes about making the liaison a voting member?

Anais Wong (Political Science): No, I was just told by the chair that they would bring it up at the next UFS EC meeting. I followed up for confirmation that they were going to follow through on this, but I have not heard back.

#### **IV. Steering Officer Reports**

##### **1. Officer for Funding (Andrew Alger)**

Nothing to report.

Questions:

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): How long does grant money take to be distributed once it is approved?

AA (History): Once it's approved you can begin submitting

RK (Computer Science): You can only spend money once it has been approved.

Bernadette Ojukwu (SLH): This grant money is not personal travel money for conferences, correct? This is for events that are being hosted at the GC.

AA (History): Yes, it can be used for any student-hosted event at the Graduate Center. All events should be for students, by students.

RK (Computer Science): The event does not have to take place at the GC, it just has to

MV (Theatre): Can a program ask for funding for more than one event on the same date.

AA (History): Yes.

AW (Political Science): If you get a grant, is there a deadline by which you have to spend the money.

RK (Computer Science): Yes, by May 15.

Zhuo Yin (Physics): Is there any part on the application is there requirement about participation rate?

AA (History): No. We evaluate the events based on several criteria including how interdisciplinary the event is, whether it is run by students, what is the publicity well thought out. Are the expenses appropriate?

Kieran O'Reilly (Math): Is there a way to see successful grants?

AA (History): Yes, on our website you can find some exemplary applications.

RK (Computer Science): We want to be as transparent as possible, so if there's any information that you do want, please let us know.

AP (Art History): Although it's not a requirement for consideration, it should be noted that we do ask for expected attendance on the application.

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

### *Membership:*

Seats have opened (by petition) for Theatre and Middle Eastern Studies

There are three individuals whose membership will be ratified later during this meeting:

Mara Valderrama (Theatre, Program Representative)

Fadi Kafety (Middle Eastern Studies, Program Representative)

David Monda (Political Science, At-large Representative)

### *Governance:*

Constitution & Bylaws Meeting will be Monday, October 29, at 2:00 PM in 5396.

Also, please turn off your clickers when you're not voting to help conserve batteries.



Questions:

WN (Political Science): What is on the agenda for the C&B committee?

Jason Nielsen (English): The agenda is not yet prepared.

HS (Sociology): The agendas are all also posted to the DSC calendar so if you ever want to see the agendas and the minutes from the committee members, they can all be found there.

### **3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)**

*Reminders:*

- The Wellness Center at the GC is providing information on flu shots. If anyone missed out on their tabling let me know as I can give copies of the flyers and information handed out. A note on the sliding scale - it ranges in cost from \$0 - \$17.85 depending on income and size of family.
- The DSC Office has safer sex supplies as well as ibuprofen, period supplies, band-aids for all who need it.
- Pilates and Yoga registration open for the new session. There is a time change on Thursdays.
- Email me if you have any health or wellness questions or concerns!

Questions:

None.

### **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:

Dominique Nisperos (Sociology): Foreign born person with residency qualify?

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

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

*Events:*

- On October 4th we held our first session of Game Board Night. Our second board game night will be taking place at the same room next Thursday, November 1st. Third session Thursday, Dec. 6th. The first session was very successful one with a great turnout. First year students were excited to meet advanced year PHD candidates.
- On Friday October 12th, the One Stop Civil Resistance Day took place room 5409 and 5414. We had the chance to know different Student-led coalition/movements/groups. Networked with activists.

- Among our forthcoming activities we have, first, tomorrow a horticulture volunteer delegation from GC attending "Bulbtober Fest" in coordination with Hudson River Park.
- The Committee for Student Life and Services is organizing a self- defense class this Tuesday, Oct.30th, starting 6:15pm. Next room. Open to all students. A second self-defense class will be open to LBGTO community and non-conforming gender on December Tuesday 4th.

Questions:

ZY (Physics): Can you create Facebook events for the board game nights?

Elena Chávez (LAILAC): Yes, that's an excellent suggestion!

Liza Shapiro (Comparative Literature): Can you confirm the dates for the self-defense workshops?

EC (LAILAC): October 30th and December 4th.

David Monda (Political Science): What work is being done to ensure that the self-defense class is a safe space for LGBT students?

EC (LAILAC): It is being taught by the same instructor as the Oct 30 class, but the content of the course will be tailored. We are definitely open to suggestions about what you think could be done to make the space more welcoming.

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): I'm finishing up the organization of the Oct 30 class and then will move on to the next one. If you have any suggestions, please reach out to Elena.

Shawn Fagan (Psychology): If anyone has old board games they'd like to donate, please do so!

EC: Yes, that's a great suggestion! Many people also brought their own board games to play.

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

### *Upcoming Meetings*

- Meeting with Keith Wilson on Wednesday, October 24 at 11a (preparation meeting 10:00 AM).
- Meeting with IT Services on Monday, October 29 at 3:30 PM.
- The Graduate Council IT Committee meeting is on November 14 at 2:00 PM.
- CCC is setting up meetings with Chief Librarian and NYPL.

### *Library and Technology Advocacy*

- The Ad-hoc Library Committee is proposing a resolution to be voted on under "New Business"
- Please participate in alternate visions for the Library
- Open letters to the administration are posted on the Library & Technology blog

### *Student Tech Fee*

- 2011 DSC resolution opposing the use of STF monies for ETI Chargebacks
- Please look out for our STF Proposal announcement in the coming weeks

Questions:

ZY (Physics): I've already seen changes happening on the first floor. Do you know anything about that?

Marlene Nava Ramos (EES): We have been on this since the Spring. There has not been much communication to us about the changes that were made. We are meeting with Keith Wilson next week to voice student concerns.

DM (Political Science): Is there any chance that this will have any effect on anything, especially the Object Library?

MNR (EES): This is not a single-stage project, so the goal is to get student input into the next stages before they move forward. We do need a renovated library, but the goal is to renovate it in such a way that it works for students' needs.

MV (Theatre): I was not on the body last year, is the DSC's stance on the Object Library negative?

MNR (EES) : We have been in communication with the administration since last spring and there has been an alarming disregard of student input in the process of approving major changes in the library, such as the Object Library. We're not necessarily opposed to any particular changes themselves.

## **V. New Business**

### **1. Ratification of New Members (Voting)**

AP (Political Science) Moves to Ratify the following new members:

Mara Valderrama (Theatre, Program Representative)

Fadi Kafety (Middle Eastern Studies, Program Representative)

David Monda (Political Science, At-large Representative)

AW (Political Science): Seconds.

Seeing no discussion, RK (Computer Science) calls the motion to a vote.

Motion passes unanimously.

### **2. Changes to 2018-2019 Budget Presentation**

RK (Computer Science) presented changes to the Budget that will be voted on last year. They are changes that have been made to balance the budget in accordance with discussions among steering.

The DSC's operating revenue comes from student activity fees which is based on the number of enrolled students. We had a slight decrease in the number of enrolled students, so our operating budget changed.

Steering Committee Discretionary Budget was decreased. We would also like to decrease the movie ticket budget because we typically don't get to that level of spending on movie tickets, so

we thought it would be better allocated. Instead we increased the webhosting budget. We are also increasing the meeting budget in order to allow us to implement a program to incentive plenary attendance.

Questions/Discussion:

DM (Political Science): What usually happens to the movie ticket money that you don't sell.

RK (Computer Science): We only buy movie tickets in small batches so we only buy them when they run out. If movie tickets are left-over from the previous fiscal year, they simply rollover.

### **3. Resolution on Late Fellowship Stipend Checks for International Students (Voting)**

SB (English): Stipend checks for students on the GC Fellowship were supposed to be distributed on Oct 11 and on that day zero international students have received their stipends. Since then, students have only received their stipends sporadically or in part. Those who have received partial advance amounts are now being asked to pay back the amounts that they have received. I want to pass this resolution because it demands a date be chosen on which the stipends will be distributed and that the administration sticks to this deadline. This is only a first step. We will continue to fight this.

SB (English): Moves to pass the Resolution on Late Fellowship Stipend Checks for International Students.

KA (MALS): Seconds.

Questions/Discussion:

ZY (Physics): Is this about international students or all students?

SB (English): I don't know, only international students have spoken with me.

AP (Political Science): Mentions the clarification provided by the Office of Student Affairs articulating the difference between advance and loan and the computer programs affecting the delay this year.

AA (History): What are the conditions of the loans?

SB (English): The students are not receiving any information about this, so we don't know the conditions.

HS (Sociology): Offers a friendly amendment to the text of the final clause of resolution. The change is reflected in the displayed text of the resolution.

MJM (Classics): Suggests a friendly emendation that is reflected on the displayed text of the resolution.

SF (Psychology): Is there a way to add language that if this happens in the future the phrasing of "advance" is replaced with "loan"?

SB (English): We will be crafting additional language based on what information I get from additional student meetings and other administrative offices that will be happening in the coming week. This is simply a demand that we get paid timely.

EC (LAILAC): Is it possible to add language that reflects the fact that international students' stipends are always delayed? This year is particularly bad, but it's always a problem.

SB (English): I don't want to add that into this resolution because I don't want to conflate that issue with this issue. This is intended to get a timeline to resolve the issue of the stipends/advances/loans for this semester.

MV (Theatre): Makes a language change reflected in the displayed text of the resolution.

SF (Psychology): Makes a similar suggestion about including language regarding being paid at the same time as non-international students.

SB (English): Does not accept the friendly emendation on the basis that we want this to be a precise demand on the administration.

EC (LAILAC): I have talked with the PSC and they are strategizing methods for getting us paid at the same time as non-international students, but the administration is not willing to implement them as they would require more work for them. I would like to see that this is included in the resolution in November.

SB (English): The main priority with this resolution is students who haven't gotten paid yet and asserting it is unacceptable to make us wait this long.

Seeing no more discussion, RK (Computer Science) calls the motion to a vote.

Motion passes unanimously.

#### **4. Resolution on Library Renovations with Adequate Community Input Process and that Close IT/ Library Resource Gaps (Voting)**

MNR (EES) provided context for the resolution. The is resolution initiated through the DSC's Library Ad-hoc Committee. This committee established to open line of communication with Keith Wilson, also did a survey to students that students responded primary concerns were workspace, accessibility, and the possibility of hiring an outside agency that specializes in incorporating community voices.

MNR (EES) presented the text of the resolution to the body. The text has been distributed to the representatives and is displayed in the meeting in an editable format.

MNR (EES): Moved to approve the "Resolution on Library Renovations with Adequate Community Input Process and that Close IT/Library Resource Gaps."

AP (Art History): Seconds.

RK opens the floor to discussion.

Questions/Discussion:

SB (English): Applauds and acknowledges Marlene's hard work and diligence on this issue.

MV (Theatre): Voices concerns about linking the Object Library to our other library concerns. In Theatre Department, most members seem to like that the space is being opened and changed, perhaps adding access to students and non-students to use the space. Understand the issue better now, but just wanted to offer that comment.

MNR (EES): Because students haven't been aware of why this is being done. We want to hire someone with the expertise that enables Keith Wilson to incorporate student voices on the issue. We definitely do need renovations to occur in the library, but they need to be ones that benefit students and include student input.

MNR (EES) seeks suggestions about language to accommodate the fact that we need physical renovations to the Graduate Center's library. A new WHEREAS clause is added to the displayed text of the resolution.

WN (Political science): Offers a language emendation to the last RESOLVED clause that demands students also have not just input but decision-making power. Textual changes are reflected in the displayed text of the resolution.

AP (Art History): I'm worried about the potential of a strong opposition to art projects in the library creating rifts between departments.

MNR (EES): I understand that critique, but I also think that ensuring a community input process ensures hearing all voices.

HS (Sociology): Yes, it's an art project, but it's also a space project and things that impact space in the building are things that people should have a say in.

MV (Theatre): If I vote 'no' on this resolution, what happens?

RK (EES): Vote based on how your program's constituents want you to vote.

ZY (Physics): The last time we discussed the issue we discussed the fact that librarians should have input.

MNR (EES): They are included in the resolution in the final resolved clause.

Gwen Shaw (Art History): I think that one problem with this project is that it is meant to be a participatory art project and, yet, there has been no real participation on the creation of the project. It was decided by someone else who is now requesting participation in a very particular manner that is not in line with what students want.

MV (Theatre): Some people prefer the new way the library is laid out and support the structural changes. It's still usable and some students saw it as unwelcoming before.

GS (Art History): People were surveyed about what they wanted in library, and the students' specific demands were not considered. Who gets to decide what the changes to be made shall be?

EC (LAILAC): It's not necessarily about what they did but the way they did. Questions of how it's paid for, etc. that shows how undemocratic the process is. The resolution is not focused on the aesthetic or public nature of the project but about the suppression of community input.

SB (English): Because this is a resolution, what I think is on the table is decision-making/voting. Is the body interested in changing this language?

MNR (EES): I think the language should remain as "decision-making."

AW (Political Science): I am in favor of the existing title should not be changed because what we had before was input and that should not be suppressed.

Mounira Kaghida (History): I don't understand what the relationship between the art gallery and the library is. Is this a bleeding of the gallery into the library?

MNR (EES): It's part of the overall plan to renovate the first floor.

YB (History): Suggests a language change reflected on the displayed version of the resolution.

Seeing no further discussion, RK (Computer Science) calls the motion to a vote.

Motion passes with 41 votes in favor, and one vote opposed (MV, Theatre).

## **VI. Announcements**

- 1. DSC Fall Party: November 16, 2018 following plenary (approx. 8:00 PM)**
- 2. 2018-19 DSC Participatory Budget Initiative (Proposals Due: November 15, 2018)**



### **3. Funding Concerns Affecting International Students**

If you know any international students with funding issues, please contact Shoumik Bhattacharya at [outreach@cunydisc.org](mailto:outreach@cunydisc.org)

### **4. Opposition to Add/Drop Fee**

Jules Salamone (Philosophy): The student steering committee of the philosophy department has passed a motion opposing the change to the drop/add fee change.

KA (MALS): There is a way that if students were affected that they can get a refund on the penalty fees for this semester.

### **5. GC Task Force on Funding Issues**

ZY (Physics): The Provost has a new Task Force regarding student funding issues that was a demand of the PSC. I am one of the members of that committee. Please send concerns about funding and health insurance to [zyin2@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:zyin2@gradcenter.cuny.edu)

RK (Computer Science): This is an initiative from Dean David Olan. You can also send feedback to me and I will forward it to the program .

### **6. Upcoming Meeting of the Child Learning and Development Center**

Bernadette Ojukwu (Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences): On Monday October 29 at 11:00 AM, there will be a meeting of the Child Care Center Board and the date selected was a date that neither student representative was available to attend. I am seeking proxies to attend the meeting in my place, especially if you are someone with children. [bojukwu@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:bojukwu@gradcenter.cuny.edu).

### **7. USS Announcements**

RH (Psychology): The USS is hosting a student leadership training tomorrow (Saturday, October 20) at Hostos Community College from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. An email was sent to the DSC Listserv. I encourage anyone to attend to do so. I also have swag from the conference I attended on disability so please help yourselves to it and to the information that we have and take it back to your students.

### **8. Signing Chartered Organization Rosters**

MK (History): Please check out the Global Enlightenment Club!! SIGN OUR ROSTER! Contact [mkeghida@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:mkeghida@gradcenter.cuny.edu) for more information.

## **VII. Adjournment**

RK (Computer Science): Moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM by unanimous consent. There was no objection. The meeting was adjourned.