



DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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

Plenary Meeting

Minutes

September 23rd, 2022

4:30PM

Meeting Chair: Jonathan Hanon
Minutes: Angela LaScala-Gruenewald
Minutes Assist: Christopher Campbell
Display: Silvia Rivera Alfaro
Time Keeper: Katherine Rivera Gomez
Attendance: Ian Williams

Attendance

Present: Christine Weinbaum (CW), Justice Evans (JE), Debbie Leter (DL), Jonathan Hanon (JH), Ian Williams (IW), Itsue Nakaya (IN), Edward Charnley (EC), Hadley Newton (HN), Adam Kocurek (AK), Pablo Yaneklevich (PY), Astrid Wik Hallaraaker (AWH), Robert Wrigley (RW), Cassandra Barnes (CB), Katherine Rivera Gomez (KRG), Sam O'Hana (SO), Yzaa Sedrati (YS), Angela LaScala-Gruenewald (ALG), Christopher Campbell (CC), Carla Silva (CS), Zara Khan (ZK), Zhuo Yin (ZY), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Katherine Anderson (KA), Roderick Hurley (RH), Yassin Chandran (YC), Michael Williams (MW), Amour Castillo (AC), Mounir Kekhida (MK), Silas Grossberndt (SG), Alex Jiang (AJ)

Absent: Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic, Daniel Okpattah, Eva Steinberg, Aurash Khawarзад, Chapman Lindgren, Abhipsa Shatarupa, Bryce Barthuly, Jasmin Pathan

Guest Speaker: Daniela Verdejo Salazar (DVS), COVID-19 Campus Coordinator

DVS: I want to hear your concerns about COVID opening. We had a good meeting with the Co-Chairs this week and discussed language for sharing COVID news with the student body. I want to check in with all of you for feedback.

Adam Kourek (AK, History): Thank you for your role and what you do. I have a concern as do other students that the Cleared4 app on ipads downstairs will say they're not registered. Sometimes it's not working even though the student is registered. What's up with that? And also when will we return to IDs? Or will it always remain for visitors? Now with over 98% of people.

Edward C (EC, History): Can I now second that today I spent 30 minutes waiting for my internet to work to get me in. I feel like we are moving towards an Orwellian situation.

DVS: For now, we are waiting until spring to reassess. We have to deal with requirements from Central and we work within those parameters. For Cleared4 I will pass this information to the folks in charge of ipads. There are things outside of my control when it has to do with technology. Cleared4 is about COVID status, IDs are about your student information, so they are different systems sharing different things. Cleared4 can cover both statuses but also that you have complied with testing, vaccinations, etc...

Edward C (History): I never needed ID to get into the building.

Whole Public Body Starts Speaking: You could not get past the podium elevator to get into the building...[debate and discussion about this protocol]

DVS: If you are Cleared4, it says both you are cleared for entrance by way of COVID protocols and a student. They can also ask for Student IDs at any point.

Rod Hurley (Psychology): I work at other campuses that don't require cleared4.

DVS: yes those are places where Cleared4 is used, but it's connected to your student ID, hence why you swipe your card to get access to buildings on most campuses.

EC: Can you clarify the scope of your role?

Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SR) (LAILAC): Also who we should speak to, if it's not you, could you provide contact information.

DVS: I am the liaison between the administration and the administrative policies that come from CUNY Central. A group that concerns COVID-19 and students as well as HR. I work with John Flaherty, head of Security, about who can and can't get into the GC.

Jonathan Hanon (JH) (Computer Science): At other CUNY campuses they have ids that work with turnstyles and digital locks. Those digital ids are integrated with the cleared4 system. This won't only solve an issue of what happens if an individual is not vaccinated, but we also have issues on this campus like when an individual no longer works in an office, we don't have a way to figure out if their keys have been reclaimed. We need to secure a lot of these offices, and grant access to individuals without having to go through the campus safety office.

DVS: It's my job to activate the account and grant you access back to the graduate center. Access, offices of employment, those questions are for John Flaherty.

Zhuo Yin (ZY) (Physics): University Provost Wendy Hensel could not enter the Graduate Center. Can you explain how they could enter CUNY Central and not the Graduate Center. Why are the changes in policies not synchronized?

JH: University Provost didn't have Cleared4 on their phone because CUNY Central uses digital scan IDs to check for vaccination status, and also doesn't have Excelsior pass because they are not from NYS, so they needed to dig through their records for another record of vaccination.

DVS: We are coordinated with CUNY Central on all announcements.

EC: We are hopelessly fiscally overextended according to a recent Gothamist article about building disrepairs. Why are we paying for this role and department now COVID is not as intense?

DVS: This role is carried over from the pandemic. Department was started during pandemic.

EC: Are these people brought from other departments or are they new hires? Have we re-budgeted? Are we using resources we already have or have we budgeted?

DVS: No these are people running this from their original role. [Provides example.] We wear many hats within one role.

Astrid from Political Science: aRe you planning on doing any work to gather our opinion on the development of this for the spring during the fall. My experience is you have not had an open meeting or survey.

DVS: This is not the type of thing we do. Directions and policies come from CUNY Central. There are many city and state regulations CUNY might follow that might go against our wishes.

What I am doing right now is not being done by other campuses. I am doing it because I want your feedback and I want to see what you need clarified.

Astrid: I am interested in having some influence in the spring. If you are a liaison, you are communicating with us from the administration, but I assume you could also share our information with them.

DVS: What central says goes. Unfortunately all I can do is convey those ideas. And all central will do is “shake their head and say okay duly noted.” I’ve done this several times. And they just take it into consideration. But that’s all I can do. My goal now after this meeting is to talk to my supervisor about what I learned here, and then my supervisor tells the GC President.

Astrid: Yes, but maybe you could do an open meeting later in the fall and get a number of students’ opinions.

DVS: Yes absolutely. You could also survey your program.

EC: Sadly, CUNY Central makes all the decisions and we have no influence.

DVS: I was not sent out, but I offered to meet with you.

EC: Right, but your boss didn’t agree with your attending.

DVS: No, I was a student here and I had the idea that I want to hear what the students say. I was a student myself and wanted to put myself in a position to hear the student view. It’s not like the VP doesn’t care, it’s just the initiative came from me and he agreed for me to attend...a lot of this is admittedly above my paygrade and all I can do is act as a liaison.

SR (LAILAC): I want to bring into our conversation that if they do not listen to us, we can escalate through different types of actions. I want to say this to descalate anxieties. We are all worried about coming back to campus.

Christopher Campbell (CC) (Comparative Literature): I have a follow up. You are here to take feedback, oral feedback, but is there anything that can be done from the quantitative end? Like a survey?

DVS: So what we are going to do as a result of the meeting with Co-Chairs earlier this week is we will return to sending weekly briefs with all the COVID information to students. We are debating whether students should subscribe to it or not. We will provide numbers and every single update we have as a GC community. That’ll be a good channel for us to share information.

In terms of surveys, that's a great idea and I will run it by Brian, John and others involved. Determine if it is a weekly thing or something for the website.

Ian Williams (IW) (Social Welfare): What do you think is the future of testing services available? I know they are starting to charge in other places and so it's nice to know there's free of charge testing.

DVS: That is going to run until the end of the academic year. That includes everything, the pass, the testing, everything that involves cleared4. That will run until June 2023. If you want to test daily [didn't hear]. CUNY members who have an exception in place have to test weekly. Because they're not vaccinated, they have to test weekly. If they don't test weekly they will lose access to the building. That will be the policy until June 2023. What happens after that, I wish I could tell you. They will reassess testing. How often do you have to test? How often the random testing cycle work? That will run until January in the Spring semester [did I hear this right?]

Cassandra Barnes (CB) (Anthropology): Keeping in mind this question about testing. I know if you test positive your access is restricted. If you test outside the GC I know you are also supposed to report. In my department specifically, that info is not always given. And there are also students who tested positive and did not report to class constituents or department or GC so it went in their cleared4.

DVS: Yes, absolutely. It's very hard to make people report a positive test. It's become much harder in person. To give you an example, we had someone test positive every day during summer institute and they kept coming to campus but the problem is they exposed everyone in the building. One thing we want to put in the brief is please report a positive case. It will help for several purposes—keep everyone safe. This week we had 9 positive cases, is it accurate, not really? Lots of people might have tested positive outside CUNY. Across CUNY we have 250 cases, those include self reported. We are working on a printed and digital campaign to try and get more folks to report.

EC: We have 250 positive campuses in one week?

DVS: Yes

EC: Across a week what's the percentage?

DVS: At CUNY we are roughly 270,000 students and people.

EC: Okay seems like it's working.

DVS: Yes seems like testing works and gives us an idea of how many people are testing positive week over week. But not everything gets reported and it's our job to make that clearer. They don't have a responsibility just to themselves but to our community to stop attending campus and let GC know you are positive.

Mimi (History): I noticed there was a testing center in the cafe in the lobby. I didn't see that announced anywhere.

DVS: The testing site is open to everyone. You can test at any CUNY campus. Regardless of your affiliation as long as you are a CUNY student or

Mimi: So every campus has a testing site?

DVS: Yes, it is per and turns them around in about 24 hours.

Meeting called to order at 5:20 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Zhuo Yin (Physics)

Seconded: Adam

Any amendments? SR (LAILAC) makes motion to amend to discuss budget first in today's plenary and chartering of two new groups

Seconded: Zhuo

Vote: unanimous with amendment

II. Approval of the Minutes of the 20 May 2022 Meeting

Motion to Approve: EC (History)

Seconded: Silas (Physics)

Vote: unanimous

III. Executive Committee Reports

Amended meeting start with Budget Review and Approval:

Co-Chair of Business (Jonathan Hanon) reviews budget

JH: We will start with a review of the budget. We have less money to use than last year because of the decrease in enrollment. We will have a little less to use than last year. Where are the funds going? [reviews text on budget spreadsheet]

SR: We are reaching out for advisement before bringing it hear.

RH: Thank you. I have other questions. I want to ask about why movie ticket line remains at \$0.

JH: It turns out we have a service called id.me that will give exact same discount.

RH: That's great. Can we let students know?

JH: Yes. We have a plan.

RH: We have three editors for the advocate? I am just concerned and wondering how we justified three editors for a newspaper that hasn't put out anything for two to three years. Why have we kept paying them?

JH: In our bylaws it stipulates that the Advocate has three editors and they get paid by issue. If the advocate doesn't publish, the editors do not get paid.

RH: We need to do a better job at advertising it.

SR: As a direct response, we have been meeting with affiliates to check in on how they are, where they are, what happened during the pandemic. It is part of bylaws so it is a process to remove an editor.

JH: We can amend it without a referendum.

EC: I know this has been a consistently controversial aspect of the budget. Students should get subsidized or free childcare. We pay \$10K. Do we know what percent of the budget that is?

JH: We don't.

EC: If we need to contribute to gain access, but we have no info about how much we use it vis-a-vis other people. I know we have to provide some percent of budget. But what percent of the budget to we pay and what percent do we actually use of the Childcare Center?

JH: Based on GC budget, we are the only place that receives 100% of student activities fees. Anything else on this?

RH: Those student governments voted for referendums to earmark some of the student activity funds. I think this is a really important thing that we do. We actually have a DGSC member who is a rep and liaison to the childcare/learning development center. We usually have a representative that reports back to us. They tell us exactly what the money is being used for down to the dollar. We just need to make sure we elect a representative to the child learning and development center. That person attends meetings and reports back to us with those details.

JH: We do have a representative it is Parisa but Parisa is not here today to respond to that.

SR: We never had a report in the last three years. First because the childcare center is closed, there is no report. It would be good for us to get back that practice. And there are different conversations we need to h

RH: That money is not really to run the childcare center or pay for staff. It buys books, toys. It makes sure the kids that go there have a good experience and that the parents who leave their kids there feel comfortable doing so. Supplies, everything they need to make it a good experience for the kids.

Angela LaScala-Gruenewald (ALG) (Sociology): It's strange a student fee goes to a childcare center. It would be really good to figure out what we're required to give, how we came up with 10k in the first place isn't exactly clear to me.

JH: Definitely something to clarify.

ALG: Ways that we could advocate for the administration to do better with the childcare center. I just don't understand what it means for the quality output of the childcare center.

RH: We used the money at the time to ensure good services, historically that was the DGSC's choice. We can make changes now to the budget in a way that seems reasonable to us.

SR: To clarify, as co-chair for student affairs and former officer of health and wellness. This student is on the basis of solidarity. Especially thinking of gender equity when it comes to studying. Especially also international students who might struggle to find childcare. It is very important for students to have access. I also want to say our two affiliates, AP and Advocate, are supposed to support students. We need to take care of these projects. If you want to learn more about this budget and these projects, we are here to discuss this.

Mike Williams (MW): Are there mechanisms for reporting from the things we're paying into?

JH: AP and Advocate have affiliate reports as accountability. If they do not provide the affiliate reports they are in violation of the DGSC agreement. For the childcare center that's an excellent point, we do not have enough accountability for those funds.

EC: Can we go back to this pie chart? Where is the AP in this?

JH: Student activities and services. Most goes to stipends, and we are thinking about this more and whether it makes sense to provide funding.

EC (History): What does the Adjunct Project do?

LSG: Are there any situations where we put money in. What can they tell us back?

Motion to move into Executive Session for purposes of litigation: SR (LAILAC)

Second: Zhuo Yin

Vote: unanimous

The Plenary went into Executive Session at 5:53 pm.

Motion Reg Session: Silvia

Seconded ZY

Vote: unanimous

The Plenary returned to Public Session at 6:08 pm.

Issue Nakaya Perez (INP): Are we supposed to know what everything means? I'm a first year.

JH: No you are not supposed to know. It would take hours to explain. You can write to me with any questions

Amour Castillo (Clinical Psychology): What is described in the powerpoint?

Sivlia: Also you can write to us and/or attend out office hours?

Motion: AK: Amend agenda to move chartered organization prior to Officer Reports

Second: ZY (Physics)

Vote: unanimous

Silvia: We are presenting two organizations for potential chartering. Please turn to the paper you have. The first organization is Cuban Studies Group. [takes us through the material]

AK: This looks like a good proposal.

Silvia: Yes, it serves a specific and new need.

RH (Psychology): Is any member from the organization here? Is there a reason for that?

Silvia: I invited them but... first of all the bylaws didn't say that so I didn't know. And they were not available to come at this time on Friday.

Motion to Charter Cuban Studies Group: Silvia

Second: Rod

Vote: unanimous

Silvia: Second one is for the Antro Film Club Chartered Organization. We have been talking about this with another organization that works with Cinema Studies. It is different than what they are looking to do.

Izza: Hi everyone, we started this for anthropologists to examine ethnographic films. It can be used as a visual method of research that can apply to many research methods. It is different than Cinema Studies because it is anthropology oriented. That's what we want to focus on.

Debbie (Anthropology): Our format is unique. We meet twice a month and talk about films and analyze them after. For students across the GC, no fancy speakers, community building.

Izza: We did invite some folks to join us in conversation as guests, but it's a different dynamic—informal and not about lecturing—it is about community building across GC.

Silvia: Discussion?

Katherine Rivera Gomez (KRG) (Biology): How do you all promote it?

Izza: At first we were very shy and did not know how to make it work. But as a chartered organization, we would use the DGSC listserv and make posters.

Debbie: In the past we only shared with anthropology, but now we will share GC wide.

Ian (Social Welfare): I was wondering about how you started this and original purpose?

Debbie: We started last semester, it was very informal but people stayed quite late. We decided it would be nice to fund some food and promote it further.

Izza: Yes, and pay to rent movies.

Chris: Where do you do these films?

Debbie: Here!

Motion to charter: Ron Hurley (Psychology)

Second: Chris

Vote: unanimous

Carla Silva (Social Welfare): I came across food studies charter group – how do I find out if groups are active?

JH: This will be shared in the reports.

Alex (Physics): What's a charter org?

JH: This will be explained in Silvia's report.

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Silvia Rivera Alfaro)

Updates:

OSA updates:

-The most important point in this report: **SPARC training deadline is October 15th**

Please check your Blackboard for the SPARC and ESPARC notifications. If you have any issue finding it, please email Eric Brown in the OSA at

ebrown2@gc.cuny.edu.

-We have our first annual meeting with the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) this week. We are working on a more coordinated action for the DGSC and the OSA to meet student needs in our current transition time into in-person. Some of the main topics we discussed were: a) The status of the cafeteria: the administration is working on finding new vendors, but there are difficulties. We mentioned our idea of having a campaign for the cafeteria and the administration agrees on the importance of such an action. b) Coordinating actions for improving coming back to in-person.

Affiliates updates:

-On the DGSC Affiliates, we will be opening 3 positions for the Adjunct Project, 1 position for OpenCUNY and 1 position for The Advocate.

Chartered Organizations updates:

-We currently have 23 active organizations active, 10 working on reactivations (thought some already are having events and should could as active) :

1. Africa Research Group (ARG)
2. American Studies Area Group
3. Arab Crossroads
4. Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)
5. Cinema Studies Group (CSG)
6. Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Group (CANES)
7. Colombian Studies Group
8. Critical Palestine Studies Association
9. CUNY Internationalist Marxist Club
10. CUNYSciCom
11. GC Students for Disability, Health, and Wellness
12. Immigration Working Group
13. Jewish Connection Group
14. Korean Students Association (KSA)
15. Mesamerican Studies Group
16. Mexican Studies Group
17. Pearl Kibre Medieval Study
18. Postcolonial Studies Group (PSG)
19. Space Time Research Collective
20. Students of the State (SOS)
21. Taiwanese Students Organization (TSO)
22. Text Textile Texture (3Text) Studio
23. Twentieth Century Area Studies Group

-Working on reactivation:

24. AELLA (Latino and Latin-American Students Association)
25. Dominican Studies Group
26. Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group (EMIG)
27. Mentoring Future Faculty of Color Group (MFFC)
28. Thought Club
29. Women of Color Network*
30. Ecocriticism Working Group
31. Feminist Studies Group (FSG)
32. GC Poetics Group - a student wants to revitalize it
33. Middle Eastern Studies Organization (MESO)

-On the 09/09 Steering meeting we voted a motion to decharter 17 organizations that didn't have active status for more than 3 semesters. I sent an official notification to the last known leaders and, if they have not responded within a month I will announce the organizations publicly during 2 weeks in case someone is willing to take the lead on them. This is the procedure stated by our bylaws.

- Due to Works being off, I have not yet opened the list for signatures.

Cafeteria:

We would like to propose having a collective campaign for putting the cafeteria in the top priorities of the administration.

Motion: SR (LAILAC) Motion for DGSC to launch collective campaign to open cafeteria

Seconded: Alex (Physics)

JH: Discussion?

AK: What do you imagine for this campaign? Or are there updates to come?

SR: We are still sketching this out and making choices about how we will do it.

DL: What do you all think about getting faculty onboard? I know they are upset its shut down.

SR: Actually during new student orientation, faculty member there, Van Tran, mentioned the cafeteria as a central thing for building community.

DL: Would this campaign include coffee shop?

JH: It's debatable because some issues around how downstairs is used. It's currently a covid testing center. They are trying to set up a new space though - move testing site into old coffee shop or nearby room and re-open coffee space as the cafeteria, but with vending machines.

CC: Brian also mentioned there would be extended vending machine options?

Katie Anderson (KA) (Biology): What happened to BRAINY as a charter org? It wasn't on the list you showed.

SR: BRAINY was not there, no?

JH: It's not active?

SR: Let me check.

JH: I am checking now. It doesn't show up on list b/c it's such a new organization. If we look on that list, there are some new orgs on there...it may not have been properly updated. Everything is good with it though.

CC: Also to point out there will be QR codes added to flyers?

JH: Do we want a dedicated campaign for the

Amour Castillo (AC) (Critical Psychology): I'm down to do a task force. There are gonna be lots of questions and a lot to discuss. I am down to do it too and be on it.

Alex (Physics): I think the cafeteria is something we could really make an impact on. I don't have experience with running a task force. How efficient is it to do a task force or plenary?

Motion to end discussion: EC

Seconded: CC

Vote: unanimous

Returning to vote for original motion

Vote: unanimous for original vote.

AK: Can we delegate this via email and set up a task force? Can Co-Chairs do this?

JH: Yes.

AK: Let's do that to save time.

Silas Grossburn (Physics): I tried to use SPARC this morning and it does not work? And then it gave me credit for completing it. Graded it as 100% completed.

AK: We should email someone to fix it.

SG: But is important just in case they don't record me completing it. I wanted to raise it as a potential thing to watch out for down the line.

SR: I'll follow up with CUNY.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Christopher Campbell)

Updates:

- The DGSC website is in its final stages of transition from old to new. This year's and last year's co-chairs met with our web developer to discuss the last particularities of the website this past Wednesday. If all goes well, the new website should be up and running by the end of next week. That said, some of the workflow we're used to Works allowing has been paused since the beginning of the semester: check requests, room reservations, and grants. Most of this has been done manually by steering since then.
 - Please direct any questions about the new website to us. Also, please be aware that everyone will need to use new login credentials/you'll need to reset your password once the new website is launched.
- The DGSC Executive Committee is scheduled to meet with the President, Provost, and Assistant Provost of the Graduate Center on October 26th, 2022. As we get closer to that date, I'd like to source questions and concerns from both steering and plenary that we can bring up during that meeting.

- A number of GC students on fellowship are still waiting for their stipend refunds. According to the Bursar Office, about 180 international students should have received their stipends. If you have not received your stipend refund, please contact me so that I can join you in reaching out to Fin Aid and Bursar. That said, the next date for stipend disbursal is 6 October 2022.
- Zhuo Yin has been in touch with me to discuss on-time payments for the Sciences programs, particularly for the Biology Dept. We'd like to conduct a survey within the Biology Dept. I know that last year me, Debbie Leter, and Katie Anderson were discussing a past Biology Dept. survey and potentially putting out a new one, but this did not come to fruition. Zhuo, we can have this discussion during the discussion component of my report. I think Plenary would love to hear about the centralized payment system resolution as well.
- In-person meetings. There will be no virtual option until the board of trustees passes an amendment detailing who is eligible for virtual attendance. This might not happen until the end of October, at least. DGSC meetings will be in person until further notice. This is required by the NY State Open Meetings Law, which requires public bodies to hold their meetings, well, in public.
- Inma, the DGSC's social media coordinator, has been working out the details of a GC housing instagram. Instead of just having our listserv as a place to tell people about apartment/look for apartments, we'll have an instagram account that Gc students can submit photos, details, etc. to. I need to discuss any liability issues with counsel before determining if this is a go-ahead, but we think this will be an excellent resource for GC students, particularly international students.

Discussion:

C. Co-Chair for Business (Jonathan Hanon)

Updates:

- Budget and Expenditures
 - Program Allocations, Chartered Organisation Funds, Grant Funds, or any other funds through the DGSC cannot be accessed until we approve the budget (please tell me we have a quorum)
 - Because our budget is now processed by CUNY Central, we are being kept under a magnifying glass in terms of expenditures. Please remember to use the Tax Exempt Form, because sales tax cannot be reimbursed.
 - The GC Business Office is severely understaffed, as Anna Metrevelli and many others have recently left the GC, so we are currently at a hard point.

- CUNY Central's new CUNYBuy portal is entirely ineffective, and we have not heard any information regarding onboarding our new Steering.
- Please bear with me on all of this, as it is just as frustrating for me as it is for everyone else. None of this is the DGSC's fault. Do not take your frustrations out on me. I am doing everything I can.
- Honoraria / Requisition Orders
 - I am awaiting Ron Paynter to handle my forms to give me CCB access in CUNYfirst. This is required for honoraria, which are how we pay people from outside the CUNY system. We cannot process honoraria until this access is given to me, but there aren't many requests still pending.
- DGSC Services
 - Because we can use [id.me](#) as students for discounts on movie tickets for the same price as we used to get them through the DGSC, and much more, we will be discontinuing movie tickets through the DGSC.

Discussion:

AK: This sounds like a nightmare, I'm so sorry. With regards to movie tickets, we still do have vouchers, they never expired, do we want to use them to raffle them to plenary or something? What's a good way to use them? There's also checks in the movie ticket box that should be deposited?

JH: Okay we can talk about that privately. Any other questions?

KRG (Biology): When we spoke to OSA they were wondering if we would charge for yoga classes? Can we charge for things? Because if that's a way to make a budget larger and we can make events happen in person?

JH: I hate to do this, but we might have to.

AK: Have we done this before? Not as far as I know?

RH: I don't think that's fair to students. We should cut back our giving. I wanted to ask about CUNYFirst access? It seems like they are giving you more work now. Work that should be done by the administration. I don't think that's your job. Should we discuss this as a plenary before we add this to your role?

JH: Yes, year after year there's so much more work for Co-Chair for Biz role. There's no way this should be part of my role. Submitting everything ourselves, when it comes to onboarding,

when it comes to accounting. A student government officer shouldn't have to do this. It creates an imbalance for what a Co-Chair of Biz is responsible for.

RH: Can you maybe push back before doing this and taking on this other task? This would be my recommendation. The budget is presented in one month and then voted on the following month. But we are free to bring changes during the one month and ask questions/clarifications.

AK: Responding to some of RH's points. I did do some of these extra tasks as a Co-Chair for Business, but it's even worse now. We should definitely discuss this as a plenary before the Co-Chairs meet with Provost, etc.

JH: Yes, with all these roadblocks, it's being made artificially difficult for us to access our own funds.

Hadley Newton (Art History): For my own program, I already have a few check requests, can DGSCWorks be used to submit those?

JH: It can be submitted and signed off on, but I can't ask the Business Office to disperse the funds until we vote on the budget.

Justice (Criminal Justice): The Criminal Justice Program is housed at John Jay and has a Masters Program that's not at the GC. Do they fall under the DGSC?

JH: When we were discussing about Criminal Justice Computer Lab, the Criminal Justice PhD program was requesting funds from the student tech fee for computer replacement. Who's responsible for it? It was determined that the GC would pay for it. The question, moving forward, how does the discrepancy of the CJ being situated the way it is, it has discrepancy on what you're affiliated with.

Rod: Some Psychology students are completely at CSI or John Jay or City College, that hasn't been an issue in the past. They still pay the student activity fee, so it's technically their money.

JH: The Psychology PhD program still has a central presence at the GC with its department lounge even though it has students fully based at other campuses. The Criminal Justice PhD has its facilities entirely at John Jay, and the only physical link to the GC is with administration and representation. The CJ Masters Program is not part of the GC.

CW (Philosophy): The budget requests are on the website? And I want to clarify one thing via email – you said that only a fraction of our program's allocated funds can be used.

D. University Student Senate Delegate (Alex Jiang)

Updates:

- USS Retreat
- USS nomination meeting

Discussion:

JH: If anyone wants the notes on food insecurity, housing insecurity, and vendor contracts from the meeting with the Chancellor, I have two pages from that meeting and would be happy to share them with anyone. We hosted the USS Plenary at the GC and we are excited to host again.

AC: We were just talking about something we wanted to escalate. Can you escalate open

It's not up to the Provost. They're looking at it. That's my recollection.

JH: To clarify the question, are you talking about official meetings like this? Even if they pass that resolution, we'll still likely be required to have a quorum in person. Even if that resolution passes, we'll still require a quorum in person.

ZY: Payment resolution clarification. The funding structure for science students is different. One part is through teaching, the other part is through the PHD advisor. They abuse the student by intentionally not paying them on time to create a power dynamic. Chris can resend our resolution to the DGSC Plenary body so they can see what changes we intend to make.

E. University Faculty Senate Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates:

Discussion:

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- We approved our first grant of the semester
 - \$700 to Philosophy Department Students to fund Annual Conference

- Updated website content
 - As a reminder, we cannot fund:
 - Travel including airfare and hotel stays
 - Alcohol
 - Honoraria for those outside the Graduate Center will take 3-6 months to complete payments and we require a US Tax Id (TIN)
- Please submit any new grant requests by Friday, October 21 via DGSC Works: <http://cunydisc.org/works/>
- We received no new grant applications on September 16
- Next grant committee meeting canceled for September

Discussion

ALG: A couple options. 1 let's say you're trying to have someone come speak and you have an honorarium for them. We can bump the honorarium for travel expenses. Let's say you're a student organizer for a conference, you have to take the MTA up the Bronx. We can't fund that. But you can say, we're going to pay every student organizer for our conference. We're going to give them all a \$15 grubhub giftcard to cover lunch. You can say we can't pay for your subway ticket but we can pay for lunch. Email me and I can give you some ideas for workarounds.

EC: So much of our meeting today has been about us trying to meet costs without enough money. In 2019, before the pandemic began, Chancellor Rodriguez, his salary was \$670,000 per year. It's now \$745,000. There's an additional housing stipend. While most adjuncts hemorrhage half of their wage into housing, the Chancellor does not have to pay for that at all. Did he think about this when firing 2800 adjuncts? The pandemic has accelerated the rate of distribution in our university. As a student body, we need to start putting our foot down.

JH: Not only does he have all of those thing in his pay. Recently on the board of trustees, the PSC decided to know advocate for the 2% per year increase for administration. The board of trustees voted to increase administration. The PSC is advocating for admin to get paid even more.

Mimi (History Rep): I think it was 2019, the very end of Spring. It was announced that there was going to be a new administrative department in this institution. It wasn't clear what they were going to do, but they were hiring 4 people at 250k each. It's a complete mystery, who are they, that's a lot of money for people who it's not clear what they're supposed to do. I wish someone would do an investigative report on CUNY admin and how much money they're making.

IW: Is budget matrix publicly available?

JH: Yes, it's publicly available.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ian Williams)

Updates:

- Educational Psychology does not have a representative, despite a rep being elected in Spring 2022. The former representative reached out to us about this; I shared the petition and process with him but have not heard further updates.
- Several other programs do not have representatives, because no students were nominated for elections.
- There are several new programs (Astrophysics and Nanoscience) that we are waiting on hearing back from the Office of Student Affairs about whether or not they are eligible for representation. We have reached out several times but have not yet received clarification, and will update again next month.
- We may have some more vacancies for Program representatives, given the resumed constraints on in-person Plenary sessions. This could affect our ability to make quorum. If you are a Program Representative and have concerns about your ability to regularly attend Plenary sessions, please remember that a) it is your responsibility to find a proxy and b) I am happy to speak with you about strategies for recruiting and rotating proxies.

Discussion:

AK: The meetings aren't usually this long.

Sam (Urban Ed): For vacancies, what should we do?

IW: Just email me.

KA: I've emailed a lot of APOs. It's a mixed bag. It's a good thing to try but I'm not sure how successful it will be.

AK: As someone who was OGM in person, now you can go to departments and leave flyers. We can leave leaflets now that we're back in person.

CB: Regarding the rotating proxy process, what if you don't get enough people to fill that representative?

IW: It can be anyone.

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Katherine Rivera Gomez)

Updates:

-

Discussion:

We're trying to set up yoga classes for twice a week. Monday mornings and Thursday evenings. We have two instructors coming in but they're having OSA is taking their time sending out appointments for them. Since we're more in person, I'm thinking of having puppy therapy or these sorts of things. We can find fun things to do for students. I reached out to the Wellness Center and they haven't told me that they want to start up anything yet.

D. Officer for Outreach (Natalia Lara)

Updates:

Discussion:

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Sayantika Mondal)

Updates:

- Helped Natalia with the welcome party for international students.
- Social media x housing initiative : using the DGSC social media platform to create some sort of potential housing resources.
- Planning to have semi regular board game nights (twice a month: First Friday and Third Tuesday) starting October.
- Other potential events for the semester: Paint and sip, Grocery Bingo!
- Halloween party (would like to have volunteers to help organize, reach out to me if you are interested in helping).
- Create a list of resources/ free events around the city for students.
- Discussed in Steering the issue of Off hour access to GC (revert back to pre Covid rules).

Discussion:

F. Officer for Library & Technology (Daniel Okpattah)

Updates:

Discussion:

V. New Business

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Adam Kocurek (History)

Seconded: Alex Jiang (Physics)

Voted: unanimously passed

Meeting is adjourned at 7:32PM