# **DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE STUDENTS' COUNCIL**



The Graduate Center, CUNY
Robert E. Gilleece Student Center I Suite 5495
212.817.7888
dgsc@cunydgsc.org

# Plenary ELECT *Minutes*May 20, 2022

# LINK TO SHARED PRESENTATION SLIDE DECK

# Meeting called to order at 4:32PM

# I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Zhuo Yin (Physics) Seconded: Silvia Rivera (LAILAC) Vote: Approved unanimously

## II. Orientation to the DGSC

#### A. DGSC Structure

Sharanya Dutta (English) presents on the DGSC Structure (See Slide Deck)

## **B. CUNY Power Map**

Adam Kocurek (History) presents on the CUNY Power Map (See Slide Deck)

#### Discussion:

KRG (Biology): Can you please expand on the should be elected positions?

AK: Program Executive Committee, Election Committee, all programs have these committees that should be elected. However, if you are in a program and there are not elections held, then your program may not be in compliance and may be skirting these duties and may instead be appointing faculty or students in these positions.

ZY: I have never heard of this in my program.

AK: Then it is likely your program is not in compliance.

## C. Robert's Rules of Order

Debbie Leter (Anthropology) presents on Robert's Rules (See Slide Deck)

## Discussion:

EC: I'd like to make a comment on that description of Robert's Rules. I take exception with one thing
you said. You suggested that Robert's Rules are a tool of equity to ensure fair debate and equal voice.

Really, they're a tool of organizing and making an efficient, less chaotic debate. The rules do promise you rights. Once you're on the floor you can't be interrupted or attacked. You can break these rules. You can motion to suspend the rules (speaking time, for example).

- RH: I wanted to thank Ed for his comments. At the DGSC we generally have respectful and amiable meetings. We use Robert's Rules as a guide. We don't follow it strictly in terms of language/actions. It's a guide to facilitate the smooth running of our meetings. We make sure that Robert's Rules serve us rather than force us to do some kind of uncomfortable procedure that might not feel right to us.
- AK: Chat is not preserved in the minutes.

## D. Title IX Training

Sharanya Dutta (English) explains that online SPARC training is mandatory for all representatives.

Discussion:

#### III. Elections

#### A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs

Sharanya Dutta (English) explains the role of Co-Chair for Student Affairs.

Nominations for Co-Chair for Student Affairs:

Jonathan Hanon nominates Silvia Rivera Alfaro, Silvia accepts

Jonathan Hanon motions to close nominations Zhuo Yin seconds Motion approved unanimously

Vote:

Silvia is elected by unanimous consent

#### **B.** Co-Chair for Communications

Deborah Leter (Anthropology) explains the role of Co-Chair for Communications.

#### Discussion:

RH: I wanted to add a couple of things since I served in this position for a couple of years. Once you're elected to a position, you inherit a lot of information and tools used previously, so you don't start from scratch. You

have draft frameworks for emails. We use Google Suite so you have access to emails sent previously. A lot of knowledge in that drive. You get an orientation document once you are elected to that position. And then you have former steering members who are always there to offer support. I know these roles might seem overwhelming, but there is a lot of thought gone into making sure that reps are prepared to take on these roles and we have a long history of passing along this information and supporting as we move along.

RH: If there's no contest happening, you can say "Does anyone object to this person's election?" If nobody objects, we all consent to that. It's not quite the same as we all vote for the person, but that we consent to their election. Traditionally, existing DGSC steering representatives have taken Co-Chair positions. It's very common that new DGSC Representatives take on Steering Officer roles, and these are less of a steep learning curve.

XJ (Physics): Curious, are we planning on having in-person meetings any time soon?

AK: Current infection rate in NYC is 14%. People are burnt out and skittish (rightfully so). That is totally up for negotiation next year. I'd like DGSC to return to more in-person activities, but it's ultimately a decision up to the body.

ALG: An introduction and a small Q&A would be important things to employ. I'm wondering if we could maybe institutionalize that. Second, I saw someone say that when they nominate someone, provide an explanation for why you're nominating them. I wonder if that's something we could put into place as well.

Nominations for Co-Chair for Communications:

Deborah Leter nominates Christopher Campbell, Christopher accepts.

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations Jonathan Hanon seconds Motion approved unanimously

Vote:

Christopher is elected by unanimous consent

#### C. Co-Chair for Business

Adam Kocurek (History) explains the role of Co-Chair for Business.

Nominations for Co-Chair for Business:

Sharanya Dutta nominates Jonathan Hanon, Jonathan accepts.

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations Zhuo Yin seconds Motion approved unanimously

Vote:

Jonathan is elected by unanimous consent

# D. University Student Senate Delegate

Jonathan Hanon (Computer Science) explains the role of the USS Delegate.

Nominations for USS Delegate:

Zhuo Yin nominates Alex Jiang, Alex accepts. Jonathan Hanon nominates Daniel Okpattah, Daniel accepts.

Jonathan Hanon motions to close nominations Zhuo Yin seconds Motion approved unanimously

Vote:

Alex is elected.

# E. University Faculty Senate Liaison

Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic (Sociology) explains the role of UFS Liaison.

Nominations for UFS Liaison:

Silvia Rivera Alfaro nominates Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic, Parisa accepts.

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations Jonathan Hanon seconds Motion approved unanimously Vote:

Parisa is elected by unanimous consent

# F. At-large Steering officers (6 vacancies)

AK (History) explains the responsibilities of six Steering Officer roles.

Nominations for At-Large Steering Officer:

Jonathan Hanon nominates Katherine Rivera Gomez, Katherine accepts
Daniel Okpattah nominates himself and accepts
Daniel Okpattah nominates David Amoh-Boateng, David accepts
Silvia Rivera Alfaro nominates Natalia Lara Gonzalez, Natalia accepts
Alex Xiaole Jiang nominates Itsue Nakaya Perez, Itsue accepts
Sayantika Mondal self-nominates and accepts
Amour Castillo nominates Ian Williams, Ian accepts
Jonathan Hanon nominates Angela LaScala-Gruenewald, Angela accepts

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations
Jonathan Hanon seconds
Motion approved unanimously

*Vote:* The following representatives were elected by majority vote:

Katherine Rivera Gomez
Daniel Okpattah
Natalia Lara Gonzalez
Sayantika Mondal
Ian Williams
Angela LaScala-Gruenewald

# IV. Ratification of Elected Officers

Sharanya Dutta moves to ratify the new officers Debbie Leter seconds the motion. Motion approved unanimously

AK (History) administers the oath of office to the elected officers.

#### V. Election to External Committees

# A. University Student Senate Alternate (1 vacancy)

Silvia Rivera Alfaro nominates Zhuo Yin, Zhuo accepts

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations
Jonathan Hanon seconds
Motion approved unanimously

Zhuo is elected by unanimous consent

## **B.** Student Technology Fee (3 vacancies, 2 alternates)

Jonathan Hanon self-nominates
Sharanya Dutta nominates Itsue Nakaya Perez, Itsue declines
Zhuo Yin nominates David Amoh-Boateng, David accepts
Ian Williams self-nominates
Silvia Rivera Alfero nominates Silas Grossberndt, Silas accepts as alternate
Adam Kocurek self-nominates as alternate

Zhuo Yin motions to close nominations
Jonathan Hanon seconds
Motion approved unanimously

Jonathan, David, Ian (Members), Silas, and Adam (Alternates) are elected by unanimous consent

## C. Auxiliary Enterprise Board (2 vacancies)

Discussion:

Ian Williams: What exactly is the Auxiliary Enterprise?

Adam Kocurek: It's basically anything outside of GC standard practices, like a sizable external grant, which would need counsel on how to use the funds. Flexible and infrequently meets.

Rod Hurley: It also manages money for renting out space, such as to private companies, the money made by the cafeteria, all of this was managed by the AEB.

Alex Xiaole Jiang: Can we have a say in the cafeteria, running it on our own?

Adam Kocurek: Most likely not, you can bring it up at Executive Committee meetings, we meet with President and Provost every few months. While we make some money from cafeteria, it barely covered it own costs. The true money from AEB was to sell the Segal Auditorium. We have an active say in vendors, but it is not something admin would like to delegate to us. It's also not one of the rooms under our purview.

Alex Xiaole Jiang self-nominates
Ian Williams self-nominates
Silvia Rivera Alfaro nominates Itsue Nakaya Perez, Itsue declines

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations
Jonathan Hanon seconds
Motion approved unanimously

Alex and Ian are elected by unanimous consent

# **D.** College Association (3 vacancies)

Itsue Nakaya Perez (Philosophy) self-nominates Hadley Newton (Art History) self-nominates Alex Xiaole Jiang (Physics) self-nominates Sayantika Mondal (Mathematics) self-nominates Alex withdraws his nomination

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations Silvia Rivera Alfaro seconds Motion approved unanimously

Itsue, Hadley, and Sayantika are elected by unanimous consent

# E. DGSC Childcare Center Representative (1 vacancy)

Jonathan Hanon nominates Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic, Parisa accepts

Sharanya Dutta motions to close nominations Silvia Rivera Alfaro seconds Motion approved unanimously

Parisa is elected by unanimous consent

# F. Advocate Advisory Board (1 vacancy)

Adam Kocurek self-nominates

Adam Kocurek motions to close nominations Zhuo Yin seconds Motion approved unanimously

Adam is elected by unanimous consent

# VI. Solicitation of Committee Members for DGSC Standing Committees

AK (History) explains the DGSC committees.

- A. Constitution & Bylaws
- B. Grants
- C. Health & Wellness
- D. Outreach
- E. Student Services
- F. USS Advisory Committee
- G. Governance Task Force

Michael Williams (Psychology): Definitely interested

Amour Castillo (Psychology): Interested in serving on a committee with Michael

Representatives interested in any of these committees can sign up here: Committee Signup Google Doc

RH: This is an opportunity for us to tell people about the committees and sign up later.

SD: There's some confusion about whether this is Google Forms (anonymous). There was some concern that things can get removed, obviously not on purpose. Debbie said she would decide, and send out an email tomorrow with information about the committees to refresh your memory.

#### VII. Announcements

If you do not have a Works account please be sure to create one: <a href="http://cunydsc.org/works/">http://cunydsc.org/works/</a>. It is the primary means by which communication will be sent to you. It will also be needed for check requests, proxy requests, and room reservations.

## VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM