



## Plenary *Minutes* April 23, 2021

### **Attendance**

#### *Present:*

Adam Kocurek, Alexis Hardy, Amanda Benjamin, Beicer Tapia, Bertrand Ithurburn, Blondie Lekemo Ngatchi Epse Pawa, Carmín Quijano-Seda, Cecilia Salvi, Claudia Wald, Christian Martinez, Cristina Pardo Porto, David Dansu, David Udell, Deborah Leter, Dohyun Shin, Edward Charnley, Edwin Grimsley, Efthimia Johanides, Fedor Marchenko, Jennifer Rossberg, Jocelyn Lai, Joseph Boninger, John Young, Katherine Anderson, Kyle Fraser, Lisa Millsaps-M-Graham, Luke Kayga, Marianne Madoré, Michael Greer, Milo Ward, Pamela Stemberg, Pedro Cabello del Moral, Prathmesh Deshmukh, Raj Korpan, Robert Wrigley, Rod Hurley, Samantha Barthelemy (Quorate Proxy:Felix Grezes), Sara Ortiz, Shannon Brick, Sierra Holt, Silvia Alfaro, Sonja Gandert, Tenn Joe Lim, Zhuo Yin

#### *Absent:*

Casey Hall, Christopher Scott Campbell, Chuxin Liu, David Monda, Dhanya Babu, Elizabeth Garza, Meltem Topaloglu, Paul Oder, Sammi Sauma, Sarah Chu, Saroj Chand, Sharanya Dutta, Shokolattee Tachikawa, Yuliya Barycheuskaya,

**Meeting called to order at: 4:36 pm (EDT)**

### **I. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Silvia Rivera Alfaro (LAILAC)

Seconded: Lisa Millsaps (Urban Ed)

Vote: Motion approved unanimously

### **II. Approval of Minutes of the March 19, 2021 Meeting**

Motion to approve: Bertrand Ithurburn (Computer Science)

Seconded: Sara Ortiz (IMS)

Vote: Motion approved unanimously

### **III. Executive Committee Reports**

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

##### **International Students and out-of-state tuition:**

- We have to make sure that the International Student Office is keeping track of the new SEVP rules for new and continuing students not currently in the country so that nobody defaults on any of their visa regulations.
- Another concern that has been brought to our attention is that some students are now “out of state” for residency levels for the purposes of tuition and that might mean that they pay thousands of dollars in tuition potentially out of pocket. We are going to talk to the Registrar and admin more generally about how to prevent this from happening. This does not affect international students, as far as we have heard, because they are always coded as out of state and the tuition fellowships cover that. But it looks as though it will affect domestic students who did not manage to move to NYC this past year/who

moved out of NYC. We spoke to the OSA about this, and are waiting to hear from them after they speak to the Registrar.

**Chartered Orgs:**

- Help support chartered orgs by signing their rosters: <http://cunydisc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>
- Deadline for Spring 2021—reports from Fall 2020 and current Spring 2021 signatures (20) needed for active status in Spring 2021.
- Chartered orgs cannot submit check requests for reimbursement without having active status for this semester, so please get on that ASAP.

**Elections: Election ballots are now open (APRIL 1, 2021, 12 AM EDT - MAY 3, 2021, 11:59 PM EDT.)**

- <https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc/login.cfm>
- Username: EMPLID
- Password: First Initial Last Initial Year of Birth (no space)
- PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD IN YOUR DEPARTMENTS! We cannot advocate for you on all the issues I just mentioned/any others unless we have robust representation across departments.

**B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)**

**Recent Meetings:**

- 4/19 - Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting - Approved the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Graduate Council
- 4/21 - Co-Chairs Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
  - Various offices are making preparations for limited in-person activity in the Fall
  - One-stop and orientation will be online again with limited service on the first floor
  - They are still trying to figure out which classes will be in person and how space will be allocated.
  - There will be no food service and pantries will be closed - this is concerning

**Updates/Announcements:**

- Participation in the Art/Photo Exhibition has been good and it will go live next week. Deadline for contributions is April 30: [tinyurl.com/dgsc-art](http://tinyurl.com/dgsc-art)

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- 4/29 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
- 5/7 - DGSC Steering Committee Meeting
- 5/10 - Graduate Council Meeting - [Agenda and Materials](#) - Elections will be held for Grad Council Committees
- 5/21 - DGSC Outgoing Plenary and Plenary-Elect Meeting

**C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)**

- Please remember to complete SPARC/ESPARC training on Blackboard - Eric Brown from the OSA has confirmed that admin is being far more strict on this front than before, and holds will start being placed on CUNYFirst accounts if he does not get the emailed certificates of completion.
- The Provost Search Committee has been regularly meeting and reviewing applications. We will be interviewing soon. I cannot speak about the proceedings, but I have been advocating for student issues and concerns in the committee and will continue to do so during the interview process.

- The reactivation committee will be meeting next week - once the GC reactivation plan is finalized in May, we will have a better idea as to how we will be able to conduct GC operations during the Summer and Fall terms, and will report with updates over the next few months. There still are a lot of open questions among admin.
- Regarding program allocations - the Business Office manager will be away from work for a couple weeks in June, and has asked that we submit all reimbursement/payment requests by June 1st.
  - If you submit a check request/payment request after June 1st, don't worry - you will get paid, but it may take longer for you to get your payment and the expense will be filed under the 2021-2022 academic budget.
  - PLEASE plan and coordinate to get all your reimbursement requests and payment requests in as soon as possible, particularly for honorarium forms/payments, as those are more complicated and human and system error can slow that process down.
- For honorarium payments, please note that just submitting the filled honorarium form, W-9 form, and determination of residency form isn't enough - you still have to submit a payment request on works; those forms are merely for creating a vendor profile in CUNYFirst, and do not have payment request information.
  - For gift card reimbursement, please remember to cap individual gift cards at \$15, and to attach the receipt to the check request on DSC Works.

#### **D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz)**

- USS Committees Progress
  - Mental Health Committee
    - Mental Health Resources prominently displayed on every CUNY student's Blackboard & CUNYFirst Account
    - The Month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month - We will be creating a planning committee for a CUNY Student March for Mental Health and Suicide Awareness at the Highline/Hudson Yards on a Saturday in May ~ Candlelight Vigil at The Vessel
    - (date TBD) - Amplifying the [DGSC & USS Pass Joint Resolution Demanding a Safe 'Vessel' at Hudson Yards](#)
  - Racial Equity Committee
    - Implementation of DEI and Racial Equity courses CUNY-wide as a graduation/degree requirement
  - Gender Equity & LGBTQ+ Committee
    - Ongoing virtual presentations - Trans CUNY Student Townhall
    - Expansion of advocacy around LGBTQ+ student services and advocacy
    - Establishing as a standing committee
  - Legislative Affairs Committee
    - USS has made its way through the NYS legislative session with some strong wins for CUNY such as a 3-year tuition freeze, increased TAP Award, funding for mental health services and so much more. As the end of the semester and summer approaches we will be shifting to City Council advocacy, our legislative Director Jasper Diaz

([legislative@usscunyc.org](mailto:legislative@usscunyc.org)) , and Vice-Chair of Legislative Affairs Sumana Ali ([legislative@usscunyc.org](mailto:legislative@usscunyc.org)) will be leading the efforts in advocacy regarding the New York City Council.

- Academic Affairs Committee
  - [Advocacy for Credit/No Credit Policy for the Remainder of the Pandemic](#)
  - If anyone would like to get involved in this conversation, please reach out to me
  - We are in the process of reaching out to the head registrar Vin De Luca to gather data on how many GC students took advantage of this policy last fall to determine whether students will benefit Spring 2021
- USS Scholarship Committee

The USS scholarship committee is in full swing, but we are still looking for additional members. If you or anyone you may know is interested in serving on this committee please reach out to our Executive Director Robin Green ([executivedirector@usscunyc.org](mailto:executivedirector@usscunyc.org)) to join and learn more!
- Next USS Plenary
  - Sunday, May 2, 2021 - 12 noon
  - Elections Plenary
    - Elections of Vice-Chair for Disability Affairs and Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs Vacancies
    - You can view live stream of all USS plenaries on our [Facebook Live webpage](#)

#### **E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)**

##### Report of the UFS Meeting, March 23.

Matt Sapienza (Guest speaker)

- A third stimulus package was recently passed is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) . Regardless of what was received by CARES and CRISTA, the ARPA will be approximately \$55 million.

Note: This stimulus money from the federal government is a cash allotment

- STATE BUDGET (April 1st): The Senate added about \$250 million whereas the Assembly added a little over 200 million.
- Good news: The Senate and The Assembly took action to try to close the tap gap. Both agreed on restoration, child care.
- The Senate proposed 5 million for mental health .>>>an increase for mental health funding and for CUNY LEADS.
- 16 million were already spent on laptop, ipad, hotspot.
- \$20 million for tuition and fee reimbursements

In short, CUNY will be able to hire more adjuncts faculty, staff and personnel this Fall.

Chair Martin Burke on reopening , Senior College Future Enrollment, and vaccines specified that there is a difference between “everyone should get vaccinated”, and “ everyone must get vaccinated” . EVC Jose Crews' last day on the job will be on May 30. The news vice chancellor will take function in January of next year.

2 faculty are in the search committee.

Conferences and Fellowship opportunities:

- *Parenting Through the Pandemic: 5 Things We Can Do Right Now to Support Our Kids and Ourselves, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 6:00 - 7:30pm. This workshop for CUNY Parents is being sponsored by the CUNY Faculty Development Consortium (which we discussed at our last meeting) and will feature, Dr. Tracy Dennis-Tiway, Hunter College. For more information, please see the attached flyer. To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcucu2rqjwsE9cV8VqfxPe3J0KK-0TBWZSW>*

- *Assessment 101: Investing in CUNY Collaborations, Friday, April 30, 2021, 1:00 - 2:00pm. In this webinar, learn how the CUNY Assessment Council identified and addressed a system-wide learning and professional development need, and how Assessment 101 can facilitate your campus-based efforts to support both student and institutional success. To register: <https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdO-ggT0tHtznjGqo-z0AxqJvGFTQzQHv>*
- The National Wildlife Federation is currently accepting applications for our EcoLeader Graduate Student Research Fellowship. **The application deadline has been extended to April 30th.**  
[2021 NWF EcoLeader Graduate Student Fellowship](#) (2 fellowships available)
  - Benefits of participation include
    1. Earn a \$5,500 stipend
    2. Play a key role in the development of NWF Higher Education Programs
    3. Gain valuable career experience and professional development

UPCOMING : Next UFS Meeting: May 11, 2021.

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

##### **A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)**

No new information to report.

##### **B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)**

- one program (Criminal Justice) has initiated the process to establish representation within the DGSC, after failing to nominate a candidate in the current election.
- we have lost one at-large member due to two consecutive absences. A warning email was sent after the first absence.

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

- The Health and Wellness Committee met today April 23 to work on building information for the students. About our processes we can say that:
  - a) The live document for health providers recommended by students is working. Since we shared it in our previous plenary meeting we have new recommendations. The sheet is open for new information from everyone. We encourage you to share your providers
  - b) We currently created the proposal of a page on the official DGSC website with information about health and the link to the living document.
- Yoga and Fitness dance will continue until mid May. We are having a positive experience in both classes. In total 144 people signed in for the classes (80 in yoga, 64 in dance fitness). From those people not everyone participates in all sessions. In fact, in yoga we usually have an average of 10 people per session.
  - Yoga: We have 5 more sessions during Spring The classes run from 9AM to 10AM (EDT) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The upcoming classes are April 27 and 29; May 4, 6 and 11.
  - Fitness dance: We have 6 more sessions during Spring. The classes run from 6:00PM to 7:00PM (EDT) on Monday and Wednesday. The upcoming classes are April 26 and 28; May 3, 5, 10 and 12).

One of the lessons we have learned from the process is to keep active communication with the students so that they are aware of the upcoming classes. We are sure that physical activities are a way of building up resilience for our community as we continue to be at home. We are trying to bring at least one activity for the summer. More announcements will be sent soon via our server list.

- Two students have reported sudden NYSHIP troubles during Spring 2021. In personal communication with William McGowan, the Student Health Insurance Manager, he mentioned:  
“One good piece of advice to share with our NYSHIP enrollees is that they should check their biweekly pay stub to make sure that their employee premium is being deducted. If they notice that it is not, they should reach out to me ASAP and I will investigate and assist with correcting the issue. The GC Health Insurance website has a link to a sample pay stub that shows enrollees what they should look for:  
[https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY\\_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/Student%20Life/SAMPLE-PAYSTUB-W-NYSHIP-DEDUCTIONS.pdf?ext=.pdf](https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/Student%20Life/SAMPLE-PAYSTUB-W-NYSHIP-DEDUCTIONS.pdf?ext=.pdf)”  
They can contact William McGowan at [healthinsuranceinfo@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:healthinsuranceinfo@gc.cuny.edu) or reach out to me via [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org).
- Navigating NYSHIP will take place on May 7 at 10:00 a.m. Until the moment, we have 11 people registered for the event. To participate, please visit: <https://forms.gle/ELSg89b1XCz2dgob8>. Please share this invitation with students in your programs. We invite the DGSC department representatives to send this link of navigating NYSHIP to the incoming students.

#### D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

- 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](mailto:rmunia@gradcenter.cuny.edu). Also cc to [advocate@cunydisc.org](mailto:advocate@cunydisc.org).
- **DEADLINE TO FILE TAXES (State and Federal) IS MAY 17th, 2021**

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

- Native American Jewelry Workshop (May 5th, 6:30-8:30 pm, Zoom)
  - The Office for Student Life & Services will celebrate the first Waawena's Workshop on May 5th via Zoom.
  - At the moment, 20 students have registered, and 15 of them have already received their gift cards to purchase the materials.
  - I have talked to Bri Alexander, the student who is doing the workshop, and she has agreed to set up 15 more kits so students can get their materials on time.
  - The OSLS will purchase more Waawena's gift cards as needed, so students do not have to pay out of pocket.
  - On Monday I'll send another email reminding everyone to register.
  - Students should register with their GC email account by April 28 through this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/WTjG97rigLNa7uhm7>

- DGCS' End of the Semester Party
  - Save the Date: Friday, May 21 - 8:30 p.m. (EST)
  - After our plenary meeting, we will have LIVE music (via Zoom) and a GrubHub Raffle.
  - All GC Students are invited to come, dance, and chat with each other.
  - It is gonna be fun! Please, join us.
  - I'll prepare and send the flyer as soon as I confirm the DJ who is coming.

**F. Officer for Technology & Library (Edward Charnley)**

- STF Committee (4/1/2021) details
  - Went through current year allocation and updates on the status of the projects.
  - GC Printing Supplies funding (\$30K) was instead used for emergency laptop purchases (\$6k still available).
  - University-wide initiatives funds (\$200k, each campus pays into this for CUNY-wide software i.e. Zoom, Microsoft products etc) was not taken by CUNY central and we had these funds available to spend.
  - This may not be a policy decision, could be a temporary thing as a result of COVID.
  - Several years ago, central office raised the STF so they could take a portion of it centrally to spend across all the schools.
  - Last year they didn't spend all that money, and they rebated some of it back. this year because of covid, they are not doing central office initiatives so that money is not being taken from us.
    - Contract obligations
  - We have to pay the Konica Minolta contract whether we have students printing or not. More flexibility for the purchase of paper. We don't know how much paper we'll need next year

- STF Proposals

Biology

- One license for zotero storage space (\$20).
- Not per student, we have many other storage options at the GC and free options online.
- Not approved.

SLHS

- Eye-tracking software and computers (\$50,117).
- GRTI (graduate research technology initiative).
- Not approved.

Speech Linguistics

- 3D/4D Ultrasound (\$90000).
- Not approved.

EES

- Purchase of equipment to broadcast colloquium (\$3019.68).
- Not approved.

Psychology

- Pavlovia for online behavioral research.
- Institutional license, many psychology labs use this, popular.

- Each lab pays per subject and pay it out of their grant.
- Could RF buy the license for all the labs instead if it coming from STF.
- Approved for \$1950.

IT

- Replacement of PCs and Macs in student lounges and library.
- 80 PCs, 45 Macs (ideally 180 PCs and 70 macs).
- PCs bought with 5-year warranty, Macs with 3-year warranty.
- Approved for \$2,075.72.

Library

- Electronic database subscriptions \$210,000.
- Additional ebooks \$92,671.20 DRM-free, and on-demand \$25,000.
- One-time purchase for the ebooks that would then be in the collection.
- Approved for 328000.

Student Disability Services

- Software and equipment.
- Additional requests for licenses but without dollar amounts.
- Request for support staff without dollar amount.
- Approved for \$4515.

- **Library update**

- a) The first “walk through” of the library has been completed.
  - (1) This puts us on track for reopening of some physical space in Fall but this is still quite vague.
  - (2) It would be great to get more information from members about the particular ways in which they use the library and what kind of services they need to see improved.

- Michael Greer has suggested a broad resolution for the DGSC to consider opposing austerity cuts. It would be great to get suggestions and especially feedback on how the cuts are affecting individual departments to help shape the resolution or resolutions.

**V. New Business**

**A. Revised DGSC 2020-21 Budget (voting)**

Motion to approve: AK (History)

Seconded: EC (History)

Vote: Motion passes unanimously

**B. DGSC Reopening Resolution**

Motion to approve: Joe Boninger (Mathematics)

Seconded: Bertrand Ithurburn (Computer Science)

*Discussion*



Motion to limit each speaker's time to 2 minutes - RK (Computer Science)

Seconded: SRA (LAILAC)

Vote: Motion approved unanimously.

*Discussion*

Motion to table the resolution and incorporate points raised in discussion: LM (Urban Ed)

Second: MM (Sociology)

Vote: Motion approved (yes: 41, no: 2, abstain: 1)

**V. Announcements**

**VI. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:53PM.