



Plenary Minutes

March 19, 2021

4:30 PM

Attendance

Present:

Adam Kocurek, Alexis Hardy, Amanda Benjamin, Bertrand Ithurburn, Blondie Lekemo Ngatchi Epse Pawa, Carmín Quijano-Seda, Casey Hall, Cecilia Salvi, Christian Martinez, Christopher Scott Campbell, Cristina Pardo Porto, David Monda, David Udell, Deborah Leter, Dohyun Shin, Edward Charnley, Edwin Grimsley, Fedor Marchenko, Jennifer Rossberg, Joseph Boninger, Katherine Anderson, Kyle Fraser, Lisa Millsaps-M-Graham, Luke Kayga, Marianne Madoré, Meltem Topaloglu, Michael Greer, Milo Ward, Paul Oder, Prathmesh Deshmukh, Raj Korpan, Robert Wrigley, Rod Hurley, Samantha Barthelmy (Quorate Proxy: Claudia Wald,)), Sammi Sauma, Sara Ortiz, Sarah Chu, Saroj Chand, Shannon Brick, Sharanya Dutta, Shokolatte Tachikawa, Sierra Holt, Silvia Alfaro, Sonja Gandert, Tenn Joe Lim, Yuliya Barycheuskaya,

Absent:

Beicer Tapia, Chuxin Liu, Dhanya Babu, David Dansu, Pamela Stenberg, Jocelyn Lai, John Young, Pedro Cabello del Moral, Zhuo Yin, Mohamad Hodeib,

Guests:

Amit Kumar, Oriana Mejias

Meeting called to order at 4:38 pm (EST)

I. Approval of Agenda

Rod Hurley (Psychology) moves to approve the agenda with emendations.

Seconded: Lisa Millsaps-Muhammad-Graham (Urban Ed)

Vote: Passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of the February 19, 2021 Meeting

Motion to approve: Bertram Ithurburn (Computer Science)

Seconded: Sharanya Dutta (English)

Vote: Passes unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

- **Chartered Organization nodes for Spring 2021 updated:**

- Help chartered organizations achieve active status by signing up on their rosters:

<http://cunydgsc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>

- If any chartered org has a leadership update, please email me so I can change it in DSCWorks so you don't get unnecessary email blasts. If you have trouble accessing DSCWorks, please email me and let me know immediately? We upgraded our servers so there's some growing pains. Please bear with us while we work it out!
- **SPARC compliance: Deadline July 30, 2021.**
 - This year is not like the other years, in that CUNY Central and the GC will actually be enforcing the SPARC compliance. So if you do not do the SPARC, ESPARC, and WVP training, and email Eric Brown (ebrown2@gc.cuny.edu), you will face Financial Aid holds, and Registration holds for the next semester. For international students, this may even affect your visa status if you cannot be registered full time. So please do this ASAP.
- **Nomination period closed on March 2.**
- **2.14% turnout -- *not ideal but up from 1.5% last year.***
- I am preparing the election ballot now. Katie and Christian, the OGM and Officer for Funding, helped me tremendously with the election prep. I'm so grateful. I will run the ballot by the Student Election Review Committee and then **launch it on April 1, 12AM. Elections will close May 3, 11:59PM.** Please please encourage your departments to vote. You can also write-in candidates during the elections!
- **These 12 programs do not have nominations and have to petition for an open seat [you can contact the OGM, Katie Anderson, to petition!]** (*down from 16 the last time around + there is a new program, Nanoscience*):
 - Biography and Memoir (M.A. Program)
 - Business
 - Chemistry
 - Criminal Justice
 - Data Analysis and Visualization (M.S. Program)
 - International Migration Studies
 - Linguistics
 - Middle Eastern Studies (M.A. Program)
 - Nanoscience (M.S. Program)
 - Nursing
 - Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (M.S. Program)
 - Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences
- **Chartered Org Fair:**
 - The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs with some help from the DGSC will be holding a virtual chartered organization fair on March 26th at 4:00 PM and would like to know if your chartered organization will be interested in participating.
 - If interested, each chartered org. will have its own breakout room and students will be able to choose which breakout room they would want to enter. Students will be given the

opportunity to pre-register for the event to go directly into breakout rooms of their choosing or they can choose after joining the main Zoom. Please email Eric Brown your name, email, and chartered organization's name in order for him to create your breakout room.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)

Recent Meetings:

- 3/10 - Graduate Council Meeting - [Agenda and Materials](#)
 - The GC received accreditation from the Middle States Committee on Higher Education following last year's review.
 - The Grad Council voted to grant the following degrees: PhD-72, DMA-4, MA-54, MS-11, & MPhil-111
 - The proposal for a Budget Committee of the Graduate Council was approved with a few amendments - Chief Librarian, and Senior Advisor to the President for Diversity and Inclusion were added as an ex-officio members; term for a masters student elected to the committee was reduced from 2 years to 1 year. The committee includes 8 faculty members, 3 staff members, and 5 students.
 - New degree proposal - MS in Astrophysics
 - Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature – bulletin changes (GRE req. removed)
 - Ph.D. Program in Earth and Environmental Studies – 2 revised courses
 - MS Program in Nanoscience – 4 new courses
 - MA Program in Biography and Memoir – revised governance
 - MA Program in International Migration Studies – revised governance
- 3/12 - DGSC Exec Committee meeting with President Garrell and Interim SVP Peterson
 - GCFs reduced from 180 to 118, with flexibility to allow programs to not admit anyone - Classics may be exploring this.
 - "Savings" will be used in 2 ways - 1) Provide 6th-year grad Ds (with NySHIP) and 2) support accepting diverse students through the PEF, which went up from 18 to 25 (permanent increase) and widened eligibility to include science students.
 - Tuition fellows - cut in half, they want to rethink those to be more supportive of lower income students.
- 3/17 - Co-Chairs Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
 - They are planning to have at least one or 2 courses in person for each Program in the Fall 2020 semester.
- 3/18 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
 - In accordance with CUNY guidelines, the GC is aiming for about 25% in-person "activity" in the Fall 2020 semester. They are still working out which classes and activities will be in person, as well as logistics for access and use of the building. The CDC is discussing reducing the social

distancing requirement to 3 feet. Which would allow the GC to increase occupancy. The deadline to finalize plans for Fall 2020 is sometime in the summer.

- Currently the plans include: all pantries and cafeterias closed; access via 5th avenue only, with designated doors for entering and exiting; 1 person in an elevator at a time;
- 3/18 - Meeting with staff from Information Technology
 - STF committee will be meeting soon to approve proposals for spending the Student Technology Fee. The deadline for proposals has passed but committee members may bring proposals to the meeting. If you have an idea

Updates/Announcements:

- Appointments for the instructors for the Yoga and Dance fitness classes have been approved. Yoga classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 10am - Registration: and Dance Fitness classes are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm - Registration:
- We were successful in getting another student representative added to the 2021 Provost Search Committee. The turnaround time was extremely short because the committee had already met twice but the DGSC Executive Committee nominated three students and Adam Kocurek was selected.
- Please send me any suggestions you have for guest speakers for the April Plenary Meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 3/29 - Budget Committee
- 4/2 - DGSC Steering Committee Meeting
- 4/19 - Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting
- 4/21 - Co-Chairs Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
- 4/22 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
- 4/23 - DGSC April Plenary Meeting - All meeting dates are posted on the DGSC website, along with the Zoom registration links.

Please send me any input or questions you have for any of these meetings.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

- After voicing our concern as an executive committee to GC admin over the underrepresentation of student voices on the provost search committee, I have been asked to join Raj Korpan as a student member. The proceedings are strictly confidential, but I am using my new role to advocate for the hiring of a Provost who represents the needs of our institution and of the student body. If you have questions or concerns regarding the provost position, please let me know.
- We experienced a small drop in enrollment, which is usual for the Spring semester. As such, I have had to make some changes to our budget. However, I've kept the program allocation and chartered organization numbers artificially inflated at 2X their normal numbers for the Spring semester, so that program representatives and chartered organization leaders can best attend to the needs of their departments.

- Please note - for gift cards, per GC regulations, please keep individual gift card purchases to a \$15 maximum, but students can receive more than one gift card.
- IMPORTANT: Anna Metreveli of the Business Office will be taking off June 14-July 2.
 - From past experience with the DGSC, we will likely have lots of payment requests by the end of fiscal year. Please submit your FY2021 requests by June 1, 2021 - this way we can issue and mail checks before she leaves. Any check requests submitted while she is gone will be automatically included in the FY2022 budget. Wei, the other Business Office worker, might be able to issue emergency wire payments, but not checks because she does not go to the office. So checks submitted after this date may take longer to reach you.
- Due to a server upgrade, the Works website experienced some problems in late February/early March. It looks to largely be corrected now, but our website management team is still checking for glitches. If you see an error with the website, please let me know so that I can forward it to them ASAP. The Advocate is calling for contributions for a new issue - please spread the word to your departments! Pieces typically get between \$200-\$400 per submission.

D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz)

- Saturday, March 6th, 2021 - [New Deal for CUNY](#)- Rally at Barclay's Center and March
 - PSC Commercial in Support of ND4C
- Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 - CUNY and SUNY student leaders presented "Gov. Cuomo's Higher Education Report Card" and rally against tuition hikes and for higher education funding outside Governor Andrew Cuomo's Manhattan Office
 - Telemundo Interview
- Sunday, March 14th, 2021 - USS Emergency Plenary Meeting
- Thursday, March 18th - USS Vice-Chair for Disability Affairs Resigned, effective immediately
- Monday, March 22nd, 2021 - USS Academic Affairs Committee meeting - 12 noon
 - To join, e-mail cunyacademicaffairscomitee@gmail.com
- TBD: Ad Hoc Committee on Mental Health
 - To join, email mhc@usscuny.org
- USS LGBTQ and Gender Equity Committee
 - To join, email Amber Rivero at seniorcolleges@usscuny.org and cc plusequityuss@gmail.com with your CUNY school and phone number
 - [Pending Resolution on CUNY LGBTQ+ Council](#) *The Gender Equity & LGBTQ+ Committee of the CUNY University Student Senate would like to propose permanent student representation on the CUNY LGBTQ+ Council. The committee would also welcome the council's assistance in recruiting additional student membership from across the University.*
 - Resolution passed 3/14/21 - [Accommodating Muslim Students for Eid-Al-Fitr, Thursday May 13th](#)
- International Affairs Committee
 - To join, email internationals@usscuny.org

- Sustainability Committee
 - [USS.SC Resolution 2 Reducing Plastic Usage and Utilizing Composting](#)
 - [USS.SC Resolution 1 Fossil Fuel Divestment](#)
- Thursday, March 25th, 2021 - USS Racial Equity Committee Meeting - 6 pm
- Pending Resolutions:
 - DGSC Co-sponsoring with USS a [Resolution Demanding a Safe Vessel at NYC Hudson Yards](#)
 - [Flexible Grading Policy Resolution for the Remainder of the Pandemic](#)
 - [CUNY USS Resolution Condemning Anti-Semitism and Supporting the CUNY Jewish Community](#)
 - [Reduction of Tuition for International Students Sponsored by the USS International and Undocumented Affairs Committee](#)
- **Sunday, March 28th, 2021 - Next USS Plenary Meeting***
 - All USS Plenary Meetings can be viewed on [Facebook Live Streaming here](#)

Discussion:

Claudia Wald (Sociology): Who may join these committees?

Sara Ortiz (Int'l Migration Studies): Any matriculated CUNY student. If anyone is interested in joining any of the above committees, please email me at uss@cunydisc.org.

E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)

Reports:

1. UFS Meeting held on February 23.

- Reopening plans will vary from campus to campus: some would continue online (like City College and Lehman), other hybrid, or F2F. Note that continuing online depends on prior approval by the higher ed academic affairs.
- The University is still on self screening preventive method through the everbridge app.
- 2 CUNY Mass Vaccination sites now opened : [Medgars Evers](#) (Brooklyn) and York College (Queens)
- The proposed modification on the UFS membership was adopted: Adjunct faculty can now be UFS senators.
- Validation of the creation of a Committee on Community College proposed by Maureen Matarese on December 1st.

2. March 10 Graduate Council Meeting

- Bulletin Change for the Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature. Cancellation of the GRE as part of the Admission requirement in the program
- MS Program in Astrophysics – new degree proposal voted. Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature – bulletin changes.
- Ph.D. Program in Earth and Environmental Studies
- MS Program in Nanoscience 2 revised courses

3. March 12: Meeting with President Garell

- Confirmation that a graduate D fellowship will be granted to all 6th- year Phd students.
- Reduction of number of admissions in many departments to enable implementation of the 6th-year stipend

Fellowship opportunities:

- GC Digital Fellow: opened to all level students
- Apply by April 6 https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsPJa9Y1hn__0-brP8-CEi3lnWeeejuCy470jmLfx98LaQQ/viewform
- TLC (Teaching and Learning Center) .The fellowship is opened to 2-7 years students.
- Apply by April 7 . Description of the fellowship is here:
- Apply for a TLC Fellowship for the 2021-2022 Academic Year – The Teaching and Learning Center (cuny.edu)

Next UFS meeting:

- Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)

- The last Grants Committee meeting was March 3, 2021. During this meeting, we approved of two grants:
 - Experimental and Feminist Philosophy- \$450
 - DTSA Graduate Student Virtual Conference/The 2021 Edwin Booth Award \$1600
- In total, three grants have been funded, for a total of \$2350
- Our next meeting is this upcoming week, March 24th, 2021.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

- We have finally reached maximum allotted At-Large representation. Duly-elected Paul Oder has brought us up to 17/17 At-Large reps.
- we will be voting in two new Program Representatives later in this meeting:
 - Claudia Wald, QMSS
 - Elizabeth Garza, Linguistics
- I am standing ready to bring in new representatives for any programs who may still need representation for the rest of the semester AND to help any programs who may need information on how to reinstate membership for the upcoming academic year.

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

- Yoga lessons are on! We had 5 classes until now. 32 people signed in and we have attendance of about 10 people per session. This is the link for registration:
<https://forms.gle/9Y2C7EXcZ4fo35dx8>

- Dance fitness will start on Monday! 12 people registered for the class, you can join or share the information with other students. This is the link for registration:
<https://forms.gle/egp1MU6PN43H6HmG6>
- I am coordinating the Nagating NYSHIP workshop with William McGowan, the Student Health Insurance Manager. His email is healthinsuranceinfo@gc.cuny.edu in case you need to contact him with any questions.
- Along with the Officer of Outreach, we are coordinating with William McGowan to create information on NYSHIP for international students to help them to get a sense of how the insurance works if they are new to it and to the US health system when they move in.
- I shared the [list of providers recommended by students](#) via the dsc-list, but it would be really helpful if you could share it in your programs.
- I have send information about NYC classes and resources, safe sex materials.
- I have been in contact with students with questions on health situations.
- If you have information on health resources, questions or ideas, please contact healthinsuranceinfo@gc.cuny.edu

D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

- Allan Tsang has emailed Forms 1042-S to students by email using a secure password .pdf. You should have received TWO emails from him. Some students have reported that they have received a physical copy of the form as well by mail.
- The Advocate: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS of the Advocate. In this issue, they are eager to create a space for **international student voices**. Note that, as always, contributions are paid! The deadline for draft submissions is April 30th, 2021. Please send your questions, thoughts, and ideas to the Editor-in-Chief, Rafael Munia at rmunia@gradcenter.cuny.edu. Also cc to advocate@cunydisc.org.
- Together with Health and Wellness: We are working with the Health Insurance Manager at the GC to prepare an overview of NYSHIP as well as an introduction to health insurance in the USA for International Students.

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carmin Quijano Seda)

UPDATES

1. Virtual Theatre – March 26 at 8:00 pm (CANCELED)

- a. Etude No.1, an original virtual play by the theater company LA UVE, has been canceled due to concerns regarding its content, that deals with mental illnesses and domestic violence during lockdown
- b. People who are still interested in watching the play can still do so at their own risk. They will be offering two functions next week on March 23 & 24 at 8:30 PM (EST). Tickets (\$10-\$12) can be purchased in
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Pv3QMO3wSAGU_qHRcN9a8Q

- c. I'm still in conversations with LA UVE to see if they can perform a new play and/or workshops that caters the needs of our population
- 2. Beading and Jewelry Making Workshop – APRIL**
 - a. I'm planning to do a Jewelry Making Workshop before Mother's Day.
 - b. I have contacted a GC student, from the Shawnee Tribe and Cherokee Nation, who makes jewelry using her indigenous knowledge and aesthetics.
 - c. I'm also thinking of giving 10 gift cards to the first 10 people who register, so they can purchase the materials needed
- 3. Talent Show and/or DJ performance - MAY**
 - a. We are still thinking about the logistics of doing a virtual talent show.
 - b. We have thought of asking people to submit videos of their talent beforehand, and sharing them on the day of the event.
 - c. I am thinking of inviting a DJ or musician to perform for us, while we celebrate the end of the semester. If you know someone who could be interested and do it for free, let me know. My email is services@cunydisc.org.Activities for SPRING 2021

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Edward Charnley)

Library

- A) The Library has added a new database for streaming and uploading educational video content online
This is expected to be particularly useful for teaching - see Alexanderstreet.com for more details.
- B) The Library is still waiting to hear from Brian Peterson regarding a walkthrough assessment of the library to prep for reopening physical spaces.
That is expected to take place in the Fall Semester.
- C) Some concern has been expressed from the library regarding its lack of presence on the provost hiring committee. Julia Wrigely has made a plethora of promises regarding the permanency of cuts to funding and admissions - it would be nice to have a sense of certainty that this was not in the spirit of that ancient proverb "promise freely today what tomorrow will be another's responsibility to provide."
- D) The library intends to ask for a larger share of the STF budget.
 - a) It is my position that these requests should be supported by the DGSC. It is time for us to accept the realism of apprehensions regarding the impact that cuts will have on the Mina Rees.
If the library does not receive this funding, it is not a case of restricted acquisitions - they will be forced to start cutting back on digital resources such as databases. This will begin with "unique and specific" resources which are used by only small numbers of students. We should be clear about what this

represents; the Mina Rees is being forced to abandon its mission as a research driven library.

Unless other DGSC members have strong feelings regarding some other STF proposal, I intend to vote for a greater share allocated to the library in committee.

IT

- A)** IT now offers a live chat service during regular business hours.
- B)** A new virtual assistant or “AI Chatbot” is now available.
- C)** Email scams continue to be a major problem. IT has now introduced Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). MFA adds a second layer of security to a user's e-mail accounts by requiring two factors to verify identity. These factors include something you know – your username and password, and something you possess – a smartphone app or verification code delivered via SMS text. Office 365 MFA will significantly reduce fraud and identity theft among Graduate Center students.
- D)** a new Student Tech Fee webpage that provides clear answers to commonly asked questions by students, faculty, and staff; offers a new request form for STF funded projects; and delivers anticipated transparency to the approved collection of STF projects for the current fiscal year. The Student Tech Fee Committee approved funding for several resources for this fiscal year that includes the continued support for library databases and subscriptions, routine replacement of student computers (PCs/Macs), support for student printing consumables, and support for disability access technology.
- E)** A limited number of laptops and hotspots are still available on a first come first served basis.
- F)** A limited number of Adobe Creative licenses are still available.
- G)** Bi-annual IT Assessments take place this month, which give members of the GC Community an opportunity to personally meet with an IT staff member to share any IT-related issues/matters, make hardware and/or software requests and seek assistance with automating specific business processes. Heads of programs, departments and centers, and institutes will receive an invitation soon.

V. New Business

A. Revised DGSC 2020-21 Budget

Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek) presented the revised budget to the plenary for review.

B. Approval of New Program Representatives (Voting)

1. Claudia Wald, QMSS
2. Elizabeth Garza, Linguistics

Motion to approve: Katie Anderson (Biology)

Seconded: RH (Psychology)

Vote: Passed Unanimously

C. DGSC Funding for Accessible Library Door Project (Voting)

RH (Psychology): Motion to table this until we have an updated estimate on the cost of the project.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

D. DGSC Co-sponsoring with USS a [Resolution Demanding a Safe Vessel at NYC Hudson Yards](#)

Motion to approve the resolution: Silvia Rivera Alfaro (LAILAC)

Seconded: Zhuo Yin (Physics)

Discussion:

SO (Int'l Migration Studies) presentation background information on the resolution, highlighting the impact the structure has had on the CUNY community.

Vote: Yes: 46; No: 0; Abstain: 1

Resolution approved.

V. Announcements

Cecilia Salvi (Anthropology): The Grad Council Committee on Committees needs student nominees for next year's various Grad Council committees. You should be receiving an e-mail soon with info about how you can submit nominations.

VI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 18:35.