

Plenary
Minutes
April 24, 2020

Attendance

Present: Kathryn Alessi, Andres Besserer, Samantha Barthelemy, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Carly Batist, Shannon Brick, Elizabeth Che, Yuliya Cheban, Ming Chen, Hyein Cho, David Dansu, Prathmesh Deshmukh, Sharanya Dutta, Kristofer Eckelhoff, Andre Eliatamby, Sonja Gandert, Jane Guskin, Michael Greer, Roderick Hurley, Bertrand Ithurburn, Efthimia Johanides, Adam Kocurek, Raj Korpan, Simon Kostelanetz, Marianne Madore, Mary Jean McNamara, David Monda, Lauren Moton, Jason Nielsen, Kwame Ocran, Bernadette Ojukwu, Kieran O'Reilly, Alison Parks, Carmin Quijano, Elsa Saade, Sami Sauma, Gwendolyn Shaw, Queenie Sukhadia, Joseph Torres-Gonzalez, Anais Wong, Zhuo Yin.

Absent: Katherine Anderson, Ege Aksu, Braden Campbell, Gonçalo Costa, Keith Dames, Julia Danitz, Jos Fesinstine, Carolina Heredia, Mounira Kephida, Andrew Kotick, Fuxian Li, Tenn Joe Lim, Casina Malinchak, Zachary Mitnik, Valicia Philbert, Andres Rayas, Sherry Sayavongsa, Pamela Stemberg, Yilin Wang.

Meeting called to order at 4:38 PM

I. Approval of Agenda

Roderick Hurley (Psychology) moves to approve the agenda with one amendment – the addition of Item V.B: Discussion regarding current student concerns

Sharanya Dutta (English) seconds the motion.

Vote: approved unanimously

II. Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2020 Plenary Meeting

SD (English) moves to approve the minutes.

Elsa Saade (Middle Eastern Studies) seconds the motion.

Vote: approved unanimously

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

- Elections: <https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc/login.cfm>
 - Username: EMPLID
 - Password: First Initial Last Initial Year of Birth (no space)
 - Help ratify the two constitutional amendments that was approved during the February DSC plenary and elect representatives.
 - Submit your ballot by May 15th at 11:59pm ET.
- Chartered Orgs:
 - Help support chartered orgs by signing their rosters: <http://cunydisc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>
 - Deadline for Fall 2019 semesterly report (originally due by end of Spring 2020 -- this semester) extended till end of Fall 2020 semester. So by the end of Fall 2020, chartered orgs are expected to have turned in their Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesterly reports for Fall 2020 active status requirement.
 - Chartered orgs can submit check requests for reimbursement without having active status for this semester.
 - Chartered org room reorganization (moving out inactive and moving in active chartered orgs into available office space) is on hold until further notice.

No discussion

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Roderick Hurley)

Updates

- New GC President named - Robin L. Garrell, vice provost for graduate education and graduate division dean at UCLA; tenure begins August 1. We plan to request a teleconference with her in the near future.
- April 16 - DSC EC met with Interim President Muyskens, Associate Provost David Olan, and Senior VP Brian Peterson. This was a response to a letter sent by the DSC objecting to being left out of the loop about emergency measures that were being taken.
 - CUNY/GC has the same flat funding as last year, which does not cover contract wage increases. Colleges have been asked to prepare a budget with a 7% cut in expenditure.
 - With NY projecting a large tax shortfall, CUNY's budget will likely see significant cuts when the state budget is reviewed. In addition, GC is still currently trying to close last year's \$5M budget deficit. There has also been a loss of revenue from space rentals because the building is closed.

- When we asked about their decision to shorten the deadline for admissions offers, they said they plan to admit fewer doctoral students and increase master's student enrollment in the fall semester.
- We asked if current students on fellowship would be required to do more work. They said that fellowships will stay the same in terms of structure and hours, but WAC may include tasks other than writing, depending on what colleges need (research, mentoring, digital pedagogy, etc.)
- The move to distance learning has been a lot of work and doing it with large classes will be even more difficult. They also said they don't know if class sizes will be reduced to accommodate this.
- Regarding emergency funding for students, they said that it would be impossible given the current budget, but that they were raising money for emergency grants to individual students. \$175k raised so far - goal is \$500k.
- NYSHIP - Telehealth services are available. Negotiations ongoing to extend health insurance coverage to tuition fellowships.
- Regarding the CUNY-wide food service, the agreement is still being worked on and might be in place by the end of this fiscal year. Other contracts have come up but nothing has been stopped.
- We also asked what is being done to position the GC as a center for research on the pandemic? They said that they are responding to requests for research and there will be some funding coming out of that. Some work is being done at the ASRC and they are open to ideas. talking about GC's contribution to research; current situation might be an incentive for some faculty to retire, even without a formal incentive package.
- Essential staff is at work and maintaining the building - engineering, mailroom, public safety, and facilities. Persons should only come to the GC if absolutely necessary. They have smaller shifts that can manage what needs to be done so persons are not coming in as often.
- April 17 - Co-Chairs meeting with OSA
 - Student Technology Fee - Refund was approved by the BoT but has not been implemented. The policy is being relooked.
 - Commencement - There will be no in-person ceremony. They are looking into having a virtual acknowledgment of degrees. Refunds for commencement fees have been forwarded to students and diplomas will be mailed out.
 - All summer classes at CUNY will be online. The fall semester hasn't been confirmed yet.
 - Satisfactory progress forms still have to be completed. According to OSA, they are being lenient and everything is being approved.
 - Counselling center (remote counseling, webinars, etc) and Child care center (storytelling and check-ins) are also operating remotely.

- Accessibility Services - Updated accessibility software, working with the TLC looking to Fall online classes. Staff has been creating accessible material, attending classes to do captioning, etc.
- Fitness class refunds are being processed
- Reappointment letters for GCFs going out, but so far not for adjunct appointments
- NYSHIP - Telehealth services available free with NYSHIP, \$59 without insurance.
 - Summer prepayment for students who receive NYSHIP through adjunct appointments - For students who will be covered in the Fall, prepayments are taken out of the final 4 Spring paychecks to cover summer. If there is no Fall appointment, coverage terminates 28 days after the Spring semester ends.
- Technology Device Distribution: Laptops, ipads - Received 25 devices from CUNY and distributed all. They expect to receive more GC received 40 requests.
 - Zoom accounts - coming soon
- Dorms - students who were living at the Towers have been moved to the Summit at QC, or have gone home, one student with special needs was moved to GC housing.
 - GC building is open - gym and common room room, ongoing sanitization.
 - Lease renewals - some people have been responding; admin being flexible
- CUNY2020 on hold, since no nonessential construction can take place
- CUNY Board of Trustees recently approved new measures around the covid-19 crisis. These include:
 - Establishing a Chancellor's Emergency Relief fund
 - Purchase of iPads and Laptops for student loans
 - STF reduction/refund
 - Option for credit/no-credit grading
 - Credit/Refund of dorm fees
 - I compiled a [list of support and funding resources](#) and sent this out to students. Please let me know if you come across things that should be added to this list.
- The Steering Committee unanimously endorsed the [student petition for emergency funding](#). Several DSC reps have signed this individually.
- [The Advocate](#) has put out a job announcement for a new managing editor. They plan to release the next issue online, and have the covid-19 pandemic as the theme.
- April 21 - Attended a meeting with GC admin and students managing the petition for emergency funding.
 - Position put forward was that all students need emergency funding, not just those who already have funding packages. In addition international students are uniquely affected by the current situation.

- Interim President Muyskens said that they were aware of the problems, but could not support the petition in light of the current budget. He said they were working hard to raise funds to support students through emergency grants. He said he felt that the Chancellor would be willing to listen to the concerns, and that he would be willing to try to arrange a meeting with the chancellor if it took the form of a discussion, without demands.
- April 23 - EC was invited to a meeting with senior GC administrators regarding a memo sent by CUNY instituting a CUNY-wide freeze on personnel changes and discretionary salary increases. Also no contracts can be signed or purchases made without approval from CUNY central. When the possibility of reducing or advocating for reduction in tuition or not collecting excellence fees and it was said that this was up to the Board of Trustees. We asked if there was a plan in place for the possibility that the budget is cut by the governor and were told that they ran a few models but don't have a concrete plan.

Upcoming

- The election ballot opened on April 1 and remains open until May 15. Please vote and remind students in your programs to vote. This is an extension of the regular voting period. This means that we have to rescheduled the May plenary meeting for incoming reps
- Next Plenary meeting - May 15 (Outgoing Representatives)

Discussion:

Andras Besserer (Political Science) – The international students office has not responded to questions regarding visas for international students.

RH (Psychology): We asked about visas at our most recent meeting with admin. They did say that students would be able to do classes online from wherever they are, but they didn't have answers about visas.

Andre Eliatamy (Linguistics): Is there a sense that administration is thinking strategically about securing funding for students?

RH (Psychology): They seem to be focusing on raising funds for the emergency grants, but not on lobbying the state for more funding. They also intend to admit fewer students in the fall.

Samantha Barthelemy (Criminal Justice): Can we can push CUNY to communicate clearly about international students? Nobody seems knows what's really going on.

RH (Psychology): Yes, I agree we should push for some statement about international students as a whole.

RK (Computer Science): We put an item later in the agenda where we are going to try and strategize regarding these serious issues. In the past, we directed a response to the International students' office regarding their communications. In the past, the response they have given us has been "each students' case is different, so we can't send out a blanket email.

Zhuo Yin (Physics): If they want to kick students out of programs, there is a way for them to do it -- by making exams harder, being strict about deadlines, etc. There is precedent for this dangerous phenomenon. I also wanted to note that if

CUNY classes are being cut 25% for 2020 fall, it will reduce the workload of adjuncts, which will negatively affect GC students.

Yuliya Barycheuskaya (History): Is there anyone I can contact regarding NYSHIP timelines?

RH (Psychology): Yes, you can contact Scott Vorhees.

RK (Computer Science): I would also recommend you talk to Ming Chen (Officer for Health and Wellness) so she can relay this back to the student body.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

- Budget
 - DGSC money cannot be donated to non-profit organizations, we can put money towards the GC's emergency fund
 - If you have other ideas on how to spend our funds please let me know
 - Any unused funds will carry-over into next year's budget as a lump-sum
 - Board of Trustees may have passed a resolution to waive 50% of Spring 2020 SAF - this would mean our budget would be cut by about 25% for the year. But it is unclear whether that decision will be implemented or if the Chancellor or BoT will take it back. We are waiting for clarification. Until then, all the proposals that I talked about at the last plenary are now off the table.
- DSC Office hours continue to be suspended and movie ticket sales on hold
- Check request policy changed:
 - Please submit scanned versions of receipts and hold on to the hard copy.
 - Submit hard copies next time you are at the GC or you can mail them to me at the DSC office.
 - Checks are no longer available for pick up.
 - Checks are no longer being issued by the Business Office, instead they are wiring directly to bank accounts, I am relaying this on a case-by-case basis as requests come in.
- Legal consultations are available and intended for GC students only. Spread the word! email ccb@cunydisc.org
- Petrie Emergency Fund still available for students. Applications are on the financial aid website.

Discussion

AE (Linguistics): Since the DSC budget is rolling over, is the program allocation is rolling over in the same way? Also, when is the deadline for check requests?

RK (Computer Science): Program allocations don't roll over. Allocations not spent *this* year will go into the DSC budget for next year. Normally the deadline is May 15th. I'm planning on extending it. Probably until the end of May. Latest would be mid-June.

AB (Political Science): In my department, people want to buy books for comps or research, and they are not available on our library. The books can be mailed to the physical addresses, it will have to go through the library, and will need to apply for reimbursement.

RK (Computer Science): That's fine, not a problem.

ZY (Physics): Donating the program allocations to the emergency fund is a good idea. Could we find a way to buy PPE as well?

RK (Computer Science): If you can find a vendor, then you can ask for reimbursement. You can't donate money to outside groups, but you could buy things for them and get reimbursed.

D. USS Delegate (Jane Guskin)

- Stop Tuition Hikes. Survey collecting reasons to stop tuition hikes During COVID-19:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdBX_Job7ME5P1W73jBtMCYirOm9xoEgns6Omlu4GEmTft4jw/viewform
- COVID-19 Task Force. USS has created a task force to work with ally organizations like Young Invincibles, NYPIRG, & CUNY Rising. The task force is organized by three working groups: (1) rising cost of tuition (2) student wellness and (3) civic engagement. To join:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXg1CFjp01tMDmuCCpK3F2B6fq4SvgtcDi8OWyBpyUZOSUDA/viewform>
- USS scholarships are open and should appear in CUNYfirst for anyone eligible. (CUNYfirst is unavailable this weekend.)
- Reduce plastic waste. At April 19 USS plenary, resolution was passed urging CUNY to stop the sale of single use plastic beverage bottles in cafeterias, vending machines and all events on campus or hosted by the college; increase the number of water fountains and water refill stations; and to test regularly the quality of water fountains to make sure they are up to NY water quality standards.
- Bylaw changes: USS executive committee is proposing bylaw changes: allow student govt president/chair to act as third alternate delegate for quorum purposes. Info and feedback here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FPLtx79J2tFSkBor-wpDeuFXFEaexYmrIEtBcJFxBVI/viewform?edit_requested=true
- Rank and File Action (RAFA) 5 crisis demands:
 - No unsafe work. Let all CUNY workers stay home with full pay until it's safe to return.
 - No layoffs or non-reappointments. No challenges to unemployment claims.
 - Lower enrollment minimums and course caps to protect jobs and serve students.

- Time worked = time paid. Compensation for hours spent transitioning to remote labor. We own all materials we produce for online work.
- Restore in-person teaching as soon as it's safe. Ensure accessibility for all.
- Join workers from all job titles across CUNY in a town hall conversation about how to win these demands: Friday, May 1, 2020, 5-7pm. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/RAFAtownhallRSVP>
- To get involved, contact us at rafa.cuny@gmail.com, join RAFA's open [Facebook group](#), and follow RAFA on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).
- RAFA also enthusiastically supports these campaigns--please sign and share!
 - Emergency funding for CUNY grad students: <https://tinyurl.com/s8tk3lh>
 - Free CUNY's five demands for healing CUNY in crisis: <https://tinyurl.com/CUNY5demands>
 - Full pay and benefits for GC food service workers: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/email-cuny-graduate-center-demand-food-service-workers-receive-full-pay-and-health-benefits-while-laid-off-during-covid-19>
- PSC News and links: The Professional Staff Congress (PSC) has a letter for members to tell CUNY Board of Trustees Chairperson Bill Thompson and CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodríguez that PSC Will Fight for Every Job at CUNY: <https://www.psc-cuny.org/NoCOVIDCuts>.

Discussion:

RH (Psychology): Can USS amend the by-laws on their own?

JG (Sociology): I think all bylaws changes to the USS require approval by the BoT?

E. UFS Liaison (Mary Jean McNamara)

The following report contains information circulated by Matthew Cotter, Executive President of the UFS. The information below details a plan generated by the Faculty Senate to address shortcomings in the quality of online education currently that will need to be addressed in order for CUNY to maintain its accreditation with the Middle States Accreditation Standards.

1. Memo of 2-20-20 from CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations re 3 year Adjunct contracts (pdf attached)
2. Update #10 Academic Continuity: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/guidance-on-academic-continuity-to-campuses/>
3. Call to Action Plan: Memo sent to Presidents on April 17, 2020 (see below)
4. CUNY Fiscal Update Monday, April 20, 2020 4:39 PM (see below)

3. ELEMENTS of the Call to Action Plan in Memo sent to Presidents on April 17, 2020

This communication directs all CUNY units to undertake numerous actions in a timely manner including:

- Optimizing our Summer 2020 course offering and learning outcomes
 - Colleges shall review and ensure that the number and length of summer sessions are well aligned with effective distance education practices and that assessment processes are in place to measure the corresponding learning outcomes.
 - Colleges shall, in addition to considering quantitative indicators, systematically gather and analyze qualitative data on the expected performance of their students and the likelihood of higher than average course failures that could ultimately be registered by No Credit (NC) grades.
 - Colleges shall develop strategies to optimize continuing education courses, summer intensives, and pre-matriculation programs, among other important course offerings that extend beyond the undergraduate and graduate portfolio.
- Certification of Effective Online Teaching: Online Teaching Essentials
 - Presidents shall inform the Executive Vice President and University Provost of their intent to leverage this training opportunity for their faculty and commitment to contribute to the overall goals of this ambitious initiative. Alternatively, presidents will submit their own plan to provide professional development to their campus faculty. Responses are due by April 20, 2020.
 - Presidents shall provide OAA and SPS access to experienced faculty and staff who can help coordinate and implement this program.
 - Presidents shall mobilize campus Blackboard teams to actively participate with CUNY SPS OFDIT in the implementation of this initiative.
 - Presidents shall mobilize Centers of Teaching and Learning to participate in the implementation of this initiative.
- Providing professional development for effective online student success services
 - Colleges shall develop and implement plans to better serve the career engagement, advising, mental health, and onboarding and orientation needs of our students as we close the Spring 2020 term and position ourselves for a Summer 2020 term in which support services may continue to be delivered by colleagues working remotely from home.

The University's contributions, in turn, include efforts in the following areas:

- Optimizing our Summer 2020 course offering and learning outcomes
 - Enrollment and data analytics.
 - Marketing of Summer 2020 courses.
 - Market research for continuing education programs
 - Long-term value proposition and enrollment management strategies

- Certification of Effective Online Teaching: Online Teaching Essentials
 - Coordination with the School of Professional Studies of a certification program on effective online teaching: Online Teaching Essentials.
- Providing professional development for effective online student success services
 - Professional development program in remote career engagement counseling
 - Professional development program in remote advising
 - Professional development program in mental health
 - Professional development program in virtual recruitment

A major centerpiece of the work ahead involves providing faculty slated to teach online this summer with some level of support and professional development. We will do this through a combination of college-based initiatives and a University-wide initiative based on a partnership with the School of Professional Studies. Specifically, SPS will expand the **Online Teaching Essentials** course to serve up to several hundred faculty over the next few months. A brief overview of the course structure and outcomes is presented below.

- The Structure of the Course
 - Module I: Understanding the Online Learning Environment
 - Module II: Structuring the Online Learning Experience
 - Module III: Communicating and Interacting Online
 - Module IV: Online Presence and Engagement
 - Module V: Effective Online Assessment
 - Module VI: Course Schedule and Reflection
- Faculty Learning Outcomes: Each participant who completes the course will
 - Gain first-hand experience in and appreciation of the needs of an online learner;
 - Identify widely accepted best practices for online teaching, including principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL);
 - Reflect on how to apply to one's own course the instructional design principles, organizational and facilitation skills, and communication and assessment strategies introduced in the course;
 - Become familiar with the basic operations and features of a Blackboard classroom from both student and instructor perspectives.

4. CUNY Fiscal Update Monday, April 20, 2020 4:39 PM

From: Chancellor <Chancellor@cuny.edu>

Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 4:39 PM

To: Subject: Fiscal Update

Dear CUNY Presidents and Deans:

I hope this finds you as positive and productive as can be expected given the extraordinary circumstances under which we are now living, working and studying.

As you are aware, the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic is significantly impacting the finances of the state and city, two of the University's main funding partners, both of whom are projecting large budget deficits. The impact of the economic downturn is expected to continue through FY 2020-21.

Additionally, the downturn could likely negatively impact enrollment revenue, as families struggle with the loss of income stemming from job losses and reduced work hours. Students and their families might also be factoring health safety issues in their Summer and Fall plans. In a climate of heightened need and fewer resources, our fundraising efforts will likely also be affected. And the upward enrollment trends of past economic downturns are not reliable against the backdrop of a global pandemic.

It is with all of this in mind that I write today to keep you informed of the fluid fiscal considerations that affect our budget, and the potentially difficult decisions that we are going to have to make in the very challenging weeks and months to come.

Fiscal Landscape

The New York State Comptroller estimates that state revenues for FY 2021 will decline by between \$4 and \$7 billion, or as much as 8 percent below the figure included in the State's Executive Budget. For the 11 senior colleges, an 8 percent reduction in state funding represents a \$110 million impact; for the seven community colleges, it comes to a \$20 million loss in support. It is important to keep in mind that the Executive is projecting even higher revenue losses than the Comptroller.

For its part, the City has already notified the University of significant budget reduction targets in both the current and next fiscal year. The City's Executive Budget released on April 16 proposes an additional \$25.6 million reduction target for the University in FY 2021. This is above the initial \$6 million efficiency target, bringing the total for the next fiscal year to \$31.6 million.

The one sliver of good fiscal news is that the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will allocate to CUNY \$236 million, at least half of which we are in the process of distributing directly to students as emergency assistance grants. The remaining amount will go to the colleges for campus operations.

Immediate Actions

1. Effective immediately, the University is implementing a freeze on all personnel actions, including all hires and discretionary salary increases. Some exceptions that will be considered include health and safety positions and faculty searches in which an offer has already been made. Such cases will need to be presented to a Vacancy Review Committee that will be created in the coming days.

2. Per State and City regulations, the University must pause all active campus construction projects, with the exception of those that are COVID-19 related. At the direction of the Governor, the Empire State Development Corporation has issued updated guidance for construction under the Governor's New York State on PAUSE executive order. The updated guidance mandates the immediate pause of all construction that is not essential construction, which is defined as:

- Construction necessary to protect health and safety of occupants; and
- Construction that needs to continue until it is safe to shut it down.

3. For the remainder of the fiscal year, colleges should refrain from any new one-time or recurring expenditures, with the exception of those that are related to COVID-19 or distance learning instruction.

4. Campuses should not be entering into any new long-term contractual obligations (new or renewals) until further notice and should consult with the Chief Financial Officer's Office for any exceptional situations.

Discussion:

AE (Linguistics): What political power do the chancellor and presidents have to push for more funding?

RK (Computer Science): Each college has been allocated a part of the CUNY budget, which is allocated by the state. Yes, CUNY should be advocating that we shouldn't get budget cuts. But the problem is that the budget also supports other entities, not just CUNY.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Sonja Gandert)

- As anticipated, no new grant proposals were submitted for the March 20 deadline, so the Grants Committee did not meet
- We have decided to honor all approved applications from previous cycles if their events are postponed or moved online. I have been communicating with grantees on a case-by-case basis. Check requests for eligible expenses, including honoraria, can still be submitted for reimbursement. All unused funds will be absorbed into the next academic year's budget.
- Start-up grants of up to \$250 are still available on a rolling basis

No discussion.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Adam Kocurek)

No updates

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ming Chen)

- Updating the student-recommended NYSHIP providers on DSC Health & Wellness OpenCUNY website

- Link: <https://opencuny.org/healthdsc/student-recommended-nyship-providers/>
- The current Student-Recommended NYSHIP providers listed on the website is out-of-date. It was constructed almost 8 years ago, and few students recommended their providers, and the old providers no longer serve within the NYSHIP network.
- If you contacted any providers listed on the website and found they were no longer in the NYSHIP network, please send me an email with the providers' names, types of primary care, telephone numbers, addresses, and relevant feedback, so that I can delete them from the current provider list.
- If you had a pleasant experience with any NYSHIP providers, please also send me an email with his/her name, title, type of primary care, telephone numbers, service addresses, and your reasons for the recommendation, so that I can add them to the current list. It would be great if you could help with this to keep the provider list up-to-date.
- NYSHIP Co-pay and Open Enrollment
 - Co-pay for physical therapies, consulting services are the same as before COVID-19.
 - A second Open Enrollment period that was slated to end April 15 has been extended until May 15.
- NYSHIP Telehealth Service
 - The NYSHIP Telehealth service, LiveHealth Online, provides our students with virtual medical consulting opportunities. The students will be able to consult certified doctors and therapists with their health concerns in a video chat.
 - NYSHIP Enrollees can log in to www.empireblue.com/nys to get a coupon code to cover the full cost of their LiveHealth Online visits (the coupon code will show up after the \$0 payment).
 - You can still use this service if you are out-of-state or not in the U.S.
- Workshops provided by the Wellness Center
 - Mindfulness Meditation/Stress Reduction Class - May 9, Saturday, 11 AM. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2x5fHAY>
 - Self Care For Graduate Students - May 1, Friday, 12 PM to 1:30 PM. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3aC2RHQ>

Discussion.

SB (Criminal Justice): Regarding the telehealth services -- do we need the coupon or prior authorization from our plan, or is it just like a regular consult?

MC (Educational Psychology): According to anecdotal reports, there's no extra authorization.

D. Officer for Outreach (Sharanya Dutta)

- International students still have access to a part of the emergency funds CUNY is providing. But the link to apply is the same as for citizens/residents. Here's the link: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Fellowships-and-Financial-Aid/Student-Emergency-Grants>
- Health insurance if you have NYSHIP as was stated has some perks, if one could call it that. Livehealth is quite efficient. You have to select the geographical area as NYC no matter where you are (or at least that's what I did because my address on record is a NYC address). As to the matter of the coupon code, the telehealth guide says it will appear BEFORE the appointment. In my case, I never got a coupon code but the total cost was 0\$ (it was covered by insurance) but I only saw that AFTER the appointment. The pharmacy however, I selected near where I am, in GA. And the prescription was delivered there seamlessly, no problem.
- No word yet on whether or not NYSHIP covers COVID testing and treatment. The DSC is following up on this.
- Summer fellowship checks--no word on when those will be disbursed yet. Also Allan Tsang tells me that they're trying to MAIL it to students but apparently NYS Payroll denied an appeal to have them be direct deposit for international students. Presumably because of some legal stuff. The DSC will push to make this happen, and we would appreciate your help getting signatories/support for a possible petition just so the administration understands the scale of this problem.

Discussion:

ZY (Physics): I just want to make some comments regarding the international office. We haven't been getting any response. The GC is expanding to admit more international MA students -- I'm not sure they have enough staff to handle all the international students. Other universities have IT systems that enable them to respond people.

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

No updates

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Michael Greer)

Library

- Emily Drabinski is serving as the interim head librarian for now.
- I asked about length of fine suspension, whether students should drop off books physically if they are returning home, and about ILL?

- Curtis Matthew, head of circulation said: “These questions have not been discussed by the Circulation Committee, except for the waiving of fines. They will have to be discussed at some point if the current situation drags on into May and beyond.”
- The library are telling everyone to hold on to the books and they will be automatically renewed up to 9 times. That should take everyone at least into next semester. However, for students leaving the country, we do have a book drop by the main security desk in the lobby. We have been steering all students there who insist on dropping books off.
- All fines will all be waived once a book has been returned, no matter how late. If someone hits the 9 renewal limit, the Circulation staff still has the ability to renew their books for them. Patron's can send an e-mail to Circ@gc.cuny.edu and the books will be renewed for them. We're also getting overdue reports from OLS (Office of Library Services) that we're using to renew books that have hit the 9 limit threshold.
- They are also not charging fines at all for ILL books, and they will all be renewed by ILL team.
- Pushing for offsite access to NYU- and Columbia-library resources? Especially those who are MaRLI/SHARES users. Now that getting physical books is harder, and going to NYU/Columbia to use their online databases is impossible, it seems like OFFSITE access to online materials is something we could fight for? At least for students who had SHARES/MARLi? It might be a good publicity move for them, and it would be good for our students.
 - Jill Cirasella said: I strongly suspect off-site access to NYU and Columbia resources won't be possible, given the restrictions built into most e-resource contracts.
 - Emily: Negotiating off-network access to licensed electronic resources is extremely complex and not something I can push for at this time. Many publishers have been opening access to normally paywalled materials during the COVID crisis, and I think that is the best bet until we are able to re-open (and re-open discussions about) onsite MaRLI borrowing. We will be sure to let the DGSC know asap when we have more information about when libraries will begin to open up again. In the meantime, I encourage you to consult the library's online resources page, which gives you access to our online resources and services, as well as a link to what NYPL is offering at this time.
- Setting up a list of free access to articles plus illegal means?

IT

- Error message with “cloud solutions training sessions offered by the CIS Central team.
- Devices issue — IT has procured a few iPads and Chromebooks. Currently enrolled Graduate Center Students can request a loaner iPad or Chromebook on a first-come, first-served basis for distance learning

by clicking on that link. — <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Information-Technology/IT-Alerts-Announcements/Detail?id=54624>

- Zoom pro accounts for students? — There are many conversations regarding Zoom and there are also many security issues raised this week about this software, which apparently is not safe to use but no final decisions have been made.
- Getting software online — “The Client Services team has received a few requests for software availability and we have worked with a few vendors already to get them home access. There is one that cannot enable home access and we opened a ticket with CUNY Central to ask if they can quickly add it to their current virtual VDI environment. I imagine their workload is immense and this may not happen right away but we will keep pushing on it. “ — We would like to inform you that IT has successfully implemented AtlasTi on CUNY VDI.
- STF Meeting — The STF final decisions were shared yesterday with the team, we are now contacting all requesters and the final plan is being finalized to go to the CUNY Central team by the end of this week.
- Budget is still not forthcoming.

Discussion:

JG (Sociology) - GC students no longer have access to some books in the Marley program.

MG (Philosophy): I am happy to send an email to MIPL to ask whether they can include the Marley resources back.

YB (History): Does the library have an audiobook resource we can access? I haven't seen audiobooks in our library.

Especially for students with disabilities and special needs, they might need to use these resources.

Joseph Torres-Gonzalez (Anthropology): NYPL has a lot more journals more than the GC library. If you have the NYPL card, then you can get access to many more resources.

MG (Philosophy): I'll write this down and ask them.

V. New Business

A. Revised 2019-2020 DSC Budget (Voting)

AK (History) moves to approve the revised budget.

JG (Sociology) seconds the motion

Discussion:

YB (History): Are all students eligible for emergency grants? What are the requirements?

RK (Computer Science): Yes, any student may apply. The info can be found online:

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Fellowships-and-Financial-Aid/Student-Emergency-Grants>. If this budget is approved, then I can begin transferring funds to the emergency fund.

David Monda (Political Science): how long does it take to have to have applications for grants approved?

RK (Computer Science): I believe they're checking it once a day.

Vote: Motion passes unanimously.

B. Discussion regarding current student concerns

RK (Computer Science): First I want to share the steering committee's priorities in terms of demands. Our thought was that we should form a taskforce of students, of reps, who would work together to bring these issues forward.

Short term issues:

Survey: Jane Guskin, Carly Batiste; Rod Hurley will compile questions and create survey.

Taskforce coordinator: Rod Hurley

1. Everything Direct Deposit for EVERYONE (including international students: especially for the summer).
(Contact BURSAR)
 - a. Point persons --Andre Eliatamby, (Zhuo Yin)
2. NYSHIP coverage
 - a. Point persons -- Jane Guskin, Yuliya (Michelle Gaspari, Merrit Corrigan-- adjunct project)
3. Leniency for academic progress (requirements for programs, international students who can't have classes in person)
 - a. Point persons --(Zhuo Yin)
4. Clarification for adjunct appointments
 - a. Point persons -- Jane Guskin (Michelle Gaspari, Merrit Corrigan-- adjunct project)
5. International students as a whole — release a statement about what we know and don't know and can and can't know.
 - a. Point persons -- Michael Greer, (Samantha Bartholemy, Zhuo Yin)

Long-term issues:

1. Extra year of funding for everyone (other schools are setting precedents!!)
 - a. Point person -- Marianne Madoré, Shannon Brick, Michael Greer
- A document with this info and the emails of the point persons should be sent out so other people can help with this as well.

VI. Announcements

Carly Batist (Anthropology): The Writing Center Office is still working remotely. We are still available for one-on-one session. Please reach out to the writing center to ask for help.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM