

Plenary
Minutes
March 15, 2019
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, Kathryn Alessi, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Kyla Bender-Baird, Jelena Begonja, Ekaterina Bezborodko, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Elena Chávez, Elizabeth Che, Merrit Corrigan, Carlos Cuestas, Sharanya Dutta, Shawn Fagan, Shun Feng, Huber Jaramillo Gil, Damaly Gonzalez, Felix Grezes, Katia Henrys, Kelsey Hom, Roderick Hurley, Fadi Kafety (proxy: Walaa Ghussein), Raj Korpan, Tenn Joe Lim, Divya Matta (proxy: Juan Carlos García Rivera), Lisa Millsaps), Mary Jean McNamara, David Monda, Jason Nielsen, William Novello, Teresa Ober, Kieran O'Reilly, Yasmine Ouchikh, Alison Parks, Ana Perry, Lili Quiroa-Crowell, Saira Rafiee, Sabeena Ramnanan, Marlene Nava Ramos, Jules Salomone, Cecilia Salvi, Sami Sauma, Sherry Sayavongsa, Dellamol Sebastian, Janina Leonie Selzer, Liza Shapiro, Gwen Shaw, Francesca Silva, Hamad Sindhi, Anna Stenkamp (proxy: Marva Frederick), Iris Strangmann, Armando Tapia, Charlotte Thurston, Mara Valderrama (proxy: Cory Tamler), Steven Vallone, Yilin Wang, Alicen Weida, Tellisia Williams, Anaïs Wong, Zhuo Yin

Absent: Andrew Alger, Nora Bartosik, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Sean Kennedy, Dominique Nisperos, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kajal Patel, Mounira Kephida

RK called the meeting to order at 4:52 PM.

RK announced the new incentive system.

I. Approval of Agenda

Kathryn Alessi (MALS) moves to approve the agenda.
Anaïs Wong (Political Science) seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2018

AW (Political Science) moves to approve the agenda.
Marlene Nava Ramos (Earth and Environmental Sciences) seconds.

Discussion:

Ekaterina Bezborodko (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Did we actually get the minutes?

Teresa Ober (Educational Psychology): Yes, the minutes went out in an email with a resolution that's on the agenda today.

Hamad Sindhi (Sociology): You're also allowed to vote for the minutes in good faith in good faith and send corrections to the CCC later.

Motion Passes. EB (Earth and Environmental Sciences) abstains.

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Chartered Org Updates:

- There are currently six active chartered organizations for the Spring 2019 semester! You can help get more of them active by visiting DSC Works and signing rosters!

ELECTIONS!!!!!!!!!!

- The nominations have all been collected! Thank you to those reps who went out of their way to solicit nominations from your programs - we had a pretty good turn out this year. A few of the new MA programs nominated students so they'll start the new academic year with seats for the first time.
- If you weren't nominated but you would like to serve on the body there is always the option of writing in.
- If you wish to decline any nominations that you've received, please follow the link that appears in the notification email. Do not email us. Remember, that seats are created on the basis of accepted nominations. If your program has no accepted nominations then your program does not have a seat next year and will have to petition steering to create one.
- The ballot will go out on April 1st! Please keep an eye out for it, vote, and encourage your participants to vote.

OpenCUNY Hiring

- OpenCUNY is hiring a new Coordinator for Organizing and Action. The job has been circulated and applications are due Friday, March 22. We'll be circulating the job call again, please help us spread the word.
- The position comes with an annual stipend of approximately \$7,000 and is open to MA students and to international students - it doesn't count toward the number of hours you're allowed to work.

DSC Party

- Stick around for the DSC party after this meeting!

Questions:

Iris Strangmann (Speech and Language Hearing Sciences): When do the elections close?

Alison Parks (Political Science): End of April.

David Monda (Political Science): Should there be any issues with international students applying? How does it affect our visas.

- AP (Political Science): I'm not a visa expert, if you have particular tax/visa issues you should talk to someone in the international students office or to a current steering member who is an international student. I do know that in terms of the hours that CUNY sets as the limit for international students to work on the campuses, this position does not count toward those hours.
- Raj Korpan (Computer Science): You have to be authorized to work in the U.S. or at CUNY in general.
- Shoumik Bhattacharya (English): Because it doesn't come as a W-2 form, but as a 1099, it doesn't count toward the hour limit that you're allowed to work.
- ZY (Physics): I know that there are multiple forms of 1099s and that international students are not allowed to receive certain 1099 forms. Which kind is it?
- SB (English): It's the 1099-Misc form, international students are allowed to receive.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

Recent Past Meetings

- Middle States Steering Committee (February 28): Meeting to discuss verification of compliance documents.
- Office of Student Affairs (March 1):
- Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting (March 8): Approved agenda for upcoming March 27 GC meeting.
- Website Redesign Meeting (March 8): Approved proposals from 5 vendors.
- Interim Provost Wrigley (March 12): DSC EC met. We spoke about some of the transitions in leadership.
- Office of Development and Advancement (March 15): DSC Co-Chairs met and learned about what the office does. As described by the VP Golan, there are three main strands that this works is done: (1) outreach to alumni and maintaining alumni contact; (2) fundraising from private donors; (3) foundation grants

Upcoming Meetings

- Interim President Connolly (March 18): DSC EC will be meeting.
- Graduate Council Meeting (March 27): The approval of several new master's programs are on the agenda. A governance document for a master's program started last year is also on the agenda.

Announcements:

- Tell us about your experience serving as a DSC representative: <http://tinyurl.com/DSCrep> ! If you're willing, we'd like to feature you on our social media streams.

Questions:

Cecilia Salvi (Anthropology): Do you have any information regarding the students who are serving on Middle States committees?

TO (Educational Psychology): For each standard there is a committee and there is meant to be students and faculty on each one. We solicited people last year and I can look up the most recent data.

Kyla Bender-Baird (Sociology): Do we have any updates on the hiring process?

TO (Educational Psychology): There were elections for the faculty members on the committee and then for the student representatives, the DSC steering committee nominated for the student efforts.

William Novello (Political Science): It seems like there's a lot of effort to increase the visibility of the DSC as an institution, who's taking point on that? Is it part of a larger effort to increase representation?

TO (Educational Psychology): It's totally being spearheaded by the DSC and not any outside office. To say whether it's a longer term plan, I don't really know because our leadership changes, but it is good for students to know who their reps are and what their rights are.

EB (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Was there any discussion about this \$5 million to spend on the website upgrade for the GC?

TO (Educational Psychology): I believe the funding was approved at the auxiliary board meeting. It was approved about a year ago under the previous director for the office of communications and marketing.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

Participatory Budget

- All three proposal approved by the voters - accessible door for library, replacement and restocking of pantries, and event to support artwork related to trans and gender-non-conforming communities.

Program Allocation:

- 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
- The program allocations has been updated for the spring semester - everyone should have their full allocations now. Please let ccb@cunydisc.org know if you have any questions.

Reminders for Reimbursement Requests

- Deadline for receipts: May 25th: Grants, Chartered Organization and Program Allocation: June 1st. That doesn't mean you have to hold on to them till then: you can give them in now!
- If ordering something online, please have it shipped to the Graduate Center rather than your home address. Makes the Business Office question when they see things shipped to a non-GC address.
- Reminder of the ways to spend program allocations: student conferences, speaker series, or workshops; honoraria (not for CUNY faculty); APO gifts; Small furniture, art, decorations for program lounges; Supplies for tea/coffee as well as coffee makers/tea kettles; Books or journals for shared student use

Reminders for Reimbursement Requests

- DSC Proposed Budget for 2019-2020 will be presented at the April Plenary - please send any suggestions to ccb@cunydisc.org

Questions:

KA (MALS): For the program allocation reimbursements, I should now enter the Francesca Silva (Comp Lit): I have a question about the participatory budgeting project from last year, particularly the water bottle fountain? Where is it?

RK (Computer Science): While the initial plan was for a separate unit, but instead they installed a fountain

KA (MALS): What's the dollar amount that we're allowed to spend on APO gifts? Can we spend giftcards?

RK (Computer Science): You can buy them gift cards *as gifts*, but you cannot buy giftcards to rollover your allocation.

HS (Sociology): Do honoraria need to follow the vendor selection process?

RK (Computer Science): Not yet, the business office is still processing the requests as usual. They brought up a suggestion at College Association that they were going to start making it follow the vendor-selection process and force honoraria to be put on New York State Payroll, but we pushed back, and they haven't followed up on it.

Sabeena Ramnanan (Audiology) : Does every program have access to these allocations?

RK (Computer Science): Yes. And if you have questions about spending, you can contact me.

TO (Education Psychology): Calls for a 10-minute comfort break at 5:37 PM.

TO (Education Psychology): Calls the meeting back to order at 5:50 PM.

4. USS Delegate (Roderick Hurley)

USS Plenary – 02/27

- Plenary meeting was held on Sunday, February 27, 2019, at Guttman Community College.
- University Dean For Continuing Education And Workforce Development, Angie Kamath, spoke about various CUNY Career opportunities. She said her office was working to increase the ease with which employers can access CUNY talent.
- USS approved a resolution to support Open Educational Resources across CUNY.
- Elections were held for the vacant position of VC for Evening and Part-Time Students. Neither candidate received the required votes. An election for this position will be held at the next meeting of the Plenary on March 17.
- USS meeting documents can be viewed [here](#).
- USS delegates attended the SOMOS El Futuro legislative conference in Albany from March 7th-9th. USS also sponsored buses to take over 200 hundred students from across the university to the Collegiate Summit that is part of the conference. Students were able to have Q & A with state elected officials and Department of Education employees.

- CUNY: Culturally United took place on March 14th at John Jay College. Sixteen student clubs and organizations from 11 campuses, including DSC's Africa Research Group were represented.

Board of Trustees Meeting

- Academic Excellence Fees for masters programs at Baruch, Hunter, Lehman, Queens, and John Jay were approved by Board of Trustees (BOT) Committee on Fiscal Affairs. On March 11th I spoke against the approval of these at the BOT Public Hearing to hear testimony on this and other items. The committee also approved Program Supplement Fees for Executive Masters programs at John Jay and Baruch.
- March 18th - BOT Meeting
- All BOT meeting documents and video archives can be found [here](#).

Announcements

- Sunday March 17th, 12:00pm - **USS March Plenary (Guttman Community College)** 11:00am
- Saturday, March 23rd- **March in March** Protest Rally across Brooklyn Bridge - Theme: **#CUNYriseUP - RSVP** for this march over the [Brooklyn Bridge](#) through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/HeC5CeX0qPTzceuA3>
- 11am-3:30pm Friday, March 29th - **International Student Conference 2019 (BMCC)** - **RSVP** for this conference through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/m6NI4JpbOJUzd2Jd2>
- Thursday, May 2, 6pm, **CUNY's Got Talent** - Proshanky Auditorium at the Graduate Center.
- CUNY wide talent contest with over \$5,000 in prize money. Interested in auditioning? Send an email to events@usscunyu.org

Questions:

WN (Political Science): What is the difference between a normal excellence fee and the supplemental feels for executive MA programs?

Roderick Hurley (Psychology): I'm not totally sure, but the executive PhD programs are more geared toward industry and business.

CS (Anthropology): For the executive programs, it's assumed that most of the students are working professions and the companies are paying for their programs, so the fees are being collected for that reason.

RH (Psychology): The problem that lots of students and faculty have had with the fees in the past is that the fees are meant to be used to benefit students directly, but transparency is difficult.

5. UFS Liaison (Anaïs Wong)

- Discussions about getting GC students instructors representation to UFS are ongoing and moving slowly.

- UFS plenary (2/19): discussions about changes to the charter are contentious. The body voted down a motion for the creation of a committee that would have been charged to review the membership portion of the charter to come up with language that would improve equity for part-time instructors.
- UFS passed a [budget resolution](#), which a few members felt was not strong enough.
- Next UFS plenary is on 3/26.
- In coordination with the SLS committee we have finalized the [survey on Title IX](#) at the GC, which was released on Tuesday to the DSC listserv and yesterday to all students emails. Please fill it out and share it widely!

Questions:

HS (Sociology): How many responses to the survey have you received so far.

AW (Political Science): Yesterday afternoon, the last time I checked, we were at just about 100 responses.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Elizabeth Che)

- Deadline for Grant Application: Today, March 15, 2019 at 11:59PM (EST)
- Grants Committee will meet on March 26, 2019 at 2PM in Rm. 5489

Questions:

None.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership:

- New at-large reps (voting item): Sabeena Ramnanan (Audiology), William Novello (Political Science), Tenn Joe Lim (Earth and Environmental Sciences), Sharanya Dutta (English).
Welcome!
- Special election for Nursing Program rep -- in process. Three people were nominated.
- Thank you proxies!

Governance:

- By-law changes (voting item) presented at previous Plenary (thanks Alison!) -- to be voted on today, 3/15 Plenary.

Questions:

None.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)

Nothing to report.

Questions:

None.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

Nothing to report.

Questions:

None.

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

- The Student Life and Services Committee has been active in organizing several workshops in the next few weeks. Email services@cunydsc.org if you would like to attend.
 - a. Healing Workshop for Survivors of Sexual Violence & Harassment, Saturday, March 30th, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
 - b. Mental Health First Aid Training, Thursday April 4th & April 11th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 - c. Self-defense, May 6th, 5:15 PM to 7:45 pm
- The Board Game Nights will be scheduled in the near future.
 - a. Tuesday, April 9th, 7:15 PM to 10:00 PM
 - b. Thursday, May 16th, 7:15 PM to 10:00 PM

Questions:

Yuliya Barycheuskaya (History): What kind of benefits does the Mental Health Certificate provide? Where can it be applied?

ECG (LAILAC): Based on my conversations with the facilitator, it is a general training offered by the city of the New York. It's meant to help identify people who need assistance, how to help someone through a crisis. It can help people in the classroom. Regarding the actual certificate, I don't know. It would depend how you would frame it. The certificate is issued to the Department of Health.

Huber Jaramillo Gil (LAILAC): It's similar to a CPR training. You are left with knowledge that you can use, and it may be applicable to various professional positions you apply for!

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

- The Student Tech Fee Committee met on Thursday, March 7th. We had a record breaking number of STF proposals from students and faculty, and, surprisingly, more money than usual technology projects. The "additional" funding came in as a result of lower contractual expenses and CUNY Central returned a one-time amount of \$110,000. In all, we accepted all proposals and modified a proposal by Building and Design to upgrade their equipment by less than half and advocated the additional funding (about \$7,000) to go towards additional laptops and software licensing for Qualtrics.
- Three student representatives presented student interests and we thank them for their support: Mary Jean McNamara, Armando Tapia, and Hamad Sindhi.
- Thanks to our CCC, we have confirmed a meeting with Library personnel in May. I would like to set up meetings with the Writing Services, from the Career Planning & Professional Development, and the Center for the Humanities.

Questions:

IS (Speech and Language Hearing Sciences): When do programs get access to the money that they have been allocated by the committee?

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): The money doesn't get distributed until the next fiscal year (beginning 2020), but IT Services will work with specific programs to help with purchasing and reimbursements.

ZY (Physics): Can you tell us more details about the poster printing?

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): I don't know. But I will be requesting this information and sharing information over email.

HS (Sociology): This printer is *not* the same as the copy shop that we can submit requests to. It's mostly maintained by facilities.

Shawn Fagan (Psychology): They do print things for conferences, for free. They're on the 9th floor and I can share the information.

CS (Anthropology): Do you have a guaranteed meeting with the writing center set up?

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): It's not technically a writing center, it's a subdivision of Career and Planning Services. We're trying to set up a meeting.

CS (Anthropology): I bring it up because it's something that students have advocated for.

RK (Computer Science): I've used the large-format posters before so students can use it, but I was told that it's mainly for printing services within the building.

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): I'm going to push them to set up a procedure for servicing students.

SB (Audiology): In terms of budgeting for this? How much is allocated for each department and as a student how do you advocate for certain things to get funded.

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Program-specific needs are typically relayed by EOs to IT Services and Provost. For requests outside of that, we have the Student Tech Fee Budget. The DSC sends out the calls for the proposals and so does IT Services. The goal of the STF committee is to service student technology needs. We usually send out the call in early spring and meet as a committee in March.

Jeanette Huaman (Biology): Biology students tend to use the poster printing services often because we present posters at conferences. You simply email the person in the email. Most of the Biology students at Hunter do it. They usually take about a week.

YB (History): How do you request the printing?

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): I will figure out the procedures and distribute it. In terms of software, some of it is going to specific program lounges, so I'll send out an email about what we are funding and how we can access it.

WN (Political Science): For the printing services on the 9th floor, is there a mechanism in place to communicate student events to this service?

TO (Educational Psychology): The 9th floor is for printing conference presentation posters, which is different than the print/copy shop downstairs which you can contact to print flyers for events.

SB (English): This is a service mainly for science students. That's why those of us in fields like English and History don't hear about.

V. New Business

1. Ratification of New Members (Voting)

AP (Political Science) presented. We have four new at-large members: Sabeena Ramnanan (Audiology), William Novello (Political Science), Tenn Joe Lim (Earth and Environmental Sciences), and Sharanya Dutta (English). To be new members, they have to be ratified by the body.

AP moved to ratify the at-large representatives.

MNR (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Seconds.

There was no discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

2. Proposed Changes to DSC By-Laws (Voting)

AP (Political Science) motions to pass proposed change to Bylaw 1.2 Digital Signatures.

Ana Perry (Art History) seconds.

No Discussion.

Motion passes unanimously

AP (Political Science) motions to pass proposed change to Bylaw 3.2.c Meetings and 3.2.d Regular Meetings.

SB (English): Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

AP (Political Science): Motions to pass proposed change Bylaw 6.1.b Grants

AW (Political Science): Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Resolution Opposing Course Drop Fees (Voting)

Jules Salomone (Philosophy): Presents the "Resolution Opposing Course Drop Fees" and gives the background to the resolution.

Jelena Begonja (MALS): Motions in favor of adopting resolution.

HS (Sociology): Seconds.

Discussion:

ZY (Physics): The reason that they're doing this is because of the adoption of CUNYFirst to bring it in line with the other CUNY campuses.

JS (Philosophy): Correct. The policy was enacted because of this.

EB (Earth and Environmental Sciences): At the start of the semester I received an email from my APO about "Swapping" instead of Dropping/Adding. Does the "Swapping" feature take care of this?

JS (Philosophy): There are times when the "Swap" function is not enough, and you need to reduce your workload.

CS (Anthropology): This also affects you if you change levels it affects you.

HS (Sociology): Has there been movement on this already?

JS (Philosophy): EOs across the campus have raised the concern to the administration.

SB (English): I've been receiving contradictory emails from different offices and it's very confusing because not all the offices are being told how to implement the policies so it's very inconsistent. This is also a concern that we should consider for the undergrad campuses as their professors. They deserve the ability to choose their courses.

RH (Psychology): I don't know that it's directly tied to CUNYFirst because there were campuses who had CUNYFirst *before* they had the fees. It's supplemental.

Damaly Gonzalez (MALS): Hostos College has this policy.

IS (Speech and Language Hearing Sciences): Proposed a change to the last "Resolved" that doesn't talk about reverting back to a previous system but rather suggests a new change.

JB (MALS): Accepts the emendations.

ZY (Physics): I'm trying to decide why they pass the fee. Does the money go back to the GC or to the CUNY Central?

TO (Educational Psychology): It's hard to know. We can look into it.

EB (Earth and Environmental Sciences): Should we add language that "seems" to the language about CUNYFirst.

GS (Art History): Perhaps we should say that CUNYFirst brought about the implementation/enforcement of these policies and not necessarily the creation of these policies as these fees.

IS (Speech and Language Hearing Sciences): I think that I agree with Jules that if we're not sure that something is the result of something then we should remove the clause to give it extra strength.

WN (Political Science): Should we put it in here as a demand that we want to have input on this.

HS (Sociology): I think that the resolution is fine as worded - the administration isn't going to read it. It's the spirit of the resolution that matters and it works as a tool for the DSC leadership.

GS (Art History): Is this policy is still in effect?

JS (Philosophy): It has been suggested that there will be leniency the first year but after that it will be enforced.

Tenn Joe (Earth and Environmental Sciences): The February 14 deadline is a penalty to your academic status and not about the fees.

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Announcements

1. DSC Elections: Ballot opens April 1

2. Reminder that all representatives are allowed to and are encouraged to submit resolutions



VII. Adjournment

TO (Educational Psychology): Moves to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent. Seeing no objections, the motion passes.

Meeting adjourns at 7:11 PM.