



Plenary
Minutes
October 15, 2021

Attendance

Present:

Deborah Leter, Adam Kocurek, Parisa Montazaran, Edward Charnley, Angela LaScala-Gruenewald, Katherine Anderson, Silvia Rivera Alfaro, Carmin Quijano-Seda, Sameer Sabharwal-Siddiqi, Christopher Campbell, Kyle Fraser, Maura McCreight, Beicer Tapia, Sami Sauma, John Young, Aninash Jairam, Jonathan Hanon, Tenn Joe Lim, Austin MacDonald, Fedor Marchenko, Brittany Munro, Thierry Michel Nda, Cristina Pardo Porto, Efthimia Johanides, Yassin Chandran, Robert Wrigley, Michael Greer, Alexandria James, Amit Kumar, Prathmesh Desmukh, Tyler Crown, Trey Dellucci, Barbara Storch, Roderick Hurley, Natacha Pawa, Oriana Majias Martinez, Zhuo Yin, Jason Nielsen, Shibanee Sivanayagam, Ava Zwolinski, Paul Oder, Ayo Andra Deas, Silas Grossberndt, Cassandra Barnes

Guests:

Olivia Wood

Absent:

Sharanya Dutta, Adashima Oyo, Jenna Marie Sparacio, Labanya Unni, Ryan Brunette, Abigail Findley, Chapman Lindgren, Casey Berner, Soojung Choe, Chuxin Liu, Monica Thompson

Meeting called to order at 5:24 PM

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Jonathan Hanon (Comp Sci): Requests adding solicitation for standing committees as a third item for new business

Seconded: Silvia Rivera Alfaro (LAILAC)

Vote: Passes unanimously

II. Approval of Minutes of the September 24, 2021 Plenary Meeting

Motion to approve: JH (Comp Sci): Motion to approve the minutes with the following amendments: 1) fixing the spelling of JH's name in the attendance, 2) adding "JH seconds" and "vote passes unanimously" to section VIII-E, Research Foundation Board.

Seconded: Zhuo Yin (Physics)

Vote: Passes unanimously

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

- First and most importantly, PLEASE complete your SPARC training. Program Reps, At-Large Reps, DGSC EC and Steering, Social Media Correspondent, Affiliate Leaders, Chartered Org Leaders—ALL OF YOU/US HAVE TO COMPLETE SPARC TRAINING. It's under "My Organizations" in Blackboard. We technically cannot work for the DGSC and receive a stipend without completing this SPARC training.
- **Chartered Org rosters need to be completed and reports submitted by December 20, 2021 for all chartered orgs.** For those of you who manage chartered orgs, you know what a pain it can be getting people to sign the roster, [so please be generous and sign other chartered orgs' rosters](#). Program and At-Large reps, please take a few minutes out of your day to help them out. Mobilize friends in your department and other departments, please. IF YOU ARE NOT ACTIVE (i.e. if you have not submitted the report and you do not have 20 signatures on the roster by Dec 20), YOU CANNOT BE REIMBURSED FOR THE MONEY YOU SPEND. Please reach out to me with any questions about this process.
- Several chartered org leaders have written to me about updated leadership, and wanting to re-activate chartered orgs that are about to be de-chartered. Thank you! I think I responded to everyone but if I didn't, please send me a reminder? We're in the middle of an excruciatingly prolonged website upgrade and because of tech issues, all of our chartered org leaders' names have been removed from their org pages. I have to manually re-enter them all which is taking a little time so please bear with me. Please also check your chartered org pages in a few weeks, and if any of the leaders' names are out of date, email me. Finally, when you submit your reports for the previous semester, Spring 2021, to me by Dec 20, please make sure you are mentioning who the UPDATED LEADERS/MOST RECENT LEADERS are so I can double check those names against my records.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Deborah Leter)

Activites/Recent Meetings:

- 9/27: Meeting with President Robin Garrell
 - We talked about the importance of clear and open communication, and I mentioned that in my brief time as CCC so far this seems to be a major issue affecting students at the GC: students aren't getting email responses/updates/guidance they need from admin.
 - President & Provost are organizing a virtual town hall on October 27th (12-1:30).
- 10/13: Co-chairs meeting with Office of Student Affairs
 - Please complete your SPARC training! This is mandatory for you to continue as a DGSC representative.
 - I reiterated student concerns around the new incomplete policy and was told there are no positive updates on this front, and that we should bring this up to the President and Provost. The DGSC's Executive Committee (Co-Chairs, USF and USS) were supposed to meet with the Provost in the last few weeks but the meeting was postponed, so we will put pressure on this issue verbally during our upcoming meeting.
 - Please contact the LVA (Local Vaccine Authority) if you have not received your individual Cleared4 link to enter CUNY buildings (lva@cuny.gc.edu).

- Vaccination: 37 GC students who are taking classes remote who haven't uploaded their vaccine information yet. Religious exemptions for vaccine (11), medical exemptions (8). All students should upload their vaccine docs if they have them, even if they're only taking online classes now.

Updates:

- **Out-of-state tuition issue:** When I met with President Garrell, I brought up the issue of master's students being excluded in the recent GC and CUNY Central resolution (that extends the out-of-state tuition waiver for this academic year for students who were unable to establish residency in New York last year). See President Garrell's September 2 email about this resolution. It does not seem like this issue is going to budge, so I've worked with the #OutOfStateCUNY campaign to write a statement of support for MA students that I will present to you all for a vote later on in this meeting. If the vote passes unanimously, I will then send this statement to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees.
- **We're opening up the DGSC's rooms!** We've finally received the green light to do so. Please look at the "rooms reservation" page on the DGSC's website for updated information and pictures of the 4 DGSC rooms that are open to students, including important info on room occupancy limits. Our new guidelines:
 - If you want to reserve one of these rooms to teach Zoom classes in, you can do so through your Works account. You can reserve these rooms for 2 hours at a time, 16 times throughout the semester, and just need to upload your teaching schedule to the reservation form.
 - These rooms are also open, as they used to be, for small student-led events or meetings. You just need to follow the COVID guidelines and reserve the room through Works.
 - Students can start making reservations next week. I will be sending out an email to the student body about this as well.

Upcoming meetings:

- 10/20: Graduate Council meeting
- 10/22: Executive Committee meeting Provost Everett
- 10/22: Co-Chairs and Officer for Library & Technology meeting with IT
- 11/05: DGSC Steering Committee meeting
- 11/12: Executive Committee lunch with President and Provost
- 11/17: Co-Chairs meeting with Office of Student Affairs
- 11/19: DGSC Plenary meeting (all dates posted on website)

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

The Advocate (GC-run newspaper) just issued a call for contributions, with a deadline of October 30th. Please see an email about this I sent out to the DGSC listserv yesterday.

If you're not signed up to the **DGSC listserv** yet, please do so here:
<https://gc.listserv.cuny.edu/Scripts/wa-gc.exe?SUBED1=DSC-L&A=1>

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

Updates:

- We have begun the process of cleaning the DGSC lounge, which has involved throwing out expired materials and creating a list of things to purchase (coffee, tea, etc.) - if there are items or amenities that you would like to have available in the DGSC lounge, please tell a DGSC officer! We have historically provided safer sex supplies, including condoms and lubricant, as well as snacks and refreshments, first aid materials, hygiene products, etc. We are going to be leaving the lounge open for public use, provided people comply with the COVID guidelines for the building.
- Once our budget is voted upon, I will generate the new and enlarged program and chartered organization allocations, and will update the program representatives as to their new allocation totals.
 - Things to remember:
 - The building seems to be allowing for some small in-person activities in the building, but it is likely that they will not be okay with large department parties until the Spring semester, when we are expected to return to 80% capacity. Please confirm with me in advance what your party plans are, if that is the route you plan to go with your allocations, just so I can confirm with our Business Office and Security that everything will be okay.
 - Remember that when purchasing supplies/food using DGSC money, you can use the NY state sales tax deduction form to get sales tax removed from your purchase. This form can be found on our website, or I can email it to you.
 - You can purchase alcohol with DGSC program allocation money.
 - Fall semester allocation DOES carry over to the Spring semester, but any money unspent by the end of the Spring semester gets reincorporated into our carryover, and the next CCB will be the one to decide how that carryover gets used.
- I am meeting virtually with our affiliate leaders soon to get their affiliate reports. I have already met with the Adjunct Project leaders, who have confirmed that over the summer they have been collecting data about the adjunct firing wave across the university in the midst of COVID, trying to get a better sense of which departments and schools were most adversely affected by the loss.
- Please remember to tell your peers that constituents that OpenCUNY and The Advocate are still offering website services and accepting newspaper article submissions for payment, respectively.
- The Graduate Education Task Force had its first meeting on 9/30/2021. It was mostly introductory, but we have an established schedule of meetings now. Our next meeting will be 10/29/2021.

D. USS Delegate (Edward Charnley)

Updates:

USS Nominations continue. USS scholarship deadlines have been extended to Oct 24th - they need help desperately with reading the applications.

USS elections will be held on Sunday -- the two candidates for Graduate Affairs are: Nerdeen Mohsen and Jacklyn Tomyln

Discussion:

JH (Comp Sci): We really need help on reviewing the USS scholarship applications, we have 1,000.

E. UFS Liaison (Parisa Montazaran)

Updates:

Since the previous Plenary I attended the 9/28 UFS Plenary, as well as the Reactivation Committee meeting on 10/14:

- UFS will continue to do business via teleconferencing until Jan 2022 when they will reassess suitable physical space to meet per Open Meeting Law
- CUNY has legal authority to request, not mandate Faculty and staff to vax; mandate would require union renegotiation of employment criteria
- Student mandate is effective; deadline for students to upload proof of vax was 10/7. University might force academic withdrawal, which could impact the students financial financial aid, etc.
 - 80% of students uploaded vax proof, but 25k have no documentation
 - If and how the university is going to execute is not clear to Marty Burke
 - One prof asked “if the university does drop students, is it possible that at some point in the future that students get vaccinated, would it be possible for them to then be readmitted to courses?” to which Marty said he has no idea yet.
 - Withdrawals could affect enrollment for this semester and going forward and university could levy sanctions through the board of trustees bylaws
 - as of 10/14, the Reactivation committee announced that refunds would be issued to students that paid in full and forced to withdraw but they do not want to “reward” students for not vaccinating
- CUNY Central is requesting 70% of classes in Spring be offered face to face; face to face would include hybrid-flex and 30% of classes would be either hybrid or fully online synchronous and asynchronous.
 - Hy-flex is not a modality, it is “an attribute of face to face courses” that allows for virtual participation - the 30% would be hybrid and fully online courses.
 - concern about hy-flex and what that will mean for class size, some had classes go from 30 to 50; they want rules about what different classes mandate
 - Unclear if the CUNY Central has the authority to mandate what the modalities of instruction might be on a specific campus, let alone that every full time faculty member would be teaching at least one face to face class but they're doing it anyway - it was previously decided by individual faculty members, by departments, by divisions
 - Since NYS is no longer in state of emergency central office is flexing admin muscles and wants more uniformity
 - concern about no social distancing required next semester
- People were annoyed about change from everbridge and concerned with privacy/security in the transfer of data from one system to another
- People pissed that a month in there is no concrete details on Fall reopening policy, ie the Oct 7 mandate throwing enrollment into flux
- Overall university enrollment is down 7.6%, undergraduate enrollment is down 8.6%, first time freshmen down 11.5%

Discussion:

ZY (Physics): Students who didn't upload their vaccine documents might risk academic withdrawal, as you mentioned. Some students are still studying remotely in their home country and can't get a US-approved vaccine. How will the administration handle this issue? If students can't enter the US, they can't get a US vaccine. Will they still risk academic withdrawal?

PMO (Sociology): I'll make sure to bring this up at the next UFS plenary. Important point for international students.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- Grants Committee now has three members officially, we would love to add 1-2 DGSC representatives
- We approved one grant in September (to fund student workshop facilitators an open pedagogy conference)
- Grant application deadlines are the third Friday of every month. More info here: <https://cunydisc.org/grants/>
 - Our next deadline is today, October 15
 - Then Friday, November 19
- Working on more promotion of our grants (website, email, social)
 - Ask for DGSC Reps: keep eye out for email with more info about grant and funding opportunities

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

Updates:

- New Program Representatives:
 - Paul Oder - Criminal Justice
- New At-Large Representatives
 - Silas Grossberndt (Physics)
- Pending Representatives
 - Program Rep - Urban Education
 - At-Large Rep - Social Welfare
- When filling out proxy requests, you can email membership@cunydisc.org in ADDITION to submitting the request on DGSC Works if you would like. If you can, please nominate someone to take your place.
- Jonathan Hanon has submitted a list of proposed edits to the DGSC's Constitution and Bylaws. The C+B committee is working to schedule a meeting to review these potential changes in the coming weeks. They will be brought before this voting body before being instated. We are aiming to present these potential edits at the November Plenary meeting.

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

Updates:

- Yoga has continued. We have a general attendance of about 15 people per session.
- Navigating NYSHIP took place on October 15 at 9:00 a.m. 10 people participated in the workshop.
 - *If you think you are being double charged for your insurance or if you have any question, please contact William McGowan to healthinsuranceinfo@gc.cuny.edu
 - *William McGowan mentioned that email responses have been slow due to the amount of documents to check at this particular time of the semester.
 - *Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you have any particular situation you want the DGSC to be aware of regarding insurance experiences.
- Currently there are two available places at the Committee of Health and Wellness. If you want to volunteer, please contact me.

Upcoming meetings:

- Next week I will participate in a meeting with Clare Wilson, Manager of Student Disability Services, to start working in an event open to the student community on the situation of students with disabilities, access, accommodations and similar subjects at the Graduate Center. I particularly thank Jonathan Hanon, a member of the Health and Wellness Committee, for organizing the meeting. We will also have the support of Sara Ortiz, the former USS Delegate, who has been actively advocating on the subjects related to mental health and wellness in general.

D. Officer for Outreach (Sameer Sabharwal-Siddiqi)

Updates:

Unfortunately, due to health concerns, I will have to step-down as Officer for Outreach. I will stay on the Outreach committee and participate in Plenary.

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

Updates:

1. Back to the '90s - Board Games Night
 - a. Date: Oct. 19, 6-9 pm
 - b. Registration deadline: Oct. 19
 - c. People registered: 15
 - d. Total budget: \$300
2. Native American Jewelry Workshop (For beginners)
 - a. Date: Nov. 10, 6-9 pm
 - b. Registration deadline: Oct. 27
 - c. Total budget: \$300
3. DGSC's Talent Show

- a. Date: Dec. 7, 6-9pm
- b. Registration deadline: Dec. 1
- c. Total budget: \$300

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Adashima Oyo)

-Tech:

1. No significant updates at this time.

-Library:

1. The library will be extending its operating hours.
 - More info to follow about weekend and evening hours for Graduate Center students.
2. Apply TODAY for the Open Pedagogy Fellowship
 - Open Pedagogy Fellowship. Apply by October 18th for Winter/Spring cohorts. \$2000 stipend, open to doctoral students from all disciplines. Apply here: <https://gclibrary.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2021/09/27/apply-now-open-pedagogy-fellowship-winter-and-spring-2022/>
3. Return your late books to the library! 80% of Books have been returned. Want 100%.
 - Drop books off in the library, at the security desk book drop when the library is closed, or mail the books back. If you cannot return your books, please get in touch with the ILL staff! Contact information can be found here: <https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/access/interlibraryloan>
4. Still struggling with Zotero?
 - Zotero Drop-in Help
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021
Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Register: <https://gc-cuny.libcal.com/event/8390025>
Stephen Klein holds one-on-one Zotero virtual office hours for drop-in video consultations on Mondays 1-2pm. Zotero is open source citation software enabling users to easily collect, organize, cite and share. These one-on-one sessions are great for consummate users who need troubleshooting assistance or new users who prefer a more informal approach.
5. Head Reference Librarian.
 - Application is open and the search committee is reviewing applications.

V. Election of Steering Officer (Voting)

A. Officer for Outreach

Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science): I nominate Christopher Campbell.

Christopher Campbell (Comparative Literature) accepts nomination.

Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science): Motions to close nominations.

Debbie Leter (Anthropology): Seconds motion
Christopher Campbell is elected unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Solicitation of Nominations and Appointments to Standing Committees

JH (Comp Sci): Nominates Sara Ortiz, a member of the DGSO, to be a member of the health and wellness committee.
SRA (LAILAC): Seconds nomination.
Vote passed unanimously.

B. [DGSC and #OutofStateCUNY Statement of Support for MA Students Affected by the Out-of-State Tuition Issue](#) (Voting)

DL (Anthropology): The #OutOfStateCUNY campaign has joined us in co-writing this statement. We are expressing our support of 32 GC MA students being charged out-of-state tuition because they could not establish residency in NY last year due to covid. These MA students were not included in the recent GC and CUNY Central resolution. This is a follow up to a statement the DGSC Steering Committee wrote in August. Once we vote on this, I will send the statement out to the Chancellor, BoT, and the broader GC community.

AK (History): Motions to approve this statement.
Zhuo Yin (Physics): Seconds motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

C. DSGC Sign-On to [CUNY Divestment from Fossil Fuel Pipelines Statement](#) (Voting)

JH (Comp Sci): Motion to approve DGSC sign-on to this statement.
ZY (Physics): Seconds motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

VI. 2021-2022 DGSC Budget (Voting)

Rod Hurley (Psychology): Motions to approve this budget.
Edward Charnley (History): Seconds motion.
Motion passes unanimously.

VII. Announcements

N/A

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting officially adjourned 6:54pm.