

**DSC Plenary**  
*Minutes*  
**February 21, 2020**  
**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:* Kathryn Alessi, Samantha Barthelemy, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Kieran Bono, Giacomo Bianchino, Kiera Bono, Elena Chavez, Yuliya Cheban, Elizabeth Che, Ming Chen, Hyein Cho (proxy: Katherine Anderson), Kristofer Eckelhoff (Proxy: Edward Charnley), Prathmesh Deshmukh, Andre Eliatamby, Sonja Gandert, Michael Greer (proxy: Shannon Brick), Jane Guskin, Roderick Hurley, Bertrand Fredrick Ithurnburn, Adam Kocurek, Raj Korpan, Simon Kostelanetz (proxy: Keith Dames), Andrew Kotick, Ariel Leutheusser (proxy: Cecilia Salvi), Mary Jean McNamara, David Monda, Lauren Moton, Jason Nielsen, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks (proxy: Jodell Ulerie), Carmin Quijano, Andres Rayas, Elsa Saade, Sami Sauma, Gwen Shaw, Andrielle Silva (proxy: David Dansu), Queenie Sukhadia, Joseph van der Naald, Zhuo Yin, Anthony Wheeler, Anais Wong.

*Absent:* Angie Alvarado, Carly Batist, Shoumik Bhattacharya (resigned), Braden Campbell, Julia Danitz, Sarah Frantz, Raven Gomez, Carolina Heredia, Rachael Joakim, Fuxian Li, Tenn Joe Lim, Casina Malinchak, Zachary Mitnik, Kwame Ocran, Valicia Philbert, Sherry Sayavongsa, Joseph Torres-González, Yilin Wang.

Roderick Hurley (Psychology) calls the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**I. Approval of Agenda**

Giacomo Bianchino (Comparative Literature) moves to approve the agenda  
Elsa Saade (Middle Eastern Studies) seconds the motion.

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

**II. Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2019 Plenary Meeting**

Elizabeth Che (Educational Psychology) moves to approve the minutes.  
Zhuo Yin (Physics) seconds the motion.

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

**III. Executive Committee Reports**

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

- Nominations Ballot Open!!: February 3 (12AM) - March 2, 2020 (11:59PM).  
Access link: <https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc>  
Email [CCSA@cunydisc.org](mailto:CCSA@cunydisc.org) for any log in issues. Remember to use EMPL ID and not Banner.
- **Chartered Organization nodes for Spring 2020 updated:** Help chartered organizations achieve active status by signing up on their rosters: <http://cunydisc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>
- In the process of contacting inactive chartered orgs regarding office space and reactivation.

*Discussion:*

ZY (Physics): If I nominate someone in my program for program rep, who votes for them?

EC (Educational Psychology): Only the students in that program vote for program representatives for that program.

Anais Wong (Political Science): Regarding SPARC training for chartered organizations, do all the leaders need to have done the training in order to get funded?

EC (Educational Psychology): Because there were problems with the training, they are not going to enforce it, but next year

Andre Eliatamby (Linguistics): Who sets the regulations on how chartered organizations set their active status? Why do they need us to sign up when they are clearly active?

EC (Educational Psychology): For chartered org they need 20 signatures and a past semester report. The signatures are there to show activity and support for the group

Raj Korpan (Computer Science): It's in the by-laws, there is a possibility that it can be changed.

AE (Linguistics): Can any student sign to support that the group should exist?

RH (Psychology): Students in the group would sign up but it could also be other students who just want to support it.

## **B. Co-Chair for Communications (Roderick Hurley)**

### *Recent Meetings*

- 2/7 - CCC met with a GC Housing Resident Assistant. He confirmed feedback I received from students who live in GC housing that students are generally satisfied with the facilities and staff there. Some complaints they have are: policy that requires lease renewal 6 months in advance; unreliable WIFI in some rooms; lack of ergonomic furniture; the lounge doesn't feel "homely" or welcoming; limited/no counter space in kitchens. He said the WIFI issue was being addressed and that he would raise the other issues.
  - The problem with mail forwarding for former tenants seems to have been resolved for now, as the RA told me that he had been assigned to transport former tenants mail to the GC.
- 2/19 - Co-Chairs met with OSA and discussed several issues:
  - Transfer credits - There are no clear GC-wide criteria for assessing transfer credits or knowing when credits will be applied, and it is up to each Program. Specific cases can be appealed and reviewed. We need to press departments to be transparent and upfront about how they apply transfer credits.
  - Wellness - Once everything is approved, the plan is to implement the Wellness fee in the Fall. They are waiting for additional guidance from the Central Office. A committee similar to STF will be set up to create plans for using monies. We want transparency around the use of the wellness fee, particularly because there is a significant need for improved services - limited walk-in hours for counseling; limited number of sessions, then students are given referrals; often referrals are not good fits, out of network, etc;
  - Discussions are happening about potentially having certificate programs admit students directly. No details yet but the idea is to raise revenue. We don't know yet about SAF fees, or whether/which services would be offered to these students.
  - New Nanoscience Program in Fall 2020. These students would be eligible to serve on the DSC from the SP 21 semester.
  - Presidential search - no confirmation yet.
  - Disability Services moved to a larger space (7405 - formerly master's students lounge). Right now, there are cubicles but they are purchasing equipment for administering multiple exams. Training for students, faculty, and APOs will also be held there. Production of alternative text (e.g., dictation software). April is disabilities awareness month. Please send me ideas about how we can help raise awareness.
  - Restaurant Associates has not signed a proposed new contract. GC is under an abridged contract. There is a new manager on the 8th floor. They are hoping to bring in more variety, bringing vendors in to do freebies. CUNY is negotiating a university-wide food services contract. Once a new vendor is signed, renovations will be done in the kitchen (8th floor). The hope is for increased sustainability (e.g., dishwasher, reusable plates, ... etc.). Unsure what will happen to the first-floor cafe. Plan is to have something there as well.
  - More students are currently using DSC listserv for housing info. Please complete the housing survey emailed to you. GC is looking to pursue other options for housing. They are concerned about housing and food security.

- 2/20 - DSC EC met with Interim President Muyskens. CCB will report on this.

*Upcoming Meetings*

- Co-Chairs meeting with OSA on 3/18
- Next DSC Plenary Meeting scheduled for 3/20.

*Discussion:*

David Monda (Political Science): Is the Nanoscience program a PhD or Masters?

RK (Computer Science): Masters

DM (Political Science): I followed up with Julie Suk on the topic of masters programs to generate revenue. Has this topic been brought up?

RK (Computer Science): The topic of the budget came up with the Interim President. Essentially the masters programs generate a very small part of the revenue for the graduate center so he does not see this as a revenue generation source

ZY (Physics): (physics): do Ph.D. programs generate any avenue?

RK (Computer Science): No. Actually it generates "negative" revenue.

GB (Comparative Literature): I spoke with the workers and they told us that the cafe will be opening in about 6 weeks.

DM (Political Science): The other issue that was raised is the disproportionate number of executives relative to other campuses. Was this issue considered? Is this something continuing?

RH (Psychology): We did speak with the president about this and were told that they are focusing on executive and mid-level positions.

RK (Computer Science): He has eliminated 6 executive positions, but the savings won't be shown until next year

AW (Political Science): One way to address these issues is through the creation of a budget committee. Brian Peterson (VP for Finance) will be at the structure committee. So we will be working on these issues at that committee

Jane Guskin (Sociology): What is the budget committee currently?

AW (Political Science): It doesn't exist yet but it would be a committee of the Graduate Council. If people are interested they can reach out to me.

**C. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)**

- **Participatory Budgeting:** Announced on January 31st
- **DSC budget:** Voting on revised budget due to the new PSC contract to update the stipends for all the officers and affiliates based on the new salary of the Grad B position.
- Restaurant Associates has ended its contract with the GC, they will be phasing out as the new CUNY-wide food vendor contract is finalized
- Legal consultations are available and intended for GC students only. Spread the word! email [ccb@cunydscc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydscc.org)
- AMC, Angelika, and Regal discounted movie tickets available. Price is \$10.25 for AMC and \$9 for Angelika and Regal. Check [cunydscc.org](http://cunydscc.org) for office hours to buy tickets.
- Petrie Emergency Fund still available for students. Applications are on the financial aid website.
- We met with the Interim GC President
- Based on the mid-year report they expect a \$2.4 million deficit in the budget
  - \$141 million tax levy allocation from CUNY Central
  - \$146 million in expenses
  - \$3 million in reserve fund
- You can find more info here:
  - <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Finance-Administration/Budget-Office>
  - <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/budget-and-finance/>

*Discussion*

ZY (Physics): Does income come from student tuition?

RK (Computer Science): No it is not. Since we don't pay tuition, it is all from the state.

**D. USS Delegate (Jane Guskin)**

- **USS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS:**
  - USS is working hard on legislative stuff this spring in collaboration with CUNY Rising Alliance and PSC. All CUNY students, faculty, and staff are invited to lobby in Albany on "higher education action day" next Thursday, Feb. 27. Free buses are available but the deadline for registering is TODAY, Friday, Feb. 21. I sent the link out on the DSC list earlier today.
  - USS passed three resolutions at the last plenary: one advocating a tuition freeze at current rates, one protesting the \$120/year wellness fee included in the CUNY budget request to the state, and one calling for CUNY to divest from fossil fuels.
  - The next plenary is this Sunday at Guttman Community College. A resolution will be considered in favor of a new deal for CUNY including free tuition and full state funding, and there may be a resolution (not sure yet) about support for the Free CUNY movement's actions against the tuition hike and wellness fee and protesting the Board of Trustees for their response to those actions.
- **TUITION/FEE PROTESTS:** The student-led Free CUNY movement creatively disrupted the BoT December 16 meeting in an effort to block vote on the tuition hike and wellness fee. BoT chair Bill Thompson gave Public Safety an order to "clear the room" of all present, whether disrupting or not, in what I believe is a violation of the Open Meetings Law. Public Safety at the scene escalated and detained a Free CUNY organizer for about half an hour. She was released without a summons after everyone present refused to leave until she was free.
- **HUNTER STARBUCKS PROTESTS:** Hunter College students with the Free CUNY movement and other groups spoke out at the January BoT committee meeting and hearing, and disrupted the BoT meeting on Feb. 3, to protest a lease deal with Starbucks. USS representatives supported the protest with their votes against the lease deal in committee and at the main meeting, but it passed anyway. At the BoT meeting, it was clear that Public Safety had been ordered not to escalate this time. Because students had argued that the space being leased to Starbucks could instead be used as a food pantry, Hunter president Jennifer Raab suddenly established a food pantry on the main campus for the first time, something students had been demanding for years.

*Discussion:*

ZY (Physics): Did the Board of trustees approve the Starbucks deal?

JG (Sociology): Yes they did, they approve everything that comes to them. The USS chair voted against this.

ZY (Physics): You mentioned the public safety and CUNY cops harassing students - is that legal?

JG: I don't know if that is legal, we are looking for legal support. We are also looking into whether they were in violation of the open meetings law. I don't know if detaining her was against the law.

Kieran O'Rielly (Mathematics): Did they continue the meeting after they kicked everyone out?

JG (Sociology): Yes, they continued the meeting - they approved the tuition hike and the wellness fee. There were reporters that were let back in the room - they definitely didn't let us back in.

AE (Linguistics): Who were the other members on the board?

JG (Sociology): Persons appointed by the mayor and the governor. Very few of them have any educational ties at all. They don't have students' interests at heart.

AE (Linguistics): CUNY students have only 1 representative?

JG (Sociology): Yes and the student rep does have a vote. And the faculty rep from the UFS does not even have a vote.

**E. UFS Liaison (Mary Jean McNamara)**

- Matt Sapienza, Vice Chancellor and C.F.O. of CUNY addressed Faculty Senate for 15 minutes followed by a Q and A from Faculty Senators. Sapienza detailed the budget requests that CUNY will be making to the City and State for the upcoming budget.

- Closing the TAP gap: CUNY is responsible for \$78-\$79 million, the difference between the \$5,100 students receive from Federal loans (TAP), and current tuition: \$6,900 per year. The NYS Assembly proposed on 2/15/20 to add \$50 million to help close the gap. Faculty Senators reminded Sapienza that the mandatory tuition increases are not equal to the rate of inflation.
- Budget needs include a projected \$128 million to make capital repairs CUNY-wide; Needs include the repair of pipes at Bronx Community College, (a contractor installed the wrong pipes).
- Sapienza is looking into funding a \$4 million budget increase to cover a workload REDUCTION for Faculty. In a nutshell: Budget increase = 3.4% BUT Funding request from City and State = 1.8%
- In December, Chancellor Rodriguez met with CUNY Presidents of all community colleges, senior colleges, and The Grad Center to generate budget shortfall of \$67-68 million
- Faculty Senator: Why the Excelsior budget has been increased to give free tuition to more students from higher income brackets while not increasing aid to students from lower-income students (Sapienza responded that the NYS Assembly added to the Excelsior budget on their own volition, it was not requested)
- Budget Cuts - Faculty Senator from BMCC asked Sapienza if he would advocate for SNAP benefits for humanities students after eliminating \$1.5 million from the budget for community college childcare centers
- Henderson Rules - UFS Committee on Academic Freedom urged the Office of Legal Affairs to retract their proposed revision to the Code of Conduct that prohibits public demonstrations on and off campus, as this would be a violation of free speech.
- Pathways - Committee assigned to track the impact of Pathways on graduation rates found a slight improvement in paths to graduation with students graduating 3/10th of one year sooner. At the same time, 50-75% of CUNY undergrad students have more than 120 credits, some as many as 130 credits, due to the need to register full-time in order to qualify for federal student loans and grants. Possible link to GC's transfer credit policy: CUNY's policy of accepting transfer credits has become more lenient, CUNY accepted more transfer credits with Pathways than before Pathways was instituted 7 years ago
- Professor Martin Burke, President of the Faculty Senate, History
- Professor Robert Nolan, UFS Representative GC, Chemistry
- Goals for Spring semester – Wellness Center evaluation in response to complaints about reduced walk-in hours, (one hour, Mondays, 1-2 p.m.) All CUNY students are now paying \$60.00 per semester, \$120.00 per academic year
- Funding Opportunity for Faculty: The CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences is now accepting applications for Conference Travel support. Faculty from all of CUNY can apply to the Adjunct Travel Award, the Stewart Award for Assistant Professors or the Baumrin Award for Associate Professors. Some of the funds are provided by the CUNY Office of Research. For further information, please reach out to Prof. Danielsson directly: [SDanielsson@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:SDanielsson@gc.cuny.edu)

#### Upcoming Meetings

- Next Friday, Feb. 28th: 1:00pm UFS Chair Meeting with the General Counsel (Henderson Rules may be discussed)
- Monday, March 9th: BoT Standing Committees meet
- Next UFS Plenary: Tuesday, March 31st
- Stay tuned for updates on Henderson and Student Code of Conduct revision

#### Discussion:

ZY (Physics): You mentioned that the NYS Assembly made a modification so that the aid for Excelsior go to higher income levels as well? Why can they influence CUNY policy?

RK (Computer Science): This is not a CUNY policy, it is a state program set up by the legislature and the governor

ZY (Physics): Is CUNY funded by the city as well as the state?

Mary Jean McNamara (Classics): Yes

DM (Political Science): Does the adjunct funding apply to both doctoral and non-doctoral adjuncts?

MJM (Classics): It is unclear, there are different ways to label this



ZY (Physics): With the request for faculty workload reduction, is that full professors?

MJM: It is only for full-time faculty, not adjunct faculty

RK (Computer Science): Aren't there adjunct professors there? Why aren't they being advocated for?

MJM (Classics): There was a motion for adjunct faculties to be paid to attend UFS... The emphasis is on full time faculty, but there are some who fight for adjuncts too...

JG (Sociology): If anyone wants to go to Albany for full funding there will be a student bus. I sent out an email with info on the listserv and the deadline is today.

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

##### **A. Officer for Funding (Sonja Gandert)**

- The Grants committee met on February 5, 2020 to discuss applications submitted for the January 17 deadline. We received five applications and approved all five of them; one was contingent on a minor budget modification. One additional grant was erroneously submitted as a start-up grant and could not be reviewed before the deadline.
- A total amount of \$3,500 was approved; average amount approved was \$700.
- With this cycle's awards, there is now \$5,700 available for two more grant cycles
- Approved grants include:
  - 10th Annual History Graduate Student Conference, "Challenging Historical Narratives: New Approaches for the New Decade"
  - Afro-Brazilian Art and Global Contemporaneity (required minor budget adjustment – resubmitted as of 2/6)
  - Support for CART accessibility service at the 2020 ESC conference (Grants Committee voted unanimously to fund this project for up to \$800 rather than \$700)
  - Ethnography of the Ephemeral in a Transnational Context
  - Touch, Taste, Turn: Unleashing the Senses in the Art of the Americas
- Upcoming grant deadlines: February 21, March 20
- Upcoming Grants Committee meetings: March 4, April 1, 5:30 pm
- Please remind your students that in addition to regular monthly grant reviews, start-up grants (max \$200) can be submitted any time.
- If you have any suggestions for funding-related resources that would be beneficial, please send to [funding@cunydisc.edu](mailto:funding@cunydisc.edu)

##### *Discussion*

Yuliya Barycheuskaya (History): What is a "startup grant"?

SG (Art History): A start up grant is for something that has not gotten funding from any other sources. It enables something smaller and to get it quickly off the ground

YB (History): What about a reading group?

SG (Art History): Yes, that could be a possible use as long as there is no other funding source

BO (Speech, Language, Hearing): Is there a way to promote this via email?

SG (Art History): Yes, I did send it out but I will send out more reminders

MG: Just a reminder that reps should prompt students in their departments to sign up for the listserv.

##### **B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Adam Kocurek)**

- I am trying to fill four At-Large representative seats that are currently open. If you know anyone in your programs who is interested in participating in the DSC, or if you've been wanting more department representation in the DSC but do not have enough students to qualify for another program representative, this is an opportunity to help me fill these seats. Please direct interested GC students my way, or provide me with their contact information so that I might reach out to them. These seats count against quorum, so the sooner they are filled, the better.

##### *Discussion:*

JG (Sociology): What's the relationship between filling the seats that are open now and then the elections that are happening almost at the same time?

Adam Kocurek (History): It is for filling them for the next few months. The reason it matters is because those seats count against quorum.

### **C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ming Chen)**

- The NYSHIP Seminar for Spring 2020
  - Have sent out an poll to ask about students' availability for the NYSHIP seminar
  - Have contacted Scott to discuss the day and time to do the NYSHIP Seminars, and the time and Location for the event has been decided: 2 - 4 PM on March 9 (Monday); Room 5414
- The Wellness Festival for Spring 2020
  - Health Education Coordinator, Michelle, contacted me concerning the Wellness Festival for this semester (April 23)
  - Have confirmed with Juli about the date of doing massage event during the Wellness Festival
  - Will set up a DSC table to distribute materials of DSC Health and Wellness
  - Still need to coordinate the time of the massage event with Michelle
- Puppy Therapy
  - Around 20 people showed up for the event last Winter (on a Sunday), and students said they want to have puppy therapy again
  - Will contact New York Therapy Animals to schedule another Puppy Therapy this May

*Discussion:*

ZY (Physics): How do we know that the puppies also enjoy the event?

MC (Educational Psychology): These are not just any puppies. They are actually adult dogs that have been trained and we use ethical companies.

DM (Political Science): I came to the event and the puppies really enjoyed that I could see

### **D. Officer for Outreach (Sharanya Dutta)**

- Hope you have all been getting my tax updates--FICA, Sprintax TDS etc. and finding them helpful. Please come speak to me in person if you need any more help with this.
- Please attend the Sprintax workshops, the first of which is on March 3.
- Along with Ming (Health and Wellness), we are trying to put together an INFORMAL insurance help workshop (open to all). Please make sure you all have all your NYSHIP details and insurance cards with you for this workshop. The person conducting it says it will be very hands-on and she'll actually walk you through making an appointment.
- My individual transfer credit case--which had precedent, and a massive institutional back and forth of emailing, has been looked upon favourably by the President in his meeting with the EC. No resolutions yet but he has asked for more data.
- In that spirit, if each Program Rep could collect case studies of transfer credit issues with a writeup of the issue, the channels of appeal/communication you have already exhausted (emails and so forth with dates) and compile it into a document per program and send it to me, we could create a database and take it to the President. It's too much to do individually so the Program Reps may have to take lead on this. While you are speaking with international students/students who have these issues, please DEFINITELY get their emails.
- The more general issue here is getting a solid database of international students on the listserv: I would really appreciate it if each Program Rep could put together a list of emails for international students in their respective departments and email it to me. Also ask them to sign up to be At-Large/nominate them, especially the new batch. The DSC is a great way to stay looped-in.

- The final goal is to put together a collection of documents with instructions on how to navigate everything from taxes to social security number applications and other forms of identification for new international students and have it for posterity.

*Discussion:*

ZY (Physics): Transfer credits are not just an international students' issue. For item five and six: when people bring this stuff up, make sure people protect themselves from retaliation from EO and APO.

SD (English): I think that is certainly true, and I will take it into account the points you raised. And we definitely need to be careful about retaliation

MJM (Classics): Do you know if there is any policy that CUNY is distinguishing between transfer credits in terms of the grade you got in the course?

SD (English): I was told that the EO went through the coursework of my masters program and determined if it meets the quality needed for a masters level course. I don't know if the GPA matters because not all schools use the same GPA calculations

DM (Political Science): Would you consider doing workshops with international students specifically for OPT? Steps towards that?

SD (English): I don't have the personal knowledge about this but if you know anyone who is willing to do a workshop I would be happy to work with you to set this up.

RK (Computer Science): There's also the CUNY "citizenship now" which gives free advice and consultations around residency, status, etc.

JG (Sociology): Just in terms of the two categories, where does it fit if the program does not adequately inform students about the limit?

SD (English): I told my EO that they need to let admitted students know up front after they send out the formal offer. That kind of push within a department could make this happen. I think that would have to go with the department category. But I am really looking at current students now.

RK (Computer Science): OSA agreed with upfront notification about transfer credits but we were told that it is a departmental decision which they don't have power over

AW (Political Science): The international office does have some workshops on the OPT, they might not be that good, but they're there.

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

- Update on cuts to the university budget from meetings with Muyskens: how they affect students
  - College Assistant re-appointments: if re-appointments are frozen we may lose our college assistants
  - Pause on hiring- faculty and administrative vacancies will not be re-filled
- Sexual Misconduct Services:
  - I've started to gather information about resources available at other colleges for survivors of sexual misconduct and education for incoming students etc.
  - I may be meeting with the Office of Student Affairs about redesigning the website and updating the Title IX page with these resources. If anyone would like to contribute ideas to this or form a website taskforce I'm willing to chair it etc.
- Film Showing:
  - As part of Women's History Month, SLS will be hosting a showing of "All We've Got"- a film about the disappearance of queer women's spaces in America and the resistance of communities to this disappearance. There will be a Q and A with director Alexis Clements. At the moment the tentative date is Monday March 30th. We are currently seeking co-sponsors and trying to secure a space.
- Board game night- looking at potential dates in the coming weeks; ss committee still hasn't met

*Discussion:*



AK (History): You should also reach out to the Feminist Press for the movie and also the Women and Gender Studies program

GB (Comparative Literature): Good idea!

ZY (Physics): Regarding the website, all the pages are badly organized and have misinformation, not just Title IX. All the DGSC reps and all their committees should be on the websites of each program's page.

GB (Comparative Literature): That's a great suggestion

RK (Computer Science): The president seems to have changed his tune when it comes to college assistantships, they will be renewed as long as they are current positions with the same person. Only if someone leaves will they seriously consider whether to refill that with someone new.

GB (Comparative Literature): Interesting, did they put that in writing? Otherwise we will need to hold them to that.

#### **F. Officer for Technology & Library (Michael Greer)**

- Urgent News: Polly Thistlewaite is leaving the GC to work at CUNY Central. This is a massive loss for the school.
  - I will be emailing her over the coming weeks inquiring into who will inherit her position.
- CUNY2020: Meeting with Matt Gold --- link to meeting summary that will be sent round to student body when completed. The most important news is the construction will start ASAP!  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hOCZqLwYL2-fdE8CgRJRf0Hb8MluVkJRDtshY5QETQw>
- Object Library: Follow up email
- Library posters - working?
- NYU, Columbia emails:
- NYPL situation: No response from Muyskens and Wrigley. Have been advised by an Alumnae-DSC member that Bill Kelly may be a good person to contact at the NYPL.
- March 9th: STF Meeting. I sent round an email regarding the STF. They only gave us a week to send in proposals, but they will allow proposals from the floor, so please send in your ideas. Raj is my proxy.

Some ideas for proposals (needs that have been voiced to me before) include:

- Color printers (crucial for MALS, Digital Humanities, Sciences, and Data Vis)
- More laptops for rent in the library!
- Funding for an IT desk.
- An Adobe subsidized contract (to get Adobe on students' laptops as well as computers)
- I would appreciate help getting details of these together to build for Raj to present!

*Discussion:*

MC (Educational Psychology): I noticed that the computers in the library and the departments have access to SPSS and other statistical software. But we don't have access to these on our own laptops. I was wondering whether we could allocate some money so that students could purchase or use those softwares?

MG (Philosophy): That would be a good idea.

RK (Computer Science): There is also the CUNY Virtual Desktop which has these softwares. Also there was something like this a few years ago but STF eliminated because of low usage.

AE (Linguistics): What will replace the basement space for student use? What is the amount of the STF budget?

MG (Philosophy): CUNY 2020 will be the project that is taking over the basement. We've been in the process of changing the library space to the CUNY 2020 space for a while so the space has not really been in a lot of use. Even though it is funding for digital humanities, the middle of the space will be a lounge space that students can use. They will give training on how to use the cool stuff around the room.

RK (Computer Science): I think the amount is around \$800,000 for the STF.

AE (Linguistics): What has it been used for in the past?

MG (Philosophy): Renewing many software licenses. Buying new computers

JG (Sociology): I think you talked about last time where all the study space in the building, do we have that information?

MG (Philosophy): I will be collecting that information

DM (Political Science): What happens to the STF money that is not used?

RH (Psychology): Probably goes into a reserve fund, but we no longer have access to it.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Revised 2019-2020 DSC Budget (Voting)**

RK (Computer Science): Budget was presented in December and is unchanged. Grad B line was increased. Decreased discretionary funds to increase stipends. As raises continue to occur over time, the stipends will continue to go up

AK (History) moves to approve the revised budget.

GB (Comparative Literature) seconds the motion.

*Vote:* motion passes unanimously

### **B. Ratification of New Member (Philosophy) (Voting)**

AK (History): Philosophy has petitioned for a second representative

AK (History) moves to ratify "REP" as the new representative for Philosophy

EC (Educational Psychology) seconds

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

### **C. Constitution Amendments (Voting)**

#### **• Changes to the Article III.3.2 – The Co-Chair for Communications**

RH (Psychology) presents the change to Article III.3.2

AK(History) moves to approve the amendment

ZY (Physics) seconds the motion.

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

#### **• Changes to Article I. – Name**

RH (Psychology) presents the change to Article I

MG (Philosophy) motions to approve the amendment

ES (Middle Eastern Studies) seconds

ZY (Physics): I'm not a native English speaker, does graduate student include both masters and doctoral? Why not the Doctoral and Masters Students' Council?

RH (Psychology): Yes, but the reason we don't do that is because that would involve changing the name of the organization which would be significantly more work (legal and financial issues)

ZY (Physics): What about the logo?

RH (Psychology): Changing this would be the first step. We are hoping to rebrand, and we realize that this is a long term project.

Kathyn Alessi (MALS): Have any masters students complained about this?

RH: Yes, we've had several students come to us with things like: where is the masters student government, does the DSC support master's students too? We've also been confused with the PSC.

ZY (Physics): Wouldn't the Graduate Students' Council make the most sense - theoretically speaking?

RH (Psychology): I assume the name goes back to when the GC only had doctoral students.

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

### **D. Resolution against proposed changes to the Henderson Rules (Voting)**

MG (Philosophy) moves to approve the resolution.

ZY (Physics) seconds the motion.

*Discussion:*

RK (Computer Science): Can someone give some more information about this?

RH (Psychology): CUNY's office of legal counsel is putting together a single document that combines three documents together: Henderson Rules, Sexual Misconduct, and "FILL IN". Right now the rules are pretty vague, so it has a lot of leniency for students. But the new language changes it to demonstration and also is on and off campus.

ZY (Physics): So this is a CUNY central policy is that right? And what is the penalty if a student violates the Henderson rules?

RH (Psychology): Yes, it is a central policy. The current rules are pretty vague. The proposed ones are very punitive and it includes losing your degree.

MJM (Classics): The UFS's position is that this Code of Conduct goes completely beyond the scope of what the rules should entail.

ZY (Physics): If this violates freedom of speech then doesn't it violate the constitution?

RK (Computer Science): There is plenty of case law about student activism which they may be trying to stretch it to fit. Furthermore, something unconstitutional can only be banned when it is brought to the supreme court which takes time and resources.

*Vote:* Motion passes unanimously

#### **E. Resolution in support of graduate workers on strike at UC Santa Cruz (Voting)**

JG (Sociology): Students at UC Santa Cruz have been on a wildcat strike because of housing insecurity issues.

GB (Comparative Literature) moves to approve the resolution.

SG (Art History) seconds the motion.

*Discussion:*

ZY (Physics): If we pass this resolution, how do we help them?

JG (Sociology): It is symbolic. But it is very important to get messages of solidarity. It also puts pressures the the university leadership

RH (Psychology): Could we reach out to them?

JG (Sociology): Yes, they have a website

DM (Political Science): Do you know why it is a wildcat strike? Why isn't the union supporting the strike?

JG (Sociology): It is in a similar situation that we are in. The union already signed the contract which didn't include a cost of living adjustment. They started with a grade strike and now it is a full strike. The union can't support a strike because they have already signed a contract. But a lot of union members are supporting them.

RK (Computer Science): I know someone who is at UC Santa Cruz who is on strike right now. The administration is doing terrible things right now, threatening to fire people, threatening to deport international students.

*Vote:* Motion passes with 1 vote against - Bertrand Ithurnburn (Computer Science)

### **VI. Announcements**

#### **A. DSC Spring Party**

RH (Psychology): The party will be in April. The theme is back in time so you can dress up from different eras and we will be highlighting the past work of the DSC and student activism

#### **B. 2020-21 DSC Elections**

RH (Psychology): Please participate in the nominations process! We really need nominees for all the positions. Please encourage students to participate.

### **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.