

Plenary Meeting Minutes October 18, 2019 4:30 PM

Attendance

Present: Kathryn Alessi (Proxy: Efthimia Johenides), Samantha Barthelemy, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Carly Batist, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Giacomo Bianchino, Isatou Bittaye-Jobe, Kiera Bono (Proxy: Joanna Gurin), Braden Campbell, Elena Chavez, Elizabeth Che, Yuliya Cheban, Hyein Cho, Julia Danitz, Prathmesh Deshmukh, Sharanya Dutta, Kristofer Eckelhoff (Proxy: Robert Wrigley), Andre Eliatamby, Sonja Gandert, Michael Greer, Jane Guskin, Carolina Heredia (Proxy: Lisa Millsaps), Roderick Hurley, Bertrand Fredrick Ithurnburn, Adam Kocurek, Raj Korpan, Simon Kostelanetz, Andrew Kotick, Ariel Leutheusser (Proxy: Chandni Tariq), Tenn Joe Lim, Casina Malinchak, Mary Jean McNamara, Zachary Mitnik, David Monda, Lauren Moton, Jason Nielsen, Dominique Nisperos (Proxy: Edward Charnley), Kwame Ocran, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks, Valicia Philbert, Carmin Quijano, Andres Rayas, Sami Sauma, Gwen Shaw, Queenie Sukhadia, Joseph Torres-González, Joseph van der Naald (Proxy: Nice Rodrigo), Yilin Wang, Anthony Wheeler, Anais Wong, Zhuo Yin.

Absent: Angie Alvarado, Ming Chen, Sarah Frantz, Raven Gomez, Rachael Joakim, Fuxian Li, Bernadette Ojukwu, Sherry Sayavongsa, Andriele Silva.

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

Rod Hurley (Psychology) calls the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

RK (Computer Science): Moves to approve the agenda with a few emendations.

- Add New Business item: "Resolution Opposing Bill H.R. 1044/S. 386 and Any Similar Bills"
- Move "Approval of 2019-2020 DSC Budget" to earlier in the agenda: before Steering Officer reports.

ZY (Physics) seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of the minutes of 9/20/2019

GB (Comp. Lit.) moves; Alison Parks (Political Science) seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Elizabeth Che)

- CUNY Central closed the SPARC training on September 16. Students who tried enrolling the course after the 16th encountered difficulties. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) is working on getting the training open again. If CUNY Central does not open the training portal, OSA is considering in-person training sessions. Students will not be removed from their positions for not completing the training because OSA was not aware of the hard deadline. But for next year, OSA will enforce a hard deadline and remove students from their leadership positions if they did not complete the training.
- Affiliate New Hires:
 - Adjunct Project Coordinator for Advocacy and Education: Jamila Hammami
 - Adjunct Project Coordinator for Organization and Planning: Michelle Gaspari
 - Open CUNY Coordinator for Organizing and Action: Zachary Muhlbauer
- The Middle Eastern Studies program has elected a representative through a special election, Elsa Saade, who must be ratified later in the meeting.
- Chartered Orgs

- Reminder to get active status for Fall 2019 semester, chartered orgs need to have 20 signatures and submit their Spring 2019 Semester Report. <http://cunydscc.org/chartered-organizations/>. Chartered Orgs. that are not active will not be able to receive reimbursements for their expenditures.
- The Public History Collective (CUNY PHC) is in the process of being dechartered because the leaders have declined to reactivate this organization using the Chartered Org model, but still plan to be active as a group.
- The Puerto Rican Studies Group will be reactivated as Carmin Cione Quijano has expressed interest in taking on leadership of the organization.
- Africana Studies Group - David Monda contacted me about interested new leaders.

Discussion:

Plenary

ZY (Physics): Where can we take the in-person training for SPARC training?

Executive Committee

Elizabeth Che (Educational Psychology): Student Affairs is working to re-open the SPARC training portal first. If they are unable to have the portal reopened, the Office of Student Affairs will make an announcement about scheduling for in-person training. You should get more information from the Office of Student Affairs when it is available.

Steering Committee

Kwame Ocran (Liberal Studies): My question concerns the rechartering process. Do chartered orgs have to submit a new chartered org request each semester?

Constitution and Bylaws

EC (Educational Psychology): Chartered orgs only need to be ratified once. Once a chartered org is ratified, they have to submit a semesterly activity report for the previous semester and have at least 20 matriculated students registered each semester to obtain active status. For example, to get the active status for Fall 2019, chartered orgs need to submit their Spring 2019 report and have 20 students signed up by the end of the current, Fall 2019 semester.

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Roderick Hurley)

Recent Activities

Student Services

- 9/26 - DSC Executive Committee met with Interim President James Muyskens and Brian Peterson, Interim VP for Finance regarding the GC budget

USS Advisory Committee

- They seemed open to discussing their approach to the GC budget and were receptive to our suggestions and questions.

Advocate Advisory Board

- Highlighted budget problems: CUNY's 11% reduction in State funding, resulted in the loss of over \$15M in funding to the GC. They mentioned that they were committed to doing a full assessment of GC expenditure, including staff and faculty positions, and were looking into ways of increasing revenue.

OpenCUNY Board

- We also specifically asked them to provide us with information about the IT Budget, and to confirm that Student Tech Fees were being used as mandated.

Governance Task Force

- 9/26 - Co-Chairs met with the office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
 - Provided updates on Middle States Accreditation and GC Self-Study
 - We met with the officers who are handling the Middle States report. The Chair of the Middle States Association will be on campus later this month and will be meeting with students and faculty. They will return in the spring to do their full evaluation. You can see where we are in that process and we will send you a lot of data that has to do with graduations, time to degree; I will make sure to send out those links as well as the data dashboards, data by program, and data by gender.
 - Middle States web page: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Provost-s-Office/Institutional-Research-and-Effectiveness/Middle-States-Accreditation>
 - 1st draft should be completed by the end of October to coincide with the visit of the Middle States Committee Chair.
 - Chair will meet with GC "public" in November and Middle States Committee will visit the GC in March for the evaluation.
 - Gave a demonstration of the Institutional Data Dashboards that are now available on the GC website here: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Provost-s-Office/Institutional-Research-and-Effectiveness/Data-Dashboards>
 - Includes program data and learning outcomes that were not previously available.
 - On Oct 4th, we met with Interim Provost Wrigley, we mainly talked about the FICA exemption. Unfortunately, Wrigley said that the GC will not refund this money; unfortunately, students will have

to petition the IRS to get back our money. We also pressed on funding for sixth-year students as well as health insurance for MA students.

- 10/16 - Co-Chairs met with Office of Student Affairs
 - Several technical issues with the SPARC training have been identified and are being addressed. No students will lose eligibility this semester, but in the future a hard deadline will be enforced.
 - NYSHIP - Some students need to submit Social Security cards. Once all documentation has been submitted it should take 2-3 weeks. NYSHIP workshop on 10/25.
 - We brought up the issue of the fees for swapping classes and they said they would bring up with the Registrar's Office.

Upcoming Meetings

- EC scheduled to meet with Interim President James Muyskens on 10/28
- DSC Steering Committee meeting with the IT office on 10/28
- Co-Chairs meeting with OSA on 11/20
- Next DSC Plenary Meeting scheduled for 11/22.

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Announcements:

- Dean for Master's Programs, Julie Suk confirmed as guest speaker for 12/13.
- Guest speakers for the November plenary (11/22) meeting will be Associate Dean for Institutional Research, Yun Xiang, and Associate Provost and Dean for Academic Affairs, David Olan.

Discussion:

Adam Kocurek (History): I wanted to bring up a point that Rod mentioned in his report to address some grumbles. We can talk more about it when I give my report. When I met with CUNY Central, they were unsure how long it will take to process the exemption requests. They are not sure when they will be opening the exemption in CUNYfirst next semester.

Carly Batist (Anthropology): Do we know how long it will take to get our money back. I have had two paychecks with the money taken out.

RH (Psychology): They said that reimbursements have to be requested from the IRS.

Sharanya Dutta (English): I did submit my exemption the day the second email was sent from the Provost's Office and I received my exemption the next day.

Michael Greer (Philosophy): I went to the Bursar and they sent me to a PDF the link it took me to said it may take months.

Edward Charnley (Proxy) (History): I am an international student. My Social Security number is 00. It tells you that I am not a citizen at the top of the page. I can only characterize this as an act of staggering incompetence. Is there going to be an apology to my colleagues and I for deducting this money?

AK (History): When Liz and I met with Hector Batista he urged me to ask you to email him with some of the worst horror stories.

Elena Chavez (LAILAC): Even though we might be exempt from FICA, we still have to go through the same process. I never faced this FICA issue with the GC, but I did experience this with Hunter, City, and John Jay but they gave me my money back immediately.

RK (Computer Science): When we meet with the Office of Student Affairs, they have to check where you are employed, what kind of employee you are to see if you qualify according to certain criteria sent out by the Provost's Office. In the past, everyone was exempt.

GB (Comp. Lit.): I suggest that if there is a concerted effort, send me an email and if need be, we can put together a letter.

André Eliatamby (Linguistics): I wanted to talk about the tech fee. As of now, we don't quite know what the Student Technology Fee (STF) is being used for?

RK (Computer Science): There is a committee for the STF which has student representation. The STF committee oversees the allocation.

Shoumik Bhattacharya (English): I just want to point out that they spent a lot of money on CUNYFirst and we should not have these problems. It's ludicrous, that their excuse is often, "We have one person working in the office."

C. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

- Locker lottery: I have assigned the lockers but have not been able to notify the recipients due to technical issues with our website, I am trying to resolve this

- We will be renewing our contract with VoteNet for running our elections: funds will come from the reserve fund and then will be prorated from the budget for the next 4 years
- 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. 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 5499 door.

Plenary

Discussion:

Executive Committee

DM (Political Science): Can both representatives be authorized?

RK (Computer Science): Yes

Steering Committee

D. USS Delegate (Jane Guskin)

Constitution and Bylaws

Upcoming events relating to USS, Free CUNY, CUNY Rising, etc:

Grants

- Saturday, Oct. 19: Student Power Summit: Workshops in the history of CUNY, lobbying, activism & outreach, and leadership. 150+ students signed up to participate. Organizations can set up tables. 12pm-4pm at City Tech, 300 Jay Street in Brooklyn.

Health & Wellness

- Sunday, Oct. 20: USS Plenary. Elections for the 10 USS steering committee positions. Candidates:

- Chair: Ethan Millich (BK); Timothy Hunter (CityTech); Dannelly Rodriguez (Law)

- VC of Legislative: Juvanie Piquant (City Tech); Enrique Peña (QC)

- VC of Fiscal: Fay Yanofsky (BK); John Mondal (Baruch)

- VC of Graduate: Dexter Roberts (Baruch)

- VC of Senior: Natalie Segev (JJ)

- VC of CC: Celis Hinds (KCC)

- VC of P/T & Evening: Joel Delacruz (Baruch); Ali Hassan (QC); Wayne Dawkins (York)

- VC of Disabilities: Leonard Blades (SPS)

- VC of International: Dymtro Khudobin (KCC); Nicole Agu (CSI)

- VC of Tech Fees: Kesi Gordon (York)

Outreach

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- Monday, Oct. 21: March to protest the death of CUNY and demand full funding. Starts 3pm at 125th & Malcolm X (Lenox), goes to BoT hearing 4:30-6:30pm, Hunter Silberman School of Social Work at 1280 3rd Ave @119th St. Organized by Free CUNY / 7K or Strike.

- Thursday, Oct. 24 events organized by CUNY Rising Alliance, NYPIRG, PSC, USS: 10am press conference & rally for full funding for CUNY, East Quad entrance on Bedford Ave; 11:30am public hearing w/ NY senators Stavisky (higher ed committee chair), Parker, Salazar, & Montgomery.

- Monday, Oct. 28: Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 pm, Baruch College Vertical Campus, 55 Lexington Avenue (corner of 24th Street), Room 14-220. Agenda online at www.cuny.edu/about/trustees/meetings.html (additional items may be added at the meeting). Public sessions are webcast live at www.cuny.edu/livestream.

Discussion:

KO (Liberal Studies): Will you be at the USS meeting on Sunday?

JG (Sociology): Yes, I will be. The meetings are open to all CUNY students, if anyone wants to come.

EC (LAILAC): I am just wondering why the protest on Monday is at Hunter School of Social Work?

JG (Sociology): Because that is where the Board of Trustees Hearing is being held.

EC (LAILAC): OK, so maybe we can spread the word to our students.

ZY (Physics): Can we ask questions at the Board of Trustees meetings?

JG (Sociology): No, that is what the Board of Trustees hearings are for. But at the hearings you just give testimony. The Trustees don't respond. There is no place that you can sit with the Trustees and ask questions and have them answer, like a dialogue; they are not that accessible, ever.

GB (Comp. Lit.): I just wanted to mention that the flyer for the event on Monday was done by an artist from Free CUNY where they have the names of artists available to do paid design work for projects.

JG (Sociology): Also, I am with 7K or Strike, so if anyone has questions relating to that feel free to ask.

E. UFS Liaison (Mary Jean McNamara)

- Attended Faculty Senate Meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 24th where newly-installed Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez addressed the Faculty and addressed questions on transparency, particularly with the Chancellor's Report. Chancellor Rodriguez Matos said that he would have to defer to the Board of Trustees' decision regarding the content of the Chancellor's Report.

Any questions related either to our initiative to obtain voting privileges within the Faculty Senate or other issues, especially concerning the disbursement of fellowships and/or financial aid, please contact me.

Discussion:

AE (Linguistics): Were questions addressed as to particular issues that the Faculty wanted transparency on with respect to the Chancellor's Report?

Mary Jean McNamara (Classics): I am not sure. The question was directed to the Chancellor from a member of the Faculty at City College. I think there was concern about proficiency tests for language requirements.

Plenary

Executive Committee

IV. Approval of Revised 2019-2020 DSC Budget

RK (Computer Science): I presented this revised budget at the September plenary meeting. We have a carryover of almost \$37,000 so I was able to restore many of the proposed cuts.

Steering Committee

GB (Comp. Lit.) moves to approve the revised budget,

Constitution and Bylaws

AK (History) seconds.

Grants

Discussion:

Samantha Barthelemy (Criminal Justice): I wanted to ask about childcare, I was wondering what the rationale for increasing the budget for parties and not child learning and development center. They are always underfunded

Health & Wellness

RK (Computer Science): We have consistently donated funds to the childcare center. This 10k is the most we have ever given them, but the GC is supposed to be funding them. Parties are important too, as Grad Students need the time to relax and socialize.

Outreach

Lisa Milsaps (Proxy) (Urban Education): Exactly what is money for new student orientation spent on?

Student Services

RK (Computer Science): We host an open house for new students and we have printed materials and refreshments. Student Affairs bought the food this year, but just in case they don't, we have this money.

USS Advisory Committee

LM (Urban Education): Is there any feedback from new students asking for other needs to be met?

Advocate Advisory Board

RK (Computer Science): I don't think there was any feedback.

SB (English): I agree with the amount being given to the Childhood Development Center. I think the Graduate Center should be more emphatic about providing support for students. I think we should demand that they support the things that they are supposed to support.

OpenCUNY Board

AE (Linguistics): I agree that that should be the priority but I think we are talking about the non-traditional student who is not typically served by a University. I think we should keep that in mind.

Governance Task Force

GB (Comp Lit.): I agree that these gaps should be filled but that it sets up a precedent that is not sustainable.

RK (Computer Science): As an example, the DSC was paying 60% of the costs for the Nurse Practitioner. When we held back this money and demanded that they provide the funding the administration's response was to fire the NP. We should not allocate student money to fund things that they should be funding.

AE (Linguistics): I think that this warrants more discussion, potentially soliciting other students because I personally do not feel comfortable voting on this budget.

RK (Computer Science): If we don't approve, we have to revise the budget, bring it back for review in November and then vote on it in the December Plenary.

SB (Criminal Justice): How can representatives play a more active role in budget allocations?

RK (Computer Science): Representatives were supposed to have emailed me back any feedback from their constituents after the last Plenary so that we could vote on it today.

LM (Urban Education): Let's just say that that line item was a contentious issue, can we hold back?

RK: If you vote to approve, then I have no choice but to execute the budget. If we want to increase that budget line, then we have to take away money from something else.

Jason Nielsen (English): Just keep in mind that we go through this again in the spring.

RK (Computer Science): No, this is the budget for the whole year.

AK (History): Is October Plenary the deadline for us to approve? Would not approving this result in a DSC shutdown?

RK (Computer Science): No, a budget was approved in May.

Vote:

Motion passes unanimously.

V. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Isatou Bittaye-Jobe)

- The Grants committee met on October 3, 2019 to discuss the grant applications submitted by september 20. Six applications were received and all 6 were approved at the meeting and one was asked to revise and resubmit.
- The one that was asked to revise and resubmit did revised their application and the committee voted via email and approved their application.
- A total amount of \$4,300 was approved; average amount approved was \$700. Most of the applications were for events.
- The grants approved are
 1. The Tenth Annual Pedagogy Day: Transformative Teaching
 2. Cuba After the Year 1959: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium
 3. Fall 2019 Dissections Series
 4. Un-Fair Trades: Artistic Intersections with Social and Environmental Injustices in the Atlantic World, which happened last week.
 5. Workers' Movement in Iran; Past and Present
The Committee approved the final application. The applicants revised their submission and the Committee voted to approve their application after the meeting.
 6. Unit Structures: The Art of Cecil Taylor (revise and resubmit)
- The Steering committee has appointed David Monda to the grants committee and he has accepted his appointment, thus making the total grants committee members 5 people.
- The deadline for October grants is today 11:59 pm and the committee meeting is November 5, at 3:00pm to review the applications submitted by tonight's deadline. According to the DSC regulations, the event needs to take place AFTER the grant application is submitted. As I reported at the last Plenary meeting, David Monda was approved by the DSC Steering Committee. The Grants Committee is now fully formed.

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B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Adam Kocurek)

- Reminder to Program Representatives: If you know that you cannot attend an upcoming Plenary Meeting, please submit a Proxy Request on the DSC Works website. Additionally, it is highly encouraged that you have a proxy candidate in mind when submitting a request; as OGM, I have a few people who may or may not be able to proxy for you, but it is in your and your program's interest if someone you know from your department so that your Department's issues can be represented can attend in your absence instead of whoever arbitrary student I can find as your stand-in.
- Elizabeth Che, Co-Chair for Student Affairs, and I attended a meeting with Hector Batista, University Chief Operating Officer, on 10/16/2019. The meeting, held by Batista, was intended to be an opportunity for us to share concerns and grievances with the new COO. Elizabeth and I brought up how the transition from Banner to CUNYfirst has led to issues with processing payroll information, healthcare insurance, etc. and that this most harshly impacts international students. Furthermore, we emphasized the growing concern among the student body regarding the new GC FICA policy. If anyone does have any thoughts about that meeting.
 1. Batista expressed concern over these issues and assured us that he is working with IT and HR to expedite the processing of FICA exemption requests and streamline the issues with CUNYfirst.
 2. We were assured by administration that even though the FICA exemption requests are still being slowly processed, the money will be reimbursed to all students in the form of a tax return, so while we do not have access to that money right now, it has not disappeared forever.
 3. NOTE: Batista requested that students with particularly egregious experiences navigating these issues reach out to him directly and share their stories. To paraphrase, he said that he wants to collect some worst-case disaster stories to locate where the biggest flaws in the system are and, in fixing these students' issues, develop models by which to improve the system at-large and to more easily assist other students. If you wish to share your stories or issues with Batista, please contact his office on the 8th floor.

No Discussion

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ming Chen)

- Puppy Therapy
 - Got the reply from the Office of Student Affairs, and we can organize puppy therapy! The office mentioned there are puppy therapy events in other CUNY campuses, and maybe we should have one as well. They recommend some puppy therapy providers, and I will reach out to them to figure out how we can make this happen
 - The puppy therapy needs to be in a big room instead of being in an open space.
- NYSHIP Seminar
 - The first NYSHIP Seminar will be held on October 25th from 1 PM to 2 PM in Room 5409 conducted by Scott Voohees, coverage, claims, all questions related to NYSHIP will be answered at.
 - I have posted the event on Twitter and Facebook, and the flyer has been sent to the electronic bulletin boards for presentation. Also, I will post flyers in the building next week.
 - The Health & Wellness Committee is still coordinating the date for the second NYSHIP Seminar.
- Consultant User Groups on OpenCUNY
 - I am still working on setting up the consultant user groups on OpenCUNY. Hopefully, I can come up with a working plan by the next steering meeting.
 - Please let me know if you have any suggestions or comments on the consultant user groups.
- Meeting with the Wellness Center (in progress)
 - Still trying to set up a meeting with them

No Discussion

D. Officer for Outreach (Sharanya Dutta)

- Still in the process of drafting the letter regarding the issue of transfer credits to be given to the Provost and the Interim President. Would welcome a potential draft in a shareable document because of unfamiliarity with the language.
- Trying to set up a meeting with the Interim President to see if the “drop-down list of eligible schools” for the transfer credits can be resolved. If you have any suggestions about wording for the letter, it would be most welcome.

Discussion:

DM (Political Science): What confidence do you have that Interim President Muyskens will be able to do this since he is basically holding the spot?

RH (Psychology): I think he seems willing to make decisions, given that he doesn't intend to continue in the position.

DM (Political Science): What is the bias (ADDED FOR CLARIFICATION: With respect to the list of schools from which the GC accepts credits)? Is there an Orientalist bias?

SD (English): For lack of a better word, it seems racist, it is definitely hierarchical. I am looking for a list of schools to bring to the meeting with the Interim President and Interim Provost.

ZY (Physics): I sent you an email about this.

CB (Anthropology): I also sent you an email about this, talking about the Anthropology process. Can this be put on the agenda for the meeting that the DSC has with the President and with Student Affairs? I just want to make sure that is a definitive item on the agenda.

Joseph Torres González, (Anthropology): I think it would be important to bring up that there should be clarification and transparency on this. If you go to different programs, there are different regulations according to each Department.

SB (Criminal Justice): I just wanted to know if there was an update on this Committee.

RH (Psychology): We were still looking for other members for the Committee, but you should receive an email from the Officer for Outreach soon.

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Giacomo Bianchino)

- No events since last plenary
- We have got information on the Squatting Movement, FreeCUNY

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- It is going to be from 10 am- 2 pm on November 7th. One Stop Civil Resistance Workshop in the room next door.
- Organising the civil resistance One-Stop; still looking for speakers for the 7th of November. Room is booked- contact me if you know any organisations that might be interested. It will be from 10-2, Thursday 11/07 in 5409 and 5414. Get in touch if you want to table or speak at the event.

Discussion:

EC (LAILAC): I wanted to ask if you have had any contact with the Transparency Committee?

GB (Comp. Lit.): No, I haven't.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Michael Greer)

Plenary

- Meeting with Keith Wilson re: Object Library on 10/2/2019. Summary of meeting can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/15HilGhIell-x7Jt7cQMBYGk7lpeA8F5AY0zV4WuEKY8/edit?usp=sharing>

Executive Committee

- Meeting with Matt Gold re: CUNY2020 on 10/7/2019. Summary of meeting will be found here (although I still need to get it typed up!): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ajXRsb-P2KfzJRWBnkNISBpKuaLR7DcYZG-LuUg9p1g/edit?usp=sharing>

Steering Committee

- Accessibility ad hoc meeting: Please get the word out that I need members and someone to take over as caretaker! I sent round the following email to my department, and I encourage you to send round the same email (I don't care if you copy/paste!)

Constitution and Bylaws

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- The following GC-wide committees desperately need members. Most of them meet infrequently and all of them are responsible for granting/spending money on initiatives around the GC. Why not try getting involved in the wider GC community?

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1. Grants Committee. Decides which funding proposals get DSC grants of up to \$700. Grants are awarded on a monthly basis and the committee has \$20,000 to spend in an academic year. Contact Isatou bittaye-Jobe, Officer for Funding, if you want to get involved. Email: funding@cunydisc.org.
2. Outreach Committee. Identifies or creates informational materials for international students; plans and implements social events both at the Graduate Center and at senior colleges where Graduate Center students are based. Contact Sharanya Dutta, Officer for Outreach, if you want to get involved. Email: outreach@cunydisc.org.
3. Accessibility Ad Hoc Committee. Works on better organising around accessibility issues at the GC. This committee is what pushed for accessible doors on the ground floor. Contact Michael Greer, Officer for Library and Technology, if you want to get involved. Email: library@cunydisc.org. Michael is only the interim caretaker of this committee - so if you are looking to become the head of a committee and funnel your political energy into a role, this is your opportunity!
4. All-Gender Bathrooms Committee. Works on instituting all gender bathrooms in the GC. If you want to be part of the committee that help moves this issue forward, email Zack Mitnick (Criminal Justice), zmitnik@gradcenter.cuny.edu.
5. Participatory Budgeting Committee. Works on financing different initiatives around the GC. One thing that this committee has done is to put dish soap, sponges, and crockery in kitchens on each floor. Like the grants committee, this committee puts out an open call for proposals of what to spend their money on, and decides collectively on which initiative to put money towards.

- This month I will be:

- Crafting a communication email to the entire student body re: Object Library
- Compiling feedback from you all about Object Library news and CUNY2020 news
- Crafting emails to Student Associations at Columbia and NYU re: SHARES program
- Crafting emails to Muyskins and Wrigley re: NYPL
- Meeting with Elaine (head of IT) and her team on Monday 28th of October. This is a link to a google doc that anyone can add/edit questions to. Paper versions were passed around the plenary for people to add comments to. I will also be sending it round to the entire student body.: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HUZiRr2ecLDPLE5TY5POxaTGhcTQ8JBV3AabXIRjQq0/edit?usp=sharing> Feel free to add your questions/concerns that you want us to try to bring to IT.

No Discussion

VI. New Business

A. Ratification of New Representative

AK (History) moves to ratify new representative for Middle Eastern Studies, Elsa Saade, elected in a special election.

MG (Philosophy) seconds.

Vote:

Motion passes unanimously.

B. Resolution Opposing Penalty for Course Changes

MG (Philosophy) moves to approve the resolution.

MJM (Classics) seconds.

Discussion:

LM (Urban Education): If this is proposed, is this just for the GC and not for the other schools?

Alison Parks (Political Science): I'm in favor of this but I would like to propose additional language. The DSC passed a resolution in March of 2019. I propose we add a clause "whereas the DSC proposed a resolution on March 19th of 2019 on the same issue."

AE (Linguistics): If we already have a resolution, what else can we do?

RH (Psychology): One advantage of having a resolution is that we have an instrument that represents the official position of the current student body that we can take to admin, and to external media if we decide to.

Elsa Saade (Middle Eastern Studies): It might help to add other institutions that do not have these fees.

MG (Philosophy): Maybe we can write an open letter and give it to the Administration before the meeting next Thursday?

EC (LAILAC): I think that it is important that the resolution reflects the fact that as graduate students we should have the ability to make decisions after we have had the chance to evaluate a course.

JG (Sociology): I think that we have to be careful about how we do this. I think it's a bad message to send that we're willing to prioritize graduate students over undergraduate students.

Vote:

Motion passes unanimously.

C. Resolution Opposed to Bill H. R. 1044/S. 386 and Any Similar Bills

ZY (Physics) moves to approve the resolution.

Yulia Barycheuskaya (History) seconds.

Discussion:

AP (Political Science): I oppose this resolution. There are many things wrong with this resolution. It is not something that the Committee for Student Life and Services should be addressing, it references 26,000 respondents, none of whom are at the Graduate Center. It pertains to the U.S. Government and cites a report from Homeland Security, a very problematic agency. I recommend that we vote down this resolution.

JG (Sociology): I agree with everything Alison said. I would suggest that the language and approach be revised.

YB (History): There is an urgency to this bill because it is very important to international students, who will have literally no chance to work in the U.S. If this bill passes.

SB (English): I looked into this bill. According to reports online, this bill died 10 hours ago. There aren't any credible websites where I found any information on this. There are apparently two other bills that affect these issues, but this bill is not mentioned. I think we should do due diligence. I would rather have credible sources.

SD (English): I don't think this issue should be tabled for another time. I don't think there is any reason for the DSC to take this up. There is a hierarchy here, this affects a number of people, especially unskilled workers.

AE (Linguistics): I think it was Alison who said this reflects so much more about the US Immigration system, I just really don't think that we're in a position of addressing the House Bill.

Andres S. B. Rayas, (Political Science): I would want to caution against passing a resolution that we don't understand. That will water down other resolutions that are germane to GC issues.

EC (LAILAC): I was wondering if you were in touch with the Director of International Students? I am just trying to understand whether this is within our capacity. I understand that it affects many people, maybe not me, although I am an international student. I think it's important to consider our role here. Maybe there's another association, a national association, that you can connect with?

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ZY (Physics): I spoke with an external organization and I spoke with President Muyskens at the last Plenary.
Isatou Bittaye-Jobe (Women and Gender Studies): I need clarity, it seems more focused on visas. Does it affect their lives at the Graduate Center as students? Is it possible to speak with the lawyer who advises the DSC on this matter? How do we know that USCS opposes this?

YB (History): If we cannot get a job, that will delay our dissertation.

AP (Political Science): We are not Congress. We are not debating the bill itself. We are considering a DSC resolution.

LM (Urban Education): With reference to the last clause of the resolution where it talks about privileging degrees from U.S. institutions, are we not going against what we often advocate for?

MG (Philosophy): The resolution seems to be undermining the credibility of institutions outside the U.S.

Anais Wong (Political Science): I am uncomfortable with the tone of this resolution, no matter how many changes we make to it.

Vote:

2 in favor; 33 against; 1 abstention.

Motion does not pass.

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VII. Announcements

Immediately after this, we will be hosting the DSC Fall party.

VIII. Adjournment

RH adjourns the meeting at 7:55 p.m by unanimous consent.