



Plenary Minutes February 18, 2022

Attendance

Present:

Abigail Findley, Adam Kocurek, Alaa Sharif, Alexandria James, Amit Kumar, Angela LaScala-Gruenewald, Austin MacDonald, Ava Zwolinski, Avinash Jairam, Ayo Andra Deas, Barbara Storch, Beicer Tapia, Brittany Munro, Carmin Quijano-Seda, Chapman Lindgren, Christopher Campbell, Cristina Pardo Porto, Deborah Leter, Edward Charnley, Efthimia Johanides (PROXY: Maxaie Belmont), Fedor Marchenko, Jason Nielsen, Jenna Marie Sparacio, John Young, Jonathan Hanon, Katherine Anderson, Kenisha White, Kyle Fraser, Labanya Unni, Maura McCreight, Michael Greer, Oriana Mejias Martinez, Parisa Montazaran, Paol Oder, Prathmesh Desmukh, Robert Wrigley, Roderick Hurley, Sameer Sabhrwal-Siddiqi, Sami Sauma, Sharanya Dutta, Shibanee Sivanayagam, Silas Grossberndt, Silvia Rivera Alfaro, Tenn Joe Lim, Tyler Crown, Yassin Chandran, Zhuo Yin, Joy Cytryn, Sichao Yu, Alex Jiang, Shokolatte Tachikawa

Absent:

Adashima Oyo, Britton Williams, Natacha Pawa, Trey Dellucci

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: JH (Comp Sci) with two amendments. First to move the UFS Liaison as the first report, second to add a new New Business Item regarding Evaluating Interest in Toastmasters.

Seconded: AK (History) seconds

Vote: Unanimously approved.

II. Approval of Minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting

Motion to approve: ZY (Physics)

Seconded: SRA (LAILAC)

Vote: Unanimously approved.

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. UFS Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates:

- Met with Matt Cotter and Marty Burke before winter break to discuss floor privileges and voting rights for UFS liaison
 - Adam joined the call and we established that in the past UFS Liaisons have tried to get voting rights but were shut down.
 - Marty and Matt said it's worth a shot to try again as there are new members on the committee that may vote differently if convinced
 - I have to continue to ask for speaking privileges prior to plenary meetings as the bylaws state that only full-time faculty (or part-time faculty representing one of the campuses as a faculty member, not student) can speak unless they change that law.
 - Proposals to change anything cannot be introduced until the next meeting in March and then potentially voted on in April or May so it wouldn't even take effect until next semester/year.
- Plenary on 2/22/22
 - asked for floor privileges to be able to participate in the meeting, hopefully.

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

Nominations Ballot Open: February 1 (12AM) - March 1, 2021 (11:59PM).

- Did everyone get that notification/saw one of the emails from Debbie/the voting platform?
- Access link: <https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc>
- Log-in instructions:
 - Username = EMPLID (CUNYFirst ID)
 - Password (all lowercase) = first initial + last initial + 4-digit year of birth
- Email notifications have been sent out to students with the CCC + SMC's help.
- Notifications will also be posted on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and the DGSC Website.
- PLEASE ask people in your departments, chartered orgs, anyone else you know to nominate!
- You should get these reminders to nominate regularly, and also on your department listservs. Debbie will be sending them to APOs, so if you haven't received them on dept listservs, please follow up?
- Please nominate yourselves so you can be considered for Steering positions.
- If anyone has any trouble nominating someone, please email me directly and I will manually enter them into the ballot.

Chartered Organization nodes for Spring 2022 will be updated over the next week or so (my apologies that it is so late, I started the semester sick with COVID and it is taking a little time for the brain fog to clear): Please help chartered organizations achieve active status by signing up on their rosters during your office hours:

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

- a) Let me know if you catch any errors (e.g., blocking roster registration or linked to Fall 2021 rather than Spring 2022).

We have put together two hiring committees. The AP needs to replace two co-organizers (we finally have a hiring committee for that, now they have to get the word out and the work begins when we actually have some applications). And we have put together an OpenCUNY hiring committee. Am working on getting that moving.

SPARC Compliance. As you know, the rules have changed. CUNY Central and the GC will actually be enforcing the SPARC compliance. So if you do not do the SPARC, ESPARC, and WVP trainings, 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.

- In Blackboard > Enter your CUNYfirst username, along with @login.cuny.edu, and password > Blackboard page will open with the Home tab active. The course will be displayed under My Organizations. For any questions email Eric Brown.

Room reservations. After some confusion, we finally received some clarity from the admin on this issue. I had personally emailed two conference organizers (LAILAC and History) to tell them that we weren't allowed more than 6-7 people in the rooms at any given time, because I thought that was what was said at Town Hall. I was mistaken. Our DGSC rooms have been given certain limits ([info on our website](#)), and we are honoring the max allowed number on that limit. So for instance, room 5414 can have 24 people maximum, 12 at 3ft social distancing, and 8 at 6ft social distancing. Admin has just told us that social distancing is not required but MASKING IS MANDATED. So as long as you are masked, you can have upto 24 people in 5414. Each room's upper limit is on our website. If those numbers work for the two conferences, and any future events, then you can host your event in DGSC rooms! For LAILAC and History, if these numbers work for you, you may proceed as planned with your conferences because we had already held these reservations in place. Non-CUNY folks attending these events will have to get a Cleared4 access pass also. So if you're having non-CUNY people at your events, you need to clear it with the admin first. I believe it is Matthew Schoengood you have to email, but the GC website was updated and all the links are now broken, so I could not find the info online.

GC Website. Anyone who has issues with the new GC website (broken links etc.) please email mschoengood@gc.cuny.edu and cc ebrown2@gc.cuny.edu and eperram@gc.cuny.edu

Tax consultant for international students + residents/citizens. We have exciting news! We are currently speaking to the admin to try and onboard a tax consultant for all our students. Ideally, we would like to have it be freely available for all GC students the way we have our legal services, but because the demand is likely to be far greater, we may not have enough money in our budget to make it free for everyone. So we are trying to work out a model that perhaps offsets some student costs on a first come first serve basis once Adam finalizes the budget for this cycle. We will email you as soon as we know more. BUT in the meantime, I have the person's contact info. He is reliable, he is doing my taxes as well. dandoestax@gmail.com - this is his email address. He will "do \$150 for everything (state and federal) for up to 35 Non-Resident students, \$120 for up to 100 Non-Resident students, and \$100 for over 100 Non-Resident students. That will include tax preparation, tax advice, and any questions throughout the year. The price will be the same whether they would want to just upload all of their documents and wait for me to finalize or if they would like a live virtual appointment where I can ask and answer any questions along the way. If anyone requires an extension, that will be included in the price. Also, if there are any US students that require tax preparation, I would do \$75 for everything for up to 35 US students, \$60 for up to 100 US students, and \$50 for over 100 US students. The price is much lower as standard US returns for US students are much easier to prepare. Both the Non-Resident students and the US students would need to show proof of attendance at the university. The Non-Resident tax interview would take about 45 minutes at most while the US tax interview would take 30 minutes at most."

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Deborah Leter)

Activites/Recent Meetings:

- DGSC involvement with CUNY Council of Presidents

- Reopening letter to Chancellor Rodriguez – organized by SGA (Student Government Association) Presidents from across CUNY, signed by DGSC Steering Committee
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1phiinWcSo15nlalDTFWne1ewBXorTIKUQMVg3YbvNRM/edit>
- Started meeting late January, we were informed of these meetings rather late and played a minimal role in them. Jonathan, Adam, and I made a few small suggestions to the letter, but this was most definitely an initiative of the CUNY colleges. No feedback from Chancellor Rodriguez.
- Monthly CUNY Council of President meetings, to form a more united front and engage in collective advocacy.

- Survey: Spring semester reopening plans (sent out January 12 with Chris)
 - 423 responses
 - Main question: Do you support the Spring semester reopening plans (50% until February 25th, 70% after)? A follow-up question provided students space to type reasoning for their responses. The responses for question one were: roughly 70% “no” and 30% “yes.”
 - The responses to the survey were quite varied: While some students argue we need to learn to live with this pandemic and want to return to in-person learning and teaching, other students are calling for classes to be entirely remote given the omicron variant. In a significant number of responses, students expressed concern and fear about their safety and the safety of those they live with and do not feel comfortable returning to classes in-person. A key theme across many responses was flexibility: students want more online, hybrid, and hyflex classes, rather than a rigid 50% or 70% in-person mandate. Some students are also asking for the first few weeks of the semester to take place entirely remotely, until this current wave hopefully dies down.
 - This was sent to OSA, Pres. Garrell, and Chancellor Rodriguez

- 02/16 Meeting with Office of Student Affairs:
 - Chancellor Rodriguez’s \$20 million budget request to the state was shot down, he’s going back to ask for \$7 million.
 - Confusion as to why students aren’t coming in-person to GC offices, students seem to prefer online services. There’s concern among the OSA and admin about how to get new students to feel part of the GC community.

- Social media projects (with our social media coordinator, Inma)
 - Goal for Spring 2022: revamping our social media presence by having a “DGSC services” series on Twitter and Instagram. Also, trying to get more GC students involved on our social media page. If you don’t follow us yet on social media, please do so!

- Upcoming meetings: DGSC Executive Committee meeting with Provost Everett on 02/23. We’re compiling a list of issues to raise. If there is anything you would like us to raise, please let us know here, or in the chat, or email me.

- Upcoming plenaries and guest speakers (dates also on our website):
 - March 18 (Pres. Garrell)
 - April 29 (Dave Hershinow (Writing Center) + Clare Wilson (Disability Services))

- May 20 (outgoing representatives at 3pm, incoming representatives at 4:30pm)
- Reminder that DGSC rooms are still open and available for students to use! Information regarding this is on our website: <https://cunydisc.org/services/rooms/>
- **Internal changes in the DGSC's leadership:** we've been working with Jonathan Hanon as interim USS Delegate, and Britt Munro as interim Officer for Library and Technology.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

Updates:

- **Budget**
 - Though the add/drop period officially ends today, with 100% Tuition obligation for course drops WN Grades assigned. As such, I haven't yet received the updated enrollment totals for the Spring semester yet from the Office for Student Affairs. I cannot update our budget totals without these figures, but some important considerations going forward:
 - The current budget for program allocations is \$40K, which is \$5K over the doubled amount. I intentionally left this extra room on the budget line so that once we get updated enrollment numbers and see an inevitable (though usually small) drop in our budget, I could trim some of these budget lines and they won't impact our operations. However, with regards to program allocations, normally I recalculate the Spring allocation totals to reflect the lower number of admitted students in the programs, but I don't want to do that this semester for a few reasons: 1, because by the time this updated budget is voted on and approved in the April plenary, it will be late in the semester and I don't want to discourage program representatives from making plans with known amounts, and 2, even with the Spring allocation matching the Fall allocation, we still have the \$5K to work with as needed.
 - I do not plan on changing any budget lines drastically, when I present the updated budget in the March plenary. A few things I want to change though - **1.** potentially increase the DGSC Petrie Fund contribution for the Spring semester, as students are making active use of those medical/emergency fund services, **2.** increase the DGSC website hosting budget line, as developing the website and maintaining website consulting and server costs has increased (as expected), **3.** do exactly the same for OpenCUNY, **4.** potentially increase budget lines for officer committees, if our steering officers indicate that they need more funds to host events, workshops, etc.
- **Program/Chartered Organization allocation spending guideline updates:**
 - At the last town hall with the President and Provost, they made it clear that we are still not allowed to have large in-person events. However, my Business Office representative advised me that off-campus events can occur, but need approval from the OSA - please email me in advance of your off-campus events so that we can get admin approval! But as the weather gets nicer, having a DGSC-sponsored party or event outdoors or at a bar/restaurant (complying with ever-evolving COVID regulations) seems like a great way to build community, have fun, and spend your allocations! Remember, allocations unspent from Fall 2021 roll over to Spring 2022, but unspent allocations will NOT roll over to the next academic year.

- In-person events at the GC need to meet the in-person gathering room requirements at the GC, but technically *can* still happen.
- Other options for consideration - use your allocation for department gift cards (individual gift cards cannot exceed \$15 by CUNY Central Office mandate), on reimbursing for books or decorations for your department, paying for software for your department, and more.
- Remember to use the sales tax exemption form for DGSC-related purchases for your events!
- Please email me with questions or set up a virtual office hours meeting with me!
- The Advocate published a new issue during January - please check out their published works, and consider writing for them! We pay writers \$150-\$300 per submission. The Advocate takes op-eds, poetry, political writings, cultural critiques, and scholarly writings.
- Ruthie Chung has been onboarded as a member of our legal staff. She manages family law issues.
- **Graduate Education Task Force**
 - Our next meeting is scheduled for 2/25/2022. We will be discussing our survey for the Survey from the Great Ideas Working Group, which will be sent out imminently to students and faculty.

D. USS Delegate (Jonathan Hanon - interim)

Updates:

- **Reactivation Town Hall**
 - There is no social distancing requirement (I am still very confused about this).
 - The PSC are in collective bargaining for the vaccine mandate rollout to allow for unvaccinated professors to still be able to teach. Administration says that 98% of professors are vaccinated and that it should be good enough, but will not prove that statistic. At the same time, they have concerns that if professors become ineligible to teach, there won't be enough teaching faculty available. Why is this a concern if so many are already vaccinated?
 - Staff are NOT included in the vaccine mandate because Gov. Hochul said so.
 - We have 4 HyFlex classrooms and 9 mobile HyFlex (OWL) units, but when and how they will be used is unclear.
 - Accommodations are only available for those who have contracted COVID.
 - The priority is for moving fully in-person without input from the community.
 - Unvaccinated need to test every 7 days, which is not enough for safety. Masking will remain mandatory, but there are no clear plans for enforcement, with a focus on "comfort".
 - Our safety is being seen as an afterthought.
 - KN95s are available from public safety. PPE is available from the library. The Child Care center has clear masks. PPE requests must go through facilities, and may not be obtained on our own.
 - No cafeteria, but there are "places on campus to eat your own food".
 - The only mental health services at the GC are through the Wellness Center, which functions mainly as a referral service, so we're basically on our own.
 - The Reactivation committee has not met since December 9th, before Omicron was even a concept. There hasn't been messaging because, according to President Garrell, "things have been changing day to day, so there's no point to updating if the information will just change the next day". The GC is moving as information from Central evolves. Important to check the site - updates on January 6th. As they put it, we are "shifting from reopening to operations, because we are open and moving forward, so we are no

longer reopening, we are open”.

- **The DGSC was not contacted about any of these guidelines. Let's talk about this.**

- **USS Updates:**

- There is still no Chairperson, and it appears elections will never end.
 - Due to constitutional restrictions, we do not even have an Interim Chair.
 - USS Steering is making decisions in the absence of a Chair.
 - Saaif Alam and I are handling the convening of committees.
 - USS is actually functioning fairly well, given these strange circumstances.
- Committees have started convening
 - Academic Affairs
 - A letter was sent out to the Chancellor by the Council of SGA Presidents (including our own DGSC Steering) regarding concerns in the reopening process
 - Bylaws Task Force
 - Multiple amendments have been proposed to the USS Bylaws regarding the process for USS Chair / Vice-Chair Elections, to attempt to prevent constitutional crises from occurring again.
 - Technology Affairs
 - I am writing a proposal to create IT advisory committees and to give more of a student voice on administrative committees making technological decisions in this crucial time where technology has become such an integral part of our education. We need student voices on everything, because students have just as much if not more of a stake in the technology we use. We already do this at the GC.
 - Disability / Mental Health Affairs
 - Events are being scheduled CUNYwide
 - Joint USS Disability / CCSD Open Forum (more info to come)
 - Building the Bridges Conference (information TBD)
 - Accessibility Conference (April 11-14)
 - Presentation by Jamie Lerner-Brecher from SPS about funded faculty training for working with students with disabilities
 - Racial/Ethnic Equity
 - Availability of food for students with dietary restrictions, i.e. Kosher, Halal, Vegan, and increasing access to cafeteria for night students to be able to get food on campus
 - Advocating for minorities in STEM
 - Gender/LGBTQ Equity
 - LGBTQ Resource Database
 - Student representation on the LGBT Council for CUNY
 - Upcoming events: CUNY LGBT Conference at John Jay
 - Sustainability Committee
 - Resolution passed at the Board of Trustees for a 90-day plan to reduce plastic waste at CUNY. This includes reducing single-use plastic and placing more garbage cans and recycling bins across campuses.
 - Scholarship Committee

- We are working to convene as soon as possible to construct revisions to the review process. We will need reviewers in the summer and can use all the help we can get. I will give more information on this in a future meeting. Please volunteer!
- Legislative Affairs
 - Higher Education Action Week was this week, to advocate for higher funding for Higher Education, including for more Lecturer lines and equitable pay for doctoral students.
 - The PSC and UFS remain unhelpful in this aspect, but I will continue to reach out.
- Committees are a great way to familiarise with the USS and see if you would want to serve. You don't need to be a Delegate to join any of these committees.
- I would like to try to bring today's resolution regarding the payment of PhD students to USS in hopes that it can be jointly sponsored by USS.
- **Side note: I had thoughts recently, does anyone want to start a Toastmasters club?**
 - Toastmasters International is a worldwide organisation to train professionals, including researchers and academics, to gain the confidence to be better public speakers, with methods including learning to gauge interactivity in presentations. There are thousands of clubs nationwide.
 - Toastmasters clubs can be established for a small fee (\$200), and membership dues are fairly reasonable (\$20 new member + \$7.50/month) and require at least 20 members. We can establish it as either GC only, or as CUNYwide. If there is interest, I will try to secure funding for it either through USS or DGSC (no guarantees, but I will try).
 - I have been in contact with a Chapter Chair who is a Mathematics Lecturer from Lakeland, FL, and will ask for further information if anyone is interested. If there is enough interest, he is willing to be a club mentor.
- If anyone is interested in either USS Committees or Toastmasters, please reach out to me.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- AK: Alright, Jonathan and I are both in the Grants Committee, which Angela chairs. We have received some grant applications. Applicants have been asked to revise and resubmit a virtual plan, while we hold their rooms and determine how these events are going to be held (if in-person, what are the restrictions and/or policies at the GC building.)
 - Angela will provide a full report about this in the meeting minutes.
 - You can still submit your grant application to our Committee. Please check out the deadlines on our DSC Works website.
- Additions to Adam's notes (in writing from Angela)
 - Upcoming grant application deadlines: tonight 2/18 and 3/18
 - Please note: If you cannot submit a grant application on time, we are happy to negotiate deadlines and figure out a way to get your event funded. Just email Angela at funding@cunydisc.org for more information and to make an exception.
 - Grants Committee reviewed three applications in February (submitted in January).
 - CUNY Early American Republic Seminar Graduate Student Conference

- Secret Knowledge in the Ancient World
- Cuerpo-Territorio: a workshop on collaborative critical cartography
- Issues with in-person events this spring – need to account for COVID policies shifting under our feet
 - Asking several grant applicants to resubmit a grant with a virtual plan in place
 - Approved funding for virtual events
- Working on presenting grant funding opportunities to individual programs as part of greater DGSC outreach. Please reach out to Angela if you would like to ask for a DGSC/grant funding presentation at one of your program's/department's events/meetings funding@cunydisc.org

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

Updates:

- We lost a lot of representatives with the semester change.
- I am trying to replace reps, but it is more difficult than usual. 5 out of the last 10 people I contacted to become At-Large Program Representatives never responded to my email.
- 14 programs that are eligible for DGSC representation have no representatives
 - Biography and Memoirs
 - Chemistry
 - Data Science
 - Data Analysis and Visualization
 - Digital Humanities
 - French
 - International Migration Studies
 - Middle Eastern Studies
 - Nursing
 - Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences
 - Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
 - Theater
 - Urban Education
 - Women and Gender Studies
- If you know anyone who may be slightly interested in the DGSC - invite them to a meeting!! Or tell me and I can send out an invitation! The less students involved → the less people who know what services we offer → the less value this organization has.

Discussion:

JH (Comp Sci): Do they contact you directly?

KA (Biology): They will need to collect signatures (at least 20 signatures) from their programs. I will double check those signatures to make sure that they are eligible. If they are, we will approve the student representatives (who have acquired the favor of their programs) at a steering meeting first, and then confirmed at the next plenary meeting. It is relatively an easy process. So don't be discouraged to take part in our student body.

DL: If a representative is no longer qualified, we can try to prepare waivers for them. But we need to know what the student representative specific situation is. There are ways around it depending on the situation. Please reach out to me.

SD: International students should also know that we are here for them. We would really appreciate you if you could reach out to international students and their programs and ask them to become part of the DGSC. I am particularly worried about our numbers right now.

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

Updates:

- The Committee of Health and Wellness met the past Feb 14th and planned the events we will be holding in Spring. I am really excited to work with Shibanee Sivanayagam and Jonathan Hanon on this project.
- We opened a call for proposals for a dance class at the beginning of the semester. In our past meeting we selected the "West African Dance Class Proposal" by Francie Johnson from Urban Ed. The class will take place virtually every Wednesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. I am currently working on the administrative steps to open this class, so I hope you will get an invitation to join pretty soon.
- We are also working with the Office of Students Affairs looking for new ways of making the information for navigating NYSHIP available asynchronously so that students can access this information when they need it.
- I am collaborating with the Officer for Governance and the Officer of Outreach, we are looking for ways to help students from sciences to improve the precarious conditions they can face due to structural issues..
- I met with Roderick Hurley and Christopher Campbell to work on a proposal on the student movement.
- At the steering, I am collaborating to find out ways to offer again service of a nurse practitioner at the GC.

Announcements

- Yoga and Meditation started last week. Yoga will take place twice a week Monday at 9 a.m. and Thursday at 6 p.m.
- The first week of March we will start with *Desk on a Cloud*, which is a digital space for coworking lead by Ernesto Cuba, a student who previously developed a similar and very successful initiative independently that was active in 2020 and 2021.

Links for registration:

Yoga: <https://tinyurl.com/YogaDGSC>

Meditation: <https://tinyurl.com/meditationDGSC>

Desk on the Cloud: <https://tinyurl.com/CowritingDGSC>

D. Officer for Outreach (Christopher Campbell)

Updates:

- Delayed Fellowship Stipend Payments
 - A new email from the GC has been offered for students to contact if they are encountering problems receiving their stipend payments: studentpay@gc.cuny.edu
 - Stipend payments have been received much later than the anticipated date listed on CUNYFirst
 - Make sure to cover your bases – register for courses in advance of the deadline (registering after the deadline will result in a delayed payment, almost always, unfortunately).
- Out-of-State Tuition for Level III Students

- Level III GC students who are not able to, or do not need to, use GC resources on campus are still being charged out-of-state tuition.
- Please contact me if this includes you. I'd like to pull together a formal request to change these tuition rates.
- Office for Career Planning & Professional Development
 - In talks to develop workshops related to diversity and disability in the job market & workplace.
- Students in the Sciences/Officer for Outreach
 - Seeking to ensure centralized payments, equitable treatment in labs, and unified communication between subprograms (particularly in Psychology and Biology).

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

Meetings:

- 2/7/22: I met with Eric Brown and Debbie Leter to plan and organize a Student Chartered Organizations Online Meet-Up. Students will have the opportunity to connect with different student-led organizations with particular academic and social interests. The event will be held online on **Mar 11, 2022**. More information to come on our social media.
- 2/10-2/18/22: The Officer of Outreach (Christopher) and I met to plan a Scrabble Tournament. The event is going to be celebrated online on March 8th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Winners will win GrubHub gift cards of \$15! If you are interested, please register here: <https://forms.gle/NLvPiPNdxVq91sfW9>. More details to follow.
- 2/24/22: I have scheduled a meeting with the Native American jewelry designer Bri Alexander (<https://waawena.com/>) to coordinate the details for the Native American Jewelry Workshop for GC students. I am planning to do it in the first week of May, just before Mother's Day. Details, registration link, and promo will follow.

Updates:

- ***The DGSC's Lounge (Room 5495) is open on Mondays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. We have coffee, tea, snacks, feminine hygiene items, condoms (currently out of stock), and N95 masks (low stock, more to come) for GC students. Feel free to stop by, grab whatever you need, and/or relax at our couch. I will be happy to meet you.***

Events:

***Please mark your calendars

- **March 8th (6-9pm):** Scrabble Online Tournament for GC Students. Organized by the Office for Outreach and the Office for Student Life & Services. Registration here: <https://forms.gle/NLvPiPNdxVq91sfW9>.
- **March 11th (4-5pm):** Virtual Chartered Organization Fair. Organized by the Student Activities Coordinator and the DGSC. Zoom link will follow.
- **May (Online, TBA):** Native American Jewelry Workshop (for beginners). Organized by the Office for Student Life & Services. More details to follow.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Britt Munro - interim)

Updates:

- Have begun speaking with Elvis Bakaitis at the library about possible ways that students could contribute to building out different parts of the library collection, and ways in which we might be able to democratize decisions about which parts of the collection to invest in etc. Am meeting with librarians on Tues to continue this discussion on Tuesday so if anyone is particularly invested in strengthening a part of the collection, please get in touch and I will bring it up with them.
- Have scheduled meetings with Elaine from IT so if anyone has anything they want to bring up about IT get in touch as well. CUNYfirst issue resolved but was a nightmare for international students, have also been having some issues with laptop loaners etc.
- Have proposed a mental health campaign in the library in collaboration with Health & Wellness- attempt to get a wider student body more engaged with the mental health services offered at the GC.

V. Elections (Voting)

A. Steering Officers

1. USS Delegate

DL reads over the USS Delegate's responsibilities in the Constitution

AK (History): Nominates Jonathan Hanon.

EC (History): Seconds nomination.

ZY (Physics): Seconds nomination.

JH (Comp Sci): Accepts the nomination.

Vote: passes unanimously. Jonathan Hanon is elected USS Delegate.

2. Officer for Library and Technology

DL reads over the Officer for Library and Technology's responsibilities in the Bylaws

SRA (LAILAC): Nominates Britt Munro.

SG (Physics): Seconds nomination.

BM (English): Accepts the nomination.

Vote: passes unanimously. Britt Munro is elected Officer for Library and Technology.

B. Election to External Committee

1. USS Alternate

DL (Anthropology): The USS Alternate is elected to serve on USS in the Delegate's absence

JH (Comp Sci): Nominates Zhuo Yin.

AK (History): Seconds nomination.

ZY (Physics): Accepts the nomination.

Vote: passes unanimously. Zhuo Yin is elected USS Alternate.

VI. New Business

A. Resolution: "Resolution to Build a Centralized Payment System for CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral and Master Students to Ensure Timely Payment and Consistent Teaching Workload across the Senior Colleges" (Voting)

ZY (Physics): The resolution gives a detailed context of our petition. We are making two demands: the centralized payment and consistent teaching workload.

RH (Psychology): I think we should move forward the petition to build a centralized payment system for the GC, and then we can focus on our internal funding distribution. This will help a lot with our issues, once we get the control over our funding.

ZY: Different programs' funding is very different. The GC cannot control other campus funding, but we are still getting a degree from GC. I don't think GC tracks our payment, so I think we need centralized tracking of payment.

RH: I agree with you on that point, but it is imperative that the Graduate Center foresees funding distribution and timely payment to their own students. Once the GC has that control, we as a student body can make them accountable for our payments.

MG: There are two things happening here, and both can be done. First, people aren't getting paid for work they're doing right now, they can't pay rent or afford food, which is the immediate problem this is addressing. Even if it's not perfect, this is important. I think we can create a working committee on funding issues, and I'd be willing to be on that committee, so I think we should pass this today and create a working committee on funding structure.

JH: We also need to address Rod's point that students should be funded equally. Is there any language that would address that?

AK: This has been an issue for years and years. It is something to do in the next few days or weeks. I don't want to postpone the voting on this resolution because of that.

AK (History): Motions to move this resolution to a vote.

JH (Comp Sci): Seconds.

Vote: resolution passes unanimously.

B. Evaluating Interest in Toastmasters (Jonathan Hanon)

- Toastmasters International is a worldwide organization to train professionals, including researchers and academics, to gain the confidence to be better public speakers, with methods including learning to gauge interactivity in presentations. There are thousands of clubs nationwide.
- Toastmasters clubs can be established for a small fee (\$200), and membership dues are fairly reasonable (\$20 new member + \$7.50/month) and require at least 20 members. We can establish it as either GC only, or as CUNYwide. If there is interest, I will try to secure funding for it either through USS or DGSC (no guarantees, but I will try).
- I have been in contact with the Toastmasters District 84 Area 54 Director, Jonathan Nielsen, a Mathematics Lecturer from Lakeland, FL. If anyone has questions for him, please let me know. If there is enough interest, he is willing to be our club mentor.
- If anyone is interested in Toastmasters, please contact Jonathan Nielsen at dtmjonielsen@gmail.com and cc me (uss@cunydisc.org)

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.