



Plenary Minutes December 11, 2020

Attendance

Present:

Oriana Mejias, Adam Kocurek, Alaa Sharif, Alexis Hardy, Bertrand Ithurburn, Blondie Lekemo Ngatchi Epse Pawa, Carolyn McDonough (PROXY: Shoko Tachikawa), Carmín Quijano-Seda, Casey Hall, Cecilia Salvi, Christian Martinez, Christopher Scott Campbell, Chuxin Liu, Cristina Pardo Porto, David Dansu, David Monda, David Udell, Deborah Leter, Dohyun Shin, Edward Charnley, Edwin Grimsley, Fedor Marchenko, Jennifer Rossberg (PROXY: Clarisa Gonzalez), Joseph Boninger, Katherine Anderson, Kyle Fraser, Lisa Millsaps-M-Graham, Luke Kayga, Marianne Madoré, Meltem Topaloglu, Michael Greer, Milo Ward, Pamela Stenberg, Pedro Cabello del Moral (PROXY: Katherine Rivera Gomez), Raj Korpan, Robert Wrigley, Rod Hurley, Samantha Barthelemy (PROXY: Jennifer de Rutte), Sammi Sauma, Sara Ortiz, Saroj Chand, Shannon Brick, Sharanya Dutta, Sierra Holt, Silvia Alfaro, Sonja Gandert, Tenn Joe Lim

Absent:

Dhanya Babu, Prathmesh Deshmukh, Jocelyn Lai, Sarah Chu, Yuliya Barycheuskaya, Zhuo Yin

Guests:

Rafael Munia, Alessandra Zammataro, Zach Muhlbauer, Clarisa Gonzalez, Juvanie Piquant, Marzieh Setayesh, Shokran Rahimininezhad,

Meeting called to order at: 5:09 pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Lisa Milsaps-M-Graham (Urban Ed)
Seconded: Silvia Rivera Alfaro (LAILAC)
Vote: unanimously passed

II. Approval of Minutes of the November 20, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve: Sharanya Dutta (English)
Seconded: Bertrand Ithurburn (Computer Science)
Vote: unanimously passed

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Sharanya Dutta)

- SPARC Training: We still have a very low percentage of reps and chartered org leaders who have completed SPARC training. I got several emails from people saying they couldn't see the SPARC training in their CUNYfirst/Blackboard. If you ONLY see ESPARC and not SPARC, please email Eric Brown at ebrown2@gc.cuny.edu and ask him to manually add you. Please do this as soon as possible, even though we're well past the deadline, otherwise you will be removed from office/not have access to the funding for your position.
- Chartered Org Reports and Rosters: A reminder to all chartered orgs to please submit your Fall 2019 AND Spring 2020 reports by December 20, along with 20 signatures on your roster. All this is to be done on DSCWorks—details are available on this page: <https://cunydgsc.org/chartered-organizations/maintain/>
- If you have any questions about how many signatures you have left, or literally anything else, please email me at ccsa@cunydgsc.org.
- I will work with everyone on Steering and admin to keep you up to date about the Spring 2021 SEVP

guidelines as soon as they're released to try and avoid a repeat of the chaos of last semester. Hopefully it won't go to court like it did for the Fall, but we will do our very best to make sure the GC+CUNY position in support of international students is transparent.

- I hope everyone can rest a little this holiday season, at the end of this impossible year, and spend time with your loved ones—virtually or otherwise. There's more fight in us yet. Be safe, and I can't wait to see you all next semester!

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)

Recent Meetings:

- 11/23 - Executive Committee of Graduate Council - There was one agenda item that was concerning: a proposal to admit non-degree students to the GC for certificate programs.
- 12/7 - Graduate Council Committee on Committees - Please let students in your programs know that we need student alternates from Grad Council committees.
- 12/9 - Graduate Council Meeting - <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Provost-s-Office/Graduate-Council/Agenda-and-Materials>
 - CR/NC grading - CUNY has given the GC 3 options - The Grad Council voted to go with option two which implements CR/NC grading except in cases where there is a minimum grade required to advance in the program.
 - Two new certificate programs were approved. In the case of the Advanced Certificate in Data Science, which is a standalone certification, I pointed out the need for clear documentation about what fees these students would have to pay, and what services they would receive.
 - We also raised the LAILAC situation and asked the Grad Council to reverse the decision to suspend admissions.
- 12/9 - Co-Chairs Monthly Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
 - Child Care Center will remain fully online in the spring

Upcoming Meetings:

- 12/17 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting (postponed from 12/10)
- 12/18 - College Association Meeting
- 2021/02/19 - DGSC February Plenary Meeting

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

- With regards to program allocations - I know that many of the program leaders are electing to carry over their funds to next semester, which is totally valid; please note though that at the end of next semester, if the funds are not utilized, they will be absorbed back into the general DGSC account. The spring semester may seem far off, but take advantage of the time to really consult your programs, talk with students about what they want and what their needs are, and formulate a plan for utilizing those program allocations.
 - You all should have gotten an email from me regarding use of the Sales Tax Exemption Form. If you are planning a virtual event with your department that will utilize DGSC program allocation money, you are welcome to attempt to try and use the form to get sales tax removed from the goods/services provided, though it seems that many online providers are difficult to work with on that front. NOTE: Please keep individual electronic gift card purchases equal to or under \$15 per card per CUNY standards. If you have further questions, please just email

Category	Type of Expenses	Tax Levy	Indirect Cost Recoveries	Auxiliary Enterprise Corp (AEC)	Foundations	All Other Non-Tax Levy
Gifts, Giveaways & Prizes (cash, gift cards, gift items with no services in exchange)	Employee personal/appreciation/memorial/retirements, special occasions/incentives (may be considered a taxable fringe benefit – refer to IRS Publication 5137) Incentives to students to encourage participation in mission-related activities (must be minor in value, have a legitimate business purpose (e.g., educational/research), cannot be given out arbitrarily and all students participating should be treated in the same manner; may have tax implications) At fundraising community relations or other receptions celebrating CUNY's faculty or staff					

- Please also note, for efficiency's sake, that when you put in a reimbursement request on DSC Works, you can attach multiple receipts to one check request; please don't submit multiple reimbursement requests with multiple receipts for one event.
- The Business Office will be issuing their last checks before the holidays on Wednesday, December 16th, when one of their workers will be coming in for the day for processing. Please submit all outstanding check requests with receipts before the 16th; reimbursement requests submitted after this date may not get to you until early 2021. The Business Office is coordinating their visits with the Bursar's Office and they usually go in every two weeks. NOTE: if you want your reimbursements processed via wire or ACH, the Business Office will do that, but please confirm with your banks whether or not ACH transfer is free of charge.
- I will be presenting our budget to College Association next Friday, and will continue to work on our new website over December/January.
- I hope you all have a safe, healthy, and restorative winter session!

D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz)

- USS Plenary Meetings (Elections) - November 29th / December 6th
- Meeting with 2021 Manhattan DA Candidate Janos Marton - Nov. 23
- CUNY Roundtable with 2021 Mayoral Candidate Scott Stringer - Nov. 24
- CUNY Roundtable with 2021 Mayoral Candidate Maya Wiley - Dec. 9
- Global Kids - Pipeline to Higher Education
- Adjunct Project Updates
- [Tax the Rich Week of Action](#)
From December 7th-13th, we are launching an historic campaign to fund our schools, hospitals, and transportation, #CancelRent, and build a New York that supports the working class majority. Join us to phonebank and set up door hangers to send a clear message to Cuomo and his allies in Albany: Now is the time to raise \$50 Billion, and we can do it by taxing the rich!
The Tax the Rich Campaign is a project of NYC-Democratic Socialists of America, but all are invited to join! Join our [TAXTHERICHSACK](#)
- Caroling for [#CancelRent with Met Council on Housing](#)
 - When: Dec 17th 5:30
 - Meeting location: 124th st and Malcolm X Blvd at 5:30pm outside of Harlem Shake Shack
 - Sign Up with [this link](#)

E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)

- Report of the UFS Meeting (December 1st 2021)
 - Guest speaker Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, José Luis Cruz discussed Credit/ No credit policy for Fall 2020.
 - UFS Chairperson Martin Burke
 - Budget for the Spring 2021 semester is not yet approved. But it seems that it would go monthly (at least at the beginning) as for the 3 first months of Fall 2020.
 - Amendment of the UFS membership
 - A major amendment: instead of a representative, each university unit will have a senator (that is a voting member) who may be an adjunct professor, associate professor, adjunct associate professor, adjunct lecturer, or a person holding a title in the CTL series.
 - The Resolution on the creation of a Standing Committee on Community Colleges by prof. Maureen Matarese was adopted.
 - Benefits: Specific issues related to Community college will have a place to be discussed. The SCCC

will address problems of community colleges in particular.

- Next UFS Meeting: February 23, 2021.
- Updates: Credit/No Credit: Registrar decided to apply the credit/no credit policy for this Fall.

II. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)

- The last Grants Committee Meeting was held December 2nd, 2020
 - Only one grant, the Cognitive Neuroscience Game Night, was approved for a total of \$230
- This semester we only approved of 3 grants in total, one being a start-up grant, for a total of \$1510 this semester
- Two groups have reached out to me about rescheduling their Spring 2020 events for the Spring 2021
 - LAILaC's XXV Annual Student Conference
 - *Back from the Field Series: Spring 2020 Four-Field Student Discussion*

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

- Representatives are dropping due to absences. This can be avoided if proxy requests are submitted!
- This winter, I will be pushing hard for an increase in program representation.
 - only 68.4% of possible seats (based on enrollment) are filled.
 - space for 24 more reps!!
 - 17 (out of 44) programs currently without representation.
- Programs with incomplete representation:
 - Biochemistry
 - Computer Science (I am working on this)
 - English
 - Psychology (I am working on this)
 - Sociology
- if you would like to get in touch with other reps, please let me know.

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Silvia Rivera Alfaro)

During these last weeks,

- We informed about safer sex supply options within New York City.
- I continue collaborating with the Office of Student Affairs on the Search Committee for the Student Health Insurance Manager position.
- With the Committee, we kept working on details to upload the Health and Wellness website and started to work on possible online health activities for Spring.

D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

- Town Hall meeting on MONDAY with the President and the Provost is on DECEMBER 14th - 2:00pm. It is very important that INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS attend the Town Hall. If you have any late questions (since there was a deadline to submit questions) please send them my way and as Steering we could work on raising them to the President's office by Monday morning. HERE - outreach@cunydisc.org
- The last meeting of the OUTREACH COMMITTEE will be held next week to plan and look forward to next semester.

- Some things we are looking forward to working on next semester: Direct deposits for International Students, navigating US Taxes as an International Student, migratory/travel updates as the COVID vaccination process evolves in the world.

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Edward Charnley)

- On 25 of nov. PSC voted strike preparation. Done by the rank-and-file member of the PSC. If any of you have questions, contact Harry Blain, he's the expert on striking and galvanizing union members. International students have a particular concerns on the strike. Striking and... should not compromised your visa status. In addition,
 - The PSC issued a strike preparation authorization.
[https://www.psc-cuny.org/sites/default/files/Strike-Readiness as Part of Campaign %20to Save Lives Save Jobs Save CUNY.pdf](https://www.psc-cuny.org/sites/default/files/Strike-Readiness%20as%20Part%20of%20a%20Campaign%20to%20Save%20Lives%20Save%20Jobs%20Save%20CUNY.pdf)
This resolution was passed Nov. 25th. You can find out more here:
<https://cunystruggle.org/2020/11/25/strike-readiness-vote-at-the-psc-da-part-ii/>
 - OIS response to Taylor Law inquiry.
- Alexis Clements has got back in touch with me about screening her documentary, <https://allwevegot.org/> at the GC. I would like to organize this in conjunction with a student group or chartered org. If anyone is interested or knows a group who might be interested, please let me know.
- Virtual Fair projected for early February 2021.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Carolyn McDonough)

Technology:

- Licenses update: total allocation received: 248 adobe student licenses. It has distributed 76 and have plenty available. It does not manage these licenses directly, they're managed by cuny central and they get reset every semester. When a request is received by it, it gets sent to cuny central and it must then wait for a reply from central it (cis) which resets these accounts each semester. Gc it then confirms that students have registered for each semester again to assign these accounts. Elaine m. Will check status of names submitted this month.
- Hotspots: it has deployed hotspots to every student in the queue and there are no pending requests.
- Devices: 2 students in line for laptops which shipped out this week. Elaine m. Has urged cm to convey the following to the DGSC: "please have any student in need of adobe submit their requests, and we will continue to follow up with central it (cis)".

Library:

- Call for applicants!!! From melanie locay associate manager, center for research in the humanities, nypl new york public library is pleased to offer national endowment for the humanities long-term fellowships to support advanced research at the center for research in the humanities. Link to apply:
<https://www.nypl.org/fellowships/neh-long-term-fellowships>
- Upcoming library workshop: "Doing Research in Covid-19 Times" December 16 at 3:00-4:00 with Melissa Gasparotto, the New York Public Library's associate director of research services and institutional partnerships, and Emily Drabinski, the Graduate Center's interim chief librarian, for a discussion of the challenges and opportunities posed by covid-19 to scholarship for the public good. Those of you who had their work slowed down by the virus. Please think about applying. Registration via google form is required in order to receive a zoom link to attend this library-related event:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1faipqlscjfgftsmxfmxwmeutelz1xdgmm58thucrlmk9knawygwwoqq/vie_wform. The zoom link will be emailed to you before the event.
- *Wishing all a good final week of fall 2020 and a safe holiday season!*

III. New Business

- A. Signing the [COVID-19 Open Letter for Universal Doctoral Student Health Insurance](#) (Voting)

Motion moved: Rod Hurley (Psychology)

Second: Milo Ward (Political Science)

Discussion

Adam Kocurek (History): Many of us have signed individually.

Raj Korpan (Computer Science): I believe we need to sign up the letter. When the new president started her term, she said this was one of her priorities. Now there have been 7 months and we are still on this.

AK (History): I feel like a broken record because I am always bringing this up to the upper administration. This is further that the GC support. Signing this letter is a symbol of how concerned we are about this.

RH (Psychology): About the signing of this, lots of us have signed it individually, but once we have signed on as DGSC, that will at some weight. As USS Chairperson, Juvanie Piquant said earlier, rather than keeping things in house, it's important to make this initiative public.

Vote: Approved unanimously

- B. Discussion on LAILAC Student Situation

RH (Psychology): We sent the resolution that we passed last meeting to admin a couple of days after the meeting.

LAILAC students also sent a letter. On Dec 2 we received a response from the president acknowledging receipt of the letter and saying that she understands our concern. Then on Dec 3, we received a copy of a letter sent by the interim provost saying that the EO and DEO had resigned and that admissions to the LAILAC program had been suspended.

Sara Ortiz (Int'l Migration Studies): I am concerned about what I believe is slipping the whole situation. The students' concerns have been obscured. Their voices have been continuously silenced. Why was this issue never brought up at the Grad Council? Some faculty members would have been supportive. It's not Ok for GC students, for LatinX students to be discriminated against.

Oriana Mejías (LAILAC): It is really frustrating how this is being done. The administration say they have procedures, and we found out that only one person makes the decision about whether what we experienced is discrimination or not. This is a way for the administrators to protect each other.

SRA (LAILAC): The administration is saying that this is in the best interest of the program and students, but the very reason we sent the letter in which 20 students signed on, is that there were many people who wanted to sign but couldn't because they were afraid of retaliation. In the meeting we had, they dismissed our concerns about retaliation. It's a very complicated situation, because of the longstanding issue within the program and the events of the Nov. 13th meeting, which adds another layer. The fact that they don't listen to our concerns is very upsetting because this is not something you would expect at the Graduate Center. They called our complaints an "organized campaign"

RH (Psychology): This speaks to a larger issue we need to address around how complaints of discrimination are handled at the GC.

Marianne Madore (Sociology): Some sociology students have been organizing around a common struggle and campaign. Perhaps we can be in solidarity with LAILAC students. I'm going to put my email in the chat so we can strategize around this.

Announcements

AK (History): Please take care of yourselves and your communities during the winter session.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.