



Plenary
Minutes
April 29, 2022

Attendance

Present:

Abigail Findley, Adam Kocurek, Alaa Sharif, Angela LaScala-Gruenewald, Avinash Jairam, Ayo Andra Deas, Barbara Storch (PROXY: Alex Xialoe Jiang), Beicer Tapia, Brittany Munro, Carmin Quijano-Seda, Chapman Lindgren (PROXY: Silvia De Marchi), Christopher Campbell, Cristina Pardo Porto, Deborah Leter, Edward Charnley, , Fedor Marchenko, Jason Nielsen, Jenna Marie Sparacio, John Young, Jonathan Hanon, Katherine Anderson, Kyle Fraser, Labanya Unni, Maura McCreight, Michael Greer (PROXY: Daniela Vardejo), Oriana Mejias Martinez, Parisa Montazaran, Paul Oder, Prathmesh Desmukh, Robert Wrigley, Roderick Hurley, Sami Sauma, Shibanee Sivanayagam, Silas Grossberndt, Silvia Rivera Alfaro, Tenn Joe Lim, Yassin Chandran, Zhuo Yin, Cassandra Barnes

Absent:

Adashima Oyo, Alexandria James, Alexis Hardy, Amit Kumar, Austin MacDonald, Ava Zwolinski, Britton Williams, Efthimia Johanides, Kenisha White, Natacha Pawa, Sameer Sabhrwal-Siddiqi, Sara Fresard, Sharanya Dutta, Trey Dellucci, Tyler Crown

Meeting called to order at 5:27 PM.

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Adam Kocurek (History)
Seconded: Zhuo Yin (physics)
Vote: Approved unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of the March 18, 2022 meeting

Motion to approve: Zhuo Yin (Physics)
Seconded: Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science)
Vote: Approved unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Chartered Orgs:

- Help support chartered orgs by signing their rosters:
<http://cunydgsc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>
- Deadline for Spring 2022—reports from Fall 2021 and current Spring 2022 signatures (20) needed for active status in Spring 2022. If you have had events this spring, I would really recommend submitting

those as well while they're fresh in your mind.

- 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 until MAY 2!

- <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 anything unless we have robust representation across departments. If you haven't voted, please take a minute now during this meeting to do it.

Hiring Committees:

- You should all be receiving emails from Debbie about the two open Adjunct Project positions and the one OpenCUNY coordinator position. We have received almost no applicants. The positions pay well and it's important work, so please please send in your applications to me!
- <https://cunydisc.org/2022/03/job-call-adjunct-project-is-hiring/>

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Deborah Leter)

Activites/Recent Meetings:

- **Updates on the resolution we voted on at our February meeting**, "Resolution to Build a Centralized Payment System for CUNY Graduate Center Doctoral and Master's Students to Ensure Timely Payment and Consistent Teaching Workload Across the Senior Colleges": the GC chapter of the PSC endorsed the resolution, and it's since been co-sponsored by the University Student Senate (USS), the Undergraduate Student Government at Baruch College, and the College of Staten Island Student Government. Thanks so much to Zhuo Yin for his very hard work bringing this resolution to the Chancellor and other CUNY campuses' attention! Zhuo, please feel free to say a few comments about this when we get to Q&A.
- **DGSC website:** We should have a new website up and running by the start of the next academic year! We are finalizing details now.

03/28: EC lunch with President and Provost

- Centralized Payment System Resolution: President Garrell thanked us for the resolution and informed us a centralized payment system might not be the chosen course of action for CUNY Central, but that the payment issue is now on the table as a serious issue of concern.
- \$7m budget request: No clear updates yet about whether Albany will accept the request or how the money would be used, though it's clear now the focus would probably be on increasing the GAB fellowships.
- We talked about the childcare center and how to make sure students, rather than faculty and staff, get priority access to the center. We plan to send a survey to students to get a better sense of student needs in terms of childcare services (Parisa can speak more to this).

04/27: Co-Chair meeting with Office of Student Affairs

- \$7m budget request update: nothing is official yet, but OSA gave us the sense that they don't think we will get this funding. We don't have any further or official details yet, but will hopefully have an update for next meeting.
- Commencement will be on June 9th at Barclay Center for years 2019, 2020, 2021.

- Vending machines have been moved to the 8th floor, including fresh food vending machines. We might not have a return to food service in the 8th floor cafeteria for a few years. Still no word on a coffee service on the ground floor.
- A reminder to look at your paychecks every now and then. If you're taking a leave of absence, moving, getting paid from a different source, it's important to check that your deductions are coming out correctly. There are sample paychecks on the OSA's website.

Upcoming meetings:

- May 12th: EC will meet with the Provost + several administrative offices to discuss issues that cut across offices and seem to not have evolved much over the years. Offices present will be: office of student affairs, office for institutional equity, office of international students, fellowships and financial aid, registrar.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

Updates:

- We have had several programs use their program allocations for exciting events, including student conferences and gatherings/parties, most of which have been at restaurants, bars, or parks and not at The Graduate Center.
 - Please note that you can have in-person events at The Graduate Center now, if you want to hold a department party in your lounge, you are technically allowed! There is no more mask mandate in the building, and food can be brought up. Just please notify security and the Office of Student Affairs in advance - I can assist with that. However, do consider that many of the students in your program may not be comfortable doing an indoor event at The Graduate Center. I would strongly advise all student leaders to reach out to their department, solicit feedback, and to determine what would make most people happy and comfortable. Consider that if you host an indoor event, you could also send GrubHub gift cards to the people who want to participate virtually or who cannot come in person.
 - Please remember to use the CUNY New York state tax exemption form when purchasing items for events from vendors that charge a sales tax. The business office is technically not supposed to reimburse sales tax. Also, we accept photos of receipts and PDF or JPEG files of virtual receipts as proof of purchase. Just send them to me via email or attach them to the check request on DSCWorks. If you need help planning an event for your department, or if you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me.
 - Our fiscal year at the CUNY Graduate Center ends on the last day of June, with the new FY beginning on July 1st. The business office will be very busy starting in June, closing up their books and preparing for their audit, as well as having workers going on vacation. As such, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL OUTSTANDING CHECK REQUESTS BY MAY 15th. We will reimburse check requests that are submitted later, but you may experience delays in reimbursement.
- The Graduate Education Task Force convened today. I attended the meeting as a member of the "Great Ideas" committee. We got over 72 responses from administrators, faculty, staff, and students about ideas that are working well in their program or across CUNY to encourage Student success. I wish we had gotten more student

feedback, but we may do a second round in the coming months. All great ideas will be uploaded to a forward-facing website and shared with the CUNY Chancellor.

- As many of you know, the upgrading of CUNYFirst had a very rocky start, delaying enrollment, delaying the distribution of payments and funds, as well as having several glitches. Most of these problems have been fixed now, but if you are still waiting on an outstanding payment from us or from other institutions at The Graduate Center, don't hesitate to reach out to us and we can figure out what is going wrong.
- We are beginning a new system, that officially launched a couple weeks ago, for paying non-cuny honoraria. Going forward, if you or your program are going to use dgsc funds to pay for a honoraria for a non-cuny person, all I will need is their name, contact information, and SSN/TIN to forward to CUNY Central Office. From there, the central office will manage generating vendor profiles, and will send honoraria recipients and email with the subject "CUNY BUY" (it is not spam or a scam) - the email contains a link to a portal, where they fill in the necessary forms to get paid.
- Remember, this is my last year serving as co-chair for business. I am actively trying to head hunt a replacement, so if you are interested in the position at all, please reach out to me and let's talk! The job is available to international students, and pays approximately \$13,000 a year, with the potential for a one-year renewal.

D. USS Delegate (Jonathan Hanon)

Updates:

- USS Elections
 - Zhuo Yin is the new USS Vice-Chair for International Affairs.
 - Elizabeth Asemota is the new USS Vice-Chair for Community Colleges.
 - Salimatou Doumbouya has been elected USS Chairperson.
 - The Steering now consists of 9 members.
- Further corruption
 - A search committee has convened for the new CUNY CIO, and Cory Provost was made the student representative on it without USS's consultation. I plan to speak to Salimatou about how to handle this.
- Strategic Roadmap
 - Student Town Hall happening on May 6th from 12:00pm - 1:30pm with Jonathan Gagliardi, Ian James, Joseph Awadje, from CUNY Central Student Affairs, to discuss how CUNY can best serve its student body.
- USS Scholarship Committee
 - Applications close tomorrow night (April 30th), so apply soon!
- Our resolution was voted to be co-sponsored at the USS Plenary on April 24th.

E. UFS Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates:

Elections for EC

- Resolution for Academic Freedom on Race and Gender: 94% approve the resolution in engaging discourse that

pushes back against state legislatures censoring critical race theory, etc.

- Resolution from members of Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs for CUNY central to consult with faculty before making blanket determinations about how and what we teach, ie returning to in-person 70/30

No other new updates :(next meeting May 10th

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- We held our last official Grants Committee meeting of the year on April 4
 - Approved three grants:
 - 12th Annual History Graduate Student Conference
 - Contributing to the World Literature section of the Mina Rees Library
 - Contributing to the South Asian section of the Mina Rees Library
 - Requested revisions for one grant application:
 - Sociolinguistics Lunch Talks - Spring 2022 Hybrid Series
- Held a follow up Grants Committee meeting on April 28 to consider a grant application
 - Voted to approve GC event, "Breakin' BLACK Reachin' Back virtual conference on Black Rhetoric, DJ & Hip Hop Scholarship," to fund student organizers and panelists up to \$700
- Will hold ad-hoc Grants Committee meeting in May to evaluate the grant application, CUNYSciCom 2022 Symposium, and any other May submissions
- Grants Committee worked closely with Officer for Governance & Membership to draft and finalize bylaw amendment to fund summer projects (to be presented later in the meeting)
- **Please continue to submit grant applications for events up until July 1** (pending bylaw amendment vote) and our committee will convene as needed until the end of the term. Email me with any questions.
- During our May plenary, I will summarize our grant making activities over the last Fiscal Year

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

Updates:

- a new DGSC voting body is almost here. Who do YOU want to see representing your program? vote right now.
- This is the last "normal" plenary meeting - my time as a steering officer has timed out. If you are interested in being the next Officer for Governance and Membership - let me know!!!! We can talk about the position before elections take place.

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

Updates:

- Yoga continues to take place. We have one additional month of classes.
- Unfortunately we were not able to set the dancing classes.

- We are working on a mental health campaign. Britt Munro will tell you more in her report.
- We created a new website and group for health and wellness on CUNY Academic Commons:
<https://wellness.common.gc.cuny.edu/> There you can see the information on NYSHIP and other details.



DGSC Health and Wellness

We are here for you!

- Home
- Announcements
- Mental health
- Disability services
- Health providers
- Navigating NYSHIP
- Resources
- Contact

Search ...

Health and Wellness

This is the site of the Committee of Health and Wellness from the Doctoral and Graduate Student Council (DGSC). **Our goal** is to provide information on Health and Wellness from students to students. We understand that sometimes it can be complicated to navigate these topics as Graduate Center students.

Doctoral and Graduate Student Council

The Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council is the sole policy-making body representing students in doctoral and master's programs at the Graduate Center. The DGSC and its officers are charged with representing student interests before the administration and external bodies. [Visit our website for more info!](#)

D. Officer for Outreach (Christopher Campbell)

Updates:

- Quality Matters (QM) - Online Teaching Assessment. This form of assessment has already been implemented at SUNY, and it MAY be implemented at CUNY, although a decision has not yet been made. Take a look at the following website to get a feel for what that rubric might include:
 - <https://oscqr.suny.edu>
- Student Disconnection (Contentiously dubbed "Learning Loss"): As both students and teachers, we may be familiar with a lack of academic motivation, interest, etc. This is becoming a big topic of conversation, and you, your students, and your peers should know that you're not alone!
 - https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-stunning-level-of-student-disconnection?cid=gen_sign_in
 - <https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/ctl/covid-19-student-experience-survey/>
 - Many other resources available, including a PDF from a meeting on Learning Loss held by Baruch Chairs last week if you'd like to take a look at it.
- Paid Opportunities:
 - Online Teaching Essentials (OTE) Workshop
 - Run by the CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS)
 - It focuses on best practices in online pedagogy and flexible use of online teaching resources in any modality, from fully asynchronous online to hybrid, flipped, and blended modalities.
 - \$500 stipend
 - Sign up here: <https://oteworkshop.common.gc.cuny.edu>

- CUNYGame: A learning and teaching tool about the push for open enrollment at CUNY:
<https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/cunygame/>
 - \$1,500 stipend
 - The Baruch CTL is running a summer program for those interested in contributing to the CUNYGame. You must be part of Baruch faculty to participate. You can apply here:
https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/cunygame/?page_id=1853

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

Updates:

- You are welcome to join our second **Native American Jewelry Workshop**.
- We will **create a beautiful pendant** and learn about **Indigenous art**.
- The event is going to be celebrated **in-person** on **Wednesday, May 4th at 6:00 pm** in **Room 5414 (GC)**.
- The first **20 students** who register **before April 30th** will receive a **kit with materials**. SPACES are still AVAILABLE
- **REGISTER HERE:** <https://forms.gle/h5mSHcdMcpAsycd8>
- Budget for the event:
 - \$250 for materials (i.g. beads, threads, scissors, etc.)
 - \$100-150 for refreshments and beverages
 - Total cost: \$400 aprox.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Britt Munro)

Updates: - Planning opening event for the library + maybe some ongoing events in collaboration with the public lab. Still need people back in the library! Refused longer opening hours because not enough folk in there.

- New books coming to Mina Rees courtesy of PoCo studies group and the DGSC! Yay!
- Printing out the mental health materials this week!

- Bringing a list of concerns to IT so another call out if people have things they want to bring up etc.
- Ideas for where to set up a student Zoom area? We had initially thought about the cafeteria space but not going to work (testing clinic). Might try a permanent zoom classroom.

V. New Business

A. Budget Proposal for FY 2022-2023

AK (History): At the April plenary the business officer proposes a budget to move us through the summer. In column E is our budget for this year. We have US \$601, 000. I have to adjust the proposed budget for next year. We are expecting a rise in enrollment again. This budget cannot count any carryover.

B. Grants Committee Proposed Bylaws Amendment

Katherine Anderson (Biology): Presents the grants committee bylaws and the committee's attempt to make grants

funding a bit more flexible, so that projects can be funded throughout the summer.

VI. Announcements

Daniela Verdejo (recent grad from MALS program): I'm concerned about commencement. I was told that Masters students wouldn't be able to fully participate in the ceremony. We don't get recognition, we don't get our names mentioned. There has been almost no information from the student office as to what to expect as Masters students. This is preposterous because we pay out of pocket, we don't get any grants, fellowships. I know so many masters students who are so excited about this. Also, the event will not require any vaccinations or mask, so it will be a superspreader event. I wanted to bring this up because this event costs \$210 for masters students. Many students will make travel arrangements for them and their families. Can the DGSC help me reach out to other Masters students for us?

DL: Thanks for raising this. I wasn't aware of this. I will email the office of student affairs, and cc you. We can loop in other Masters students if the responses are not satisfactory.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.