

Plenary
Minutes
November 16, 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: Kutay Agardici, Sara Akant, Kathryn Alessi, Andrew Alger (proxy: Adam Kocurek), Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Kyla Bender-Baird, Jelena Begonja, Ekaterina Bezbodrodko, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Elena Chávez, Elizabeth Che, Merrit Corrigan (proxy: Michelle Gaspari), Carlos Cuestas, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Shawn Fagan, Shun Feng (proxy: Sebastian Hoyos-Torres), Huber Jaramillo Gil, Damaly Gonzalez, Felix Grezes, Kelsey Hom, Roderick Hurley, Fadi Kaftey (proxy: Elsa Saade), Sean Kennedy, Mounira Kephida, Raj Korpan, Mary Jean McNamara, David Monda, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos (proxy: Jen Tang), Teresa Ober, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Yasmine Ouchikh, Alison Parks, Marlene Nava Ramos, Kajal Patel (proxy: Nicolette Rainone), Ana Perry, Lili Quiroa-Crowell, Saira Rafiee (proxy: William Novello), Jules Salomone, Sami Sauma, Janina Leonie Selzer, Isabel Dominquez Seoane, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Iris Strangmann, Hamad Sindhi, Anna Stenkamp, Armando Tapia, Charlotte Thurston, Mara Valderrama, Steven Vallone, Alicen Weida, Tellisia Williams, Anaïs Wong, Zhuo Yin

Absent: Nora Bartosik, Allison Douglass, Marva Frederick, Divya Matta, Yasmine Ouchikh, Cecilia Salvi, Dellamol Sebastian, Liza Shapiro

Teresa Ober (Educational Psychology) Calls the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

TO (Educational Psychology): The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. Do I have a motion?

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

Mara Valderama (Theatre): Second.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

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

TO (Educational Psychology): The next item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes from most recent DSC plenary meeting on October 19 meeting. Do I have a motion?

ACP (Art History): Moved to approve the minutes.

Kathryn Alessi (MALS): Seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Chartered Organizations:

- There are currently 9 chartered orgs with active status for the Fall 2018 semester.
- If any of you are chartered org leaders, please remember that you cannot be reimbursed for purchases within a semester unless you have active status.
- If you are not a chartered org leader but you enjoy and support student-led events happening on campus, please go to Works and sign chartered org rosters. Each organization needs 20 and if even half of the people in this room all went and signed rosters, we'd reach our goals quickly.

Room Reservations:

- Please communicate to your constituents that any given group or organization is limited to booking one room per week in order to ensure that as many groups have access to the space at a given time.
- Programs with a representative on the have access to one request to this exception that enables students to book one room for two days or two rooms for one days and to reserve rooms further than 6 to 8 weeks in advance. Please let the students in your program know that this exception exists and that if they're interested in using it they should reach out to you.

SPARC Title IX Training

- Only 11 Reps and/or Chartered Org leaders have completed the SPARC Title IX. There is a new active link, the url was sent to all students who have not completed the training yet to Eric Brown in the Office of Student Affairs and I will be sending it to Chartered Org Leaders.
- The deadline for its completion has been extended to the last day of the semester. Beginning in the Spring 2019 semester, the OSA will include completion of the Title IX Training as part of their eligibility criteria for serving on the DSC along with good academic standing. If you do not complete the training, you risk being removed from the body.
- There is also a possibility that Chartered Org Active Status will be made contingent upon the completion of the Title IX training. This has been done in the past.
- The completion of the training is mandated by state policy for all student representations and student leaders (broadly defined).

NYSHIP

- If you are someone who was affected by the delay in your NYSHIP due to a transfer in appointment, all of the forms have now been completed.
- This means that starting in the most recent pay period the money for your coverage between the beginning of the semester and October 25 will be taken out of your biweekly paychecks.

The payment will be applied in increments of up to \$100 per paycheck until it is paid back. If you're on an individual plan, the amount that you owe is about \$68. Those on the family plan will obviously be paying back more.

- You can find this information on your paystub in the box in the lower left hand corner. The line reads "Health Before Tax Adj CUNY."

Interim Provost Announced: It was shared with us this morning that Professor Julia Wrigley of Sociology has been appointed as interim provost. This will take effect on December 10th when current provost Joy Connelly steps in as interim president.

Questions:

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): Should we see that taken out in that last paystub or the next one

Alison Parks (Political Science): It began in the last pay period and should be reflected in the most recent paystub.

Sara Akant (English): Is there a deadline for signatures for chartered orgs?

AP (Political Science): Signatures and Chartered Org Spring 2018 reports are all due on the last day of the semester.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

This time only two people responded to the survey with feedback about the last plenary meeting, but it was overwhelmingly positive.

Recent Past Meetings

- Graduate Council Meeting (October 24): During the meeting, the hiring process for a new Graduate Center President was discussed. It was also discussed that the process can either be "closed," which involves private interviews with candidates, or "open," which involves community meetings. This is a decision that is made by the Chancellor who is serving at the time of the hiring process. The DSC is of the opinion that an open meeting would be best in the interest of the wider GC community.
- Graduate Council Student Services Committee (October 25): Several issues were discussed, including the handling of Title IX complaints and use the public spaces, including the library.
- DSC EC Meeting with GC Provost (October 25): During the meeting, issues were discussed including
 - Late payment to international students
 - Availability of health services for doctoral and master's students
 - Budget priorities and transparency
 - 5th Year GTF/WAC Fellowships
 - Concerns affecting international students, including delayed payment
 - Master's programs and hiring of new administrators
- DSC EC and Officer for Library and Technology Meeting with IT (October 29): During the meeting, we discussed the IT budget and CUNYFirst. OLT will be speaking more about this meeting.

- Middle States Steering Committee Meeting (November 8): Several members raised concerns over the complications in finding information to meet evaluation standards given the disparate structure of the Graduate School and University Center (GSUC). The GSUC is comprised of the GC, along with the School of Professional Studies, the Labor School, School of Public Health, CUNY BA, and the Macaulay Honors College. To demonstrate that the college is meeting accreditation standards, information about administrative offices, budgetary information is needed, among other forms of information. We also learned that under the federal "Students Right to Know Act" some information must be made publicly available, including the college's acceptance data.
- Meeting with GC President and Provost (November 13): During the meeting, we discussed several issues that were previously raised during the meeting with the Provost on October 25.
- DSC Co-Chair Meeting with OSA (November 16): During the meeting we discussed several issues, which were largely addressed in the CCSA's report already.

Upcoming Meetings

- November 27: Executive Committee of Graduate Council
- December 14: Meeting with OSA
- December 14: Meeting with Assessment Dean
- December 14: Meeting with Library Staff

Announcements:

- If you are a representative, and you have not been receiving meeting material about a week in advance of the meetings, please email me at ccc@cunydisc.org
- If you are interested in serving on a CUNY or Graduate Center-wide committee, please let me know. Particularly for Graduate Council Committees, we are starting to solicit nominations. Email ccc@cunydisc.org.

Questions:

William Novello (Political Science): When they do the interviews for prospective presidents do they publish them?

TO (Educational Psychology): I am going to go out on a limb and say no. Two possible models for conducting interviews and at discretion of the Chancellor if the interviews are private or in community meetings for broader interaction.

Yulia Barycheuskaya (History): What happens to health insurance after five years?

TO (Educational Psychology): Please contact Scott Vorhees.

YB (History): This seems like something we should be concerned about.

TO (Educational Psychology): Yes, this is on our agenda to discussing universal low-cost health insurance for students.

Lynne Turner (Adjunct Project): You're also able to qualify if you adjunct one course per semester and there a couple other contract positions that come with health insurance.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

Participatory Budgeting: Deadline to submit proposals has been extended to November 30th

Project Allocations: If you are one of two, or more, reps and still haven't yet submitted authorization memo for funds, please e-mail ccb@cunydisc.org, same for chartered org. leaders. All representatives should have received a tracking sheet for program allocation funds

Legal Consultations: Still available and intended for GC students only. Spread the word! email ccb@cunydisc.org

Movie Passes: We have Angelika, Regal and AMC discounted movie tickets available. Check cunydisc.org for office hours to buy tickets.

Petrie Emergency Fund: Still available for students. Applications are on the financial aid website.

Questions:

MV (Theater): Can you put up the email.

RK (Computer Science): It is ccb@cunydisc.org.

KA (MALS): Are the GC wide committees posted somewhere?

TO (Educational Psychology): They are posted in Graduate Council minutes, but if you email me I can send you the list.

4. USS Delegate (Roderick Hurley)

October USS Plenary - 10/21 - Baruch College

- Final meeting for outgoing steering committee.
- Resolution to recognize former Executive Director Fernando Araujo's work
- Approved the appointment of Cyrille Njikeng as Executive
- Resolution to support an initiative by Baruch College USG to change the name of the 23rd St. MTA station to 23rd St. - Baruch College
- USS is in support of the CUNY Rising Alliance Campaign to expand ASAP.

New Steering Committee Elected

Chairperson - Harris Khan (City College)

Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs - Zunera Ahmed (Brooklyn College)

Vice Chair of Fiscal Affairs - Razieh Arabi (Baruch College)

Vice Chair of Graduate Student Affairs - Roderick Hurley (The Graduate Center)

Vice Chair of Senior College Affairs - Farbod Moghadam (Queens College)

Vice Chair of Community College Affairs - Latasha Lee (Bronx Community College)

Vice Chair of Evening & Part-time Affairs - Daisy Flores (Lehman College)

Vice Chair of Disabled Student Affairs - Leonard Blades (School of Professional Studies)

Vice Chair of International Student Affairs - Greshawna Clement (Medgar Evers College)

Vice Chair of Technology Fee Affairs - Michael Betancourt (Queensborough Community College)

Board of Trustees Meeting on 10/29

- Executive session to discuss personnel disciplinary matters.
- Approved the appointment of Provost Joy Connolly as interim president of The Graduate School and University Center effective December 8, 2018
- Reduction of the graduate application fee from \$125 to \$75.

Upcoming

- 11/19 - BOT Committee Meetings - 205 East 42nd Street - 7th Floor
- 12/03 - BOT Public Hearings
- All BOT meeting documents and video archives can be found [here](#).

Events/Meetings

- 10/25 - Baruch College Graduate Student Council
- 10/29 - School of Professional Studies launched an online student paper - [The Kiosk](#)
- 11/02 - City College Graduate Student Council
- 11/02 - CUNY Central Budget Request Meeting - Met with Senior Vice Chancellor, Matthew Sapienza, to provide student input for fiscal year 2020 budget request that will be presented to BOT committee on 11/19.
 - Opposition to tuition increases and excellence fees.
 - Support for Masters students.
 - Increased funding for counselors and advisors
 - Increased funding for opportunity programs
- 11/08 - USS Annual Awards Dinner at CCNY
- 11/12 - USS Annual International Student Conference 2018
Medgar Evers College 1650 Bedford Ave Brooklyn NY 11225
10:00am - 2:00pm

Questions:

WN (Political Science): Is there any way to sign up for USS committees?

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): Yes.

WN (Political Science): What do those time commitments look like?

RH (Psychology) : Email me at uss@cunydisc.org and I can send you all the info.

5. UFS Liaison (Anaïs Wong)

The University Faculty Senate had an informational session on November 6th (never reached quorum to be able to have plenary). The committee on Faculty, Staff, and Administration presented on incoming changes to some appointment processes that would have the Chancellor

issue procedures for appointments. Many expressed concerns over timeliness (will we know of the changes before it's too late to maybe push back?).

The committee on the Status of the Faculty had passed a "Resolution Concerning CUNY Bylaws Section 9.6.c" in May to correct what was a violation of shared governance, by giving college presidents the ability to recommend individuals for promotions to the Board of Trustees without going through the usual committees. They might have to review this resolution in light of the incoming changes.

The UFS delegation to the School of Professional Studies council presented their proposed alternative language for the SPS governance plan, including pushing for elections for academic directors (rather than appointments), the democratization of the governing body (through elections), and the appointment of a secretary of the council who would be responsible for preparing agendas and minutes together with the chair and vice-chair. It seems only the last point was well received.

Chair Martin Burke voiced concern over the move to make the new Title IX online SPARC training mandatory for all students, especially the requirement to complete it before being able to register. Philip Pecorino announced that as of then there were 27 answers from 12 campuses to Academic Freedom committee survey.

Chair Martin Burke also told me that the UFS EC requested more info on the number of GC students teaching on fellowships as opposed to serving as an adjunct instructor. I will go to their next EC meeting to speak to the need to get full membership on UFS. The next UFS plenary is on December 11th.

Questions:

None.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Andrew Alger)

The Grants Committee met on Friday, November 2nd to review seven proposals. Five were approved and two were recommended for revision and resubmission. The next deadline is Friday, November 16th (today) at 11:59 PM EST. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th at 3 PM in Room 5489.

The Grants Committee has thus far allocated \$7,129.00. The remaining amount is \$12,871 to be allocated in December, February, and March.

Questions:

None.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership:

There are three new members -- nominated by petition to create new program representative seats.

To be ratified (voting item):

- Jelena Begonja (MALS)
- Kutay Agardici (MALS)
- Steven Vallone (Physics)

Governance:

- First Constitution & Bylaws meeting was on Oct 29th. No changes at this time. Second meeting will be scheduled soon.

Please turn off your clickers when you're not voting to help conserve batteries. Thanks!

Questions:

None.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)

Finals Relief Stations:

- Massages are scheduled for Tuesday December 18th from 10:00 AM-4:30 PM and Wednesday December 19th from 12:00-6:30 PM.
- Massages will take place in the library and its first come first serve basis.

I also have a lot of experience with weird NYSHIP situations and can also take questions that people have about the process.

Questions:

TO (Educational Psychology): Is there a list of providers who are covered by NYSHIP?
ACP (Art History): Yes, but it's out of date a bit. I'm working on updating it.

YB (History): Are the recommendations only for Medical Doctors or other services as well?

ACP (Art History): I need to check, but I think it's limited to people who are directly covered by insurance.

TO (Educational Psychology): You can also email recommendations to Ana if you know of any low-cost healthcare providers.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

The outreach committee meeting will be meeting in the first week of December. Please email me if you would like to attend or know anyone who would.

I have been involved in the WAC actions, especially since international students would be especially affected by the changes proposed. They have been taken back mostly.

Some new issues have popped up with international biweekly payments, 2 students have reached out, but it seems to be a glitch which will be fixed over time. If there's anyone in your programs who's having an issues, please direct them to me.

Questions:

Elena Chavez (LAILAC): Thank you for your hard work. At the past meeting we passed a resolution. Has there been a response from the Provost?

SB (English): I will let the co-chairs speak to this.

TO (Educational Psychology): The Provost has put together a committee to figure out what gaps in the system have caused this delay. We've expressed our outrage at this gap to the provost, president, and the office of student affairs. We have been informed however that this will likely happen again in the spring semester.

RK (Computer Science): For next semester, they actually seemed to imply that this will almost definitely happen again in the spring.

Mary Jean McNamara (Classics): Is the committee also going to work on the the delayed payments for domestic students as well.

TO (Educational Psychology): Because there is a separate system for international students, this committee has been created to address their unique issues.

Zhou Yin (Physics): Comment on question. Had meeting, the feedback from board member that we can never guarantee on time payment.

EC (LAILAC): Can we make sure that they let us students know in advance. The current strategy has been sending an email saying you have to register by December 3rd and accept Financial Aid by January 3rd which implies that it is student's fault if their payments are delayed. Can we please let this committee know that they need to be more proactive in communicating with the students affected by this issue.

TO: Thank you to the authors and signatories of the letter regarding international students late payment which is instrumental in documenting the effects and testimonies.

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

Announcements:

- Board Game Night will be held on Thursday, Dec 6th at 7:00 PM. It will be the last one for the semester. At the last *Board Game Night* we had about 15 people.
- LGBTQ+ Self-Defense class is coming on Tuesday, Dec. 4. We had an open self-defense class in October and it was very well attended. Thank you KA (MALS) and Shawn Fagan, the two members of my committee.

Questions:

FK (MES): What time is the self-defense?

ECG (LAILAC): It's going to start at 6:15 and will 90 minutes.

ZY (Physics): Can you create a Facebook event for the Facebook event for the board game night?

EC (LAILAC): We are considering doing that for next semester and perhaps we can get together a community.

TO (Educational Psychology): For those of you who are not part of the DSC-L Listserv, please let me know and I can add you to it. Many announcements about these types of events are advertised there.

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

On October 24, the DSC and Ad-Hoc Library Committee (ALC) met with Keith Wilson. We learned that the first phases of his work aim to deliver art installations and programming that revamps the Mena Reese Library and first floor of the Graduate Center, including the James Art Gallery, the Segal Theater, first-floor cafe, the second and concourse level of the library. These projects are commissioned on an annual basis by individual donors, are intended to help cultivate relationships with new donors. The goal is also to use these installations and programming to create increase the Graduate Center's visibility and invite the public into NYC's greatest public university. The later phases of his work include making structural/ physical changes, such as possibly tearing down walls, adding a bar, installing new doors, reorganizing the layout, relocating the circulation desk. Also, while he confirmed that meeting student needs go beyond his office's scope, he agreed to use his position in order to address our library resource gaps, whether through including them as part of an art project, sharing unused funds, or advocacy with the GC administration and potential donors. Please visit the DSC IT services blog for a report back announcement.

On October 27, DSC met with IT Services and discussed a few items, among them:

- IT Services has three improvement capital project, commissioned by the city and/or state: 1) installing new computers for staff and faculty, 2) new powerpoint projectors for GC classrooms; and 3) are currently seeking to replace teaching stations (podium and stand for electronic equipment) in GC classrooms. IT Services makes decisions on capital project submissions based on query data. We inquired about applying for capital funds in order to improve equipment, such as computers, used primarily by students. IT Services shared that they have not applied for capital projects such as these because they would likely not be approved.
- IT Services continued conversation with planners of the 20/20 plan and were given of a february deadline to transfer computers from the basement to the second level -- IT Services will likely need a week for the transfer.
- Regarding changes led by the Center for the Humanities, IT Services installed six iMac computers on the first floor on their request. These are equipped with web browsing only, and no other software. IT Services also helped with a walkthrough of the Segal Theater for a private donor who will be funding a new light installation in the Segal Theater. This is a relationship being cultivated by the Center of the Humanities in collaboration with the Segal Theater (as represented by IT Services)

On October 30, the Adhoc Library Committee met and is seeking a student who can write an article on the *Advocate* on the topic of Library Changes from the perspective of students and our potentially varied positions. It is also recommending the use of the DSC Library and Technology blog in order to make communication with administrator public.

On October 31st, I met with the Library Committee of the Graduate Council and learned that the Chief Librarian will begin conversations with NYU and Columbia in order to develop a consortium independent of the NYPL. Also, the IT Helpdesk continues to be a void and a burden on library staff as students make IT Services related questions to Library staff. Lastly, NYPL staff voiced the possibility of restricting MarLI to students, and MA students specifically.

Questions:

WN (Political Science): In the conversation with KW are they saying that they're redesigning the first-floor to draw in more donors and then that they'll be using these donations to fund more projects without student input, is this what I'm hearing?

Marlene Nava Ramos (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Seems developing relationships with private donors. Uncertain who those donors are, what their goals are, and if they will be able to meet library and technology resource gaps. Currently looking at replacing lights for Segal theater in partnership with donor funding.

Ekaterina Bezborodko (Earth and Environmental Sciences): To add with the conversation with KW - The private donations that KW is going after now are for the yearly, ad-hoc art projects in the library not necessarily the overhaul of the library. It seems like it's a very last year where the money is up in the air and then it comes through and then they start things. There's nothing straightforward about it, but we got the impression that they're using these donations for the on-the-fly projects. We really emphasized that we want more transparency about where the money is coming from and how it is being spent.

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): KW has said that he is dedicated to having more student input. He has informally proposed the creation of a committee with students on it to provide input about potential changes. We presented the resolution that was passed last plenary and had the four demands, transparency, open process for input, resources for library technology and services etc. Shared them and seemed open to meeting the majority of them.

TO (Educational Psychology): The open letters in support of the library issues is now available on DSC website

V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Members (Voting)

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

Jelena Begonja (MALS)

Kutay Agardici (MALS)

Steven Vallone (Physics)

SD (English): Seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Approval of the 2018-2019 Budget

RK (Computer Science) presents the 2018-2019 Budget which was sent out to representatives before the meeting.

RK (Computer Science): Moves to approve the budget.

ACP (Art History): Seconds.

Discussion:

ZY (Physics): What do you mean by the budget about the domain?

RK (Computer Science): We pay to own the domains for all of the DSC websites.

RK (Computer Science): The main part of the budget was already approved in the May plenary. This is a vote about the changes.

The motion is called to a vote. The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Announcements

1. DSC Fall Party (November 16, 2018, following plenary)

2. Event to be held in the Mina Rees Library (November 26, 2018)

MV (Theatre): There will be an event in the Ground Floor of the Library on November 26. It's a *Critical Homage* to May '68. It's a space to think about politics and a reflection to think about student politics. You should have all received an email about it.

VII. Adjournment

TO (Ed Psych): Moved to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent.

Seeing no objections, the motion passes.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:34 PM.