



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

October 21st, 2022

4:30PM

Meeting Chair: Silvia Rivera Alfaro

Minutes: Alex Jiang

Minutes Assist: Jonathan Hanon

Timekeeper: Katherine

Attendance: Ian

Attendance

Present: Christina Weinbaum (CW), Astrid Wik Hallaraaker (AWH), Eva Steinberg (ES), Zara Khan (ZK), Adam Kocurek (AK), Edward Charnley (EC), Justice Evans (JE), Hadley Newton (HN), Natalia Lara (NL), Cece Fleury (CF), Daniel Okpattah (DO), Bryce Barthuly (BB), Silas Grossberndt (SG), Katherine Anderson (KA), Katherine Rivera Gomez (KRG), Cassandra Barnes (CB), Ian Williams (IW), Jonathan Hanon (JH), Robert Wrigley (RW), Chapman Lindgren (CL), Sayantika Mondal (SM), Angela LaScala-Gruenewald (ALG), Pablo Yanekelevich (PY), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Alex Jiang (AJ), Zhuo Yin (ZY), Rajnavanar (R), Amour Castillo (AC), Roderick Hurley (RH), Christopher Campbell (CC)

Absent: Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic, Abhipsa Shatarupa, Deborah Leter, Michael Williams, Aurash Khawarзад, Shibanee Sinavagayam, Jasmin Pathan, Labanya Unni

Meeting called to order at 5:16pm

Maura Smale of the GC Library, Chief Librarian as well as Professor in ITP speaks to the Plenary.

Maura: I've worked at CUNY for 14 years at City Tech, but I have a PhD in Anthropology, I used to be an archaeologist. I was the director of the CUNY Academic Commons when I was at

City Tech. I have a great dedication to open knowledge. So I wanted to let you know what we're thinking about at the library this year, I'm glad I started in the summer because it was more quiet, but it's nice to have more folks in the library. We know the library doesn't suit all needs, like group study spaces or places to talk to others, so we're looking into that. We are looking into the construction on the C level so we can reopen more space, and we will work with GC Digital Initiatives on that, as well. We have open educational resources, fellowship, cohort starting this semester and next semester, we will send out an announcement for that. We email the EO/APO list, and we know that doesn't always get to you, so we're looking into ways to get things to you. Planning an open knowledge series on open research. Access to library and across the system. Eduroam might be coming. This will let us connect wifi at all campus, as well as at other universities. Universal access across universities. Starting a strategic planning process, we haven't had it b/c interim, need input. Some focus group and survey are potentially down the line for this planning process.

Adam, History: Question: 1) the student tech fee had some proposals last year, specifically to replace the microfilm reader, but not enough funding. Is this going forward this year? 2) Last year DGSC leaders used DGSC funds to purchase south east asian books and donated to the library, how can DGSC representatives help with these gaps, or to communicate with administration?

Maura: Budget is not yet determined. Microfilm reader is on our list. Historically, technology fee has gone to databases. Last year, the library got chargers for those who forgot their chargers at home. Laptop provisioning are coming in to library. Happy to have more proposals; also looking at donor funds. Maybe in the future we will have specific funding for specific things, i.e. a funding just for a microfilm reader. The library budget is flat, but publishers have raised their subscription fees, however it's not awful. Looking at the collection we currently have and making sure that the collection reflects student need and school offering. Old system migrated to new system so we can do more analysis (on library collection).

Jonathan, CS: Library technology fee: Last year, I spoke with Interim Chief Librarian about how a lot of tech fee is used on library databases. What can we do as DGSC or CUNY students to help the library get more funding so we can free up the tech fee funds?

Maura: tech fee funds is a one to one fund; data base also very expensive; subscription databases price goes up, but budget don't. We push for open scholarship and research, b/c there is enough money in the entire system, but it's distribution is not even. Look at database usage, and maybe cut off things are expensive and underused. Interlibrary loan can get you a lot of what you need. Conversations about cancelation will involve students if it happens.

Ed, History: Co-chairs are thousands of dollars out of pocket, b/c mechanism of reimbursement. But we have delays in the business office. Students are the most financially vulnerable. GC charges a student fee from each student. I understand that it is difficult for the library, but we can't keep on charging the students. I have been experiencing a deterioration in our funding. The school should not, cannot, and is not sustainable to keep on charging students like this.

Maura: I was at City Tech, and at Grad Council last week. I heard about concerns about reimbursement and the business office. Generally, we are interested in implementing resources that help students. So give us input as we start the strategic planning process.

Silvia, ccsa: Can you talk more about the concourse level, what is going on there, why is it close?

Maura: Prior to COVID. Concourse is funded by a CUNY wide project called CUNY 2020. The Project was proposed in ~2014, and was supposed to be completed by 2020. The funding is slow to arrive, and work started in late 2019, then covid hit. There was an open classroom, library archives were down there, and computer lab spaces. It is going to be a digital scholarship lab, a computer lab, GCDI will use it as well. Right now, we were being told that there might be another year, but now there is a water situation that affects the entire building. Parts of this building go out under 34th street, so there is a lot of water under the building. We currently have no completion date.

Cassandra Barnes Anthropology: Any awareness of what happened to the computers and printing downstairs? One of the benefits was for the additional printing site. What happened?

Maura: I will find out. Potentially we are going to be updating the equipment. It was managed by IT, there was staffing there, but IT has also had staffing contractions. We are trying to collect data on what is broken, etc. Let me know if something don't work for you.

Chris, CCC: 3-4 years ago through NY public library, tried to access NYU or Columbia library resources, at the time the request was rejected. Has the process for applying for that access changed? The new arrival section is gone, I liked it, are they coming back?

Maura: I don't remember the new arrival section. We didn't do as much ordering last year b/c of covid and other constraints. We are now ordering new books, and maybe it'll come back. NYU & Columbia: We should have access without the need of providing a reason. Check out website for the most up to date information, if its unclear or the same as before please let me know and I'll find out.

Silvia: Thank you for coming!

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve moving the budget as first item: JH

Seconded: IW

Vote: unanimous

II. Approval of the Minutes of the 23 September 2022 Meeting

Motion to Approve: Katherine, Bio

Seconded: Sayantika, Math

Vote:unanimous

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Updates:

- Cafeteria:
 - We have been asking the administration in our different meetings on this issue. At the moment there are no more updates. During the Graduate Council last Wednesday, Brian Peterson repeated that there will be installing new vending machines at the beginning of November on the 8th floor. He also suggested they are hoping to get a contract for Spring, but there is nothing clear on the subject.
 - I want to thank Rod Hurdley for taking the lead on the task force for collective action. Rod created a Google form and Chris sent it to all of you this week.
- Child Care Center: The DGSC has reached out to the OSA since last academic year with the subject of how the schedule does not accommodate the classes –sometimes the compulsory courses– of some of the student-parents. Recently a group of EOs also reached out to OSA on the subject. The Office of Student Affairs informed us that they will create a survey to better understand the needs of the students related to the center. We have not have any
- Affiliates: We have paused the hiring committees as it was asked by the representatives in the last plenary meeting. We still need to create the task force for the Adjunct Project.
- Chartered Organizations: Next Monday I will be putting out a call for the chartered organizations in dechartering process to see if they are students who are willing to take the lead of any of those organizations and to prevent the dechartering to happen. The organizations are:
 - Association for Critical Theory (ACT)
 - Collective of Critical Transport Scholars (CCTS)
 - CUNY Materials Research Society (MRS)
 - CUNY STEM Outreach
 - CUNY Women In Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
 - Frame
 - GC-ISO: GC Chapter of the International Socialist Organization
 - Global Studies Collective
 - Hunter Alliance of Cross-Disciplinary Sciences (HACS)
 - Mise en Scene
 - Prison Studies Group
 - Puerto Rican Studies Group (PRSG)
 - QUNY
 - South Asian Students and Scholars (SASS)

- SPTSA: Social and Political Theory Students Association
- Upcoming meetings:
 - Mon Oct 24th at 12:30 Meeting with The Wellness Center
 - Wed Oct 26, 12:00 p.m. Lunch with President Garrell, Provost Everett and Interim Associate Provost Varsanyi.

Announcements:

- OSA is planning a scary movie event on Oct 26th at 6:30 p.m. Room 4102
- PSC is holding a Contract Town Hall on Room 5414 on Oct 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- I have been following up on the situation of an international student who is having problems being assigned classes to teach in the Spring semester as she has a non-teaching fellowship. The reasons this student received are related to the contract. The PSC is following on the subject, and the student has been invited to be at the next PSC's labor-management meeting on November 10 at 4:15 p.m. over Zoom to raise the subject. I invite other international students to join this conversation.

Discussion:

Chris, : non-teaching fellowship, what is it?

Silvia: Grad B.

Astrid, PS: Cafeteria: can students not on the DGSC can join? It is an issue that concerns the whole student body. Can I extend the invite?

Silvia: We should open it to everyone, if anyone is against it they should speak up.

Adam: Rod will join, and maybe he can comment on that? Can we share Rod's survey on our social media? Meeting with President and Provost: they respond very well to actionable goals -- give solutions to problems, ask them to provide a timeline.

Itsue, Philosophy: Afaik, CUNY doesn't waive fee for applications, have there been attempts to waive application fees. Can we ask them to? Maybe we can use our funding for that?

Adam: that is up to the individual subject committee to do that. That is a question for other graduate council executive council.

Jonathan: Students from CUNY undergrad have that fee waived.

Ed: Admin two years ago decide that they would cut incomplete grades. Students can no longer hold incomplete grades for more than a year. Can we bring that up to the president and provost? It is absurd that we need to complete courses.

Rod: I will reach out after this meeting, we will start working. (Astrid asks the questions). I was thinking about that but I wanted to discuss it with the body, and get members from the body before bringing in students at large.

Zhuo: I work at Hunter College. No cafeteria at Hunter, this could be a USS issue. We can bring it to the USS., and demand a solution from CUNY central.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Christopher Campbell)

Updates:

- The new website is up, albeit there are still some workflow issues. For this reason, you can access the new website but when you click on Works it will direct you to the old Works website, where the workflow is functioning correctly. Save for proxy requests, we're good to go on grants, check requests, and room reservations. You can send any proxy requests to me at ccc@cunydsc.org as well as Ian Williams at membership@cunydsc.org.
- The Graduate Council held a meeting this past Wednesday. There were a number of concerns, particularly with their record keeping, that Jonathan brought to their attention. Apparently they do not have access to their notes and minutes because of turnover within their committee. The EC discussed primarily the Strategic Planning Process, which will be composed of a number of committees on which we will advocate for student presence. We've also heard that there will be payment cards for directors of programs, which presumably includes the DGSC – so we won't be paying out of pocket and waiting for reimbursement, we'll have an actual card to use to do so.
- David Olan, former associate provost and dean for academic affairs, sent a [letter](#) to Robin Garrell, Steve Everett, and Brian Peterson demanding action be taken to assure that late payments for vendors, speakers, and others are resolved. The letter is signed by over 80 EOs, APOs, and certificate program directors. The late payments within the DGSC are part of a wider web of late payments across the Graduate Center. The Co-Chairs have signed the letter as well. This is a positive turn of events for us as well as Graduate Center students, staff, and faculty – everyone is demanding that the Business Office be held accountable. The letter also asks for directors to have access to a credit card to pay for things used in events etc. instead of having to use our own funds and wait to be reimbursed.
- The draft clause that BoT intends to pass that will allow “extraordinary circumstance” requests to be taken to allow people to attend CUNY public meetings virtually. We should be prepared for a number of these requests while making sure that we still meet quorum in person for both Steering and Plenary meetings –again, quorum must be met in person.
- The DGSC Executive Committee is meeting with Provost Everett and President Garrell on Wednesday afternoon. I'd like to use my discussion time to review what Plenary would like us to bring forward at this meeting. This only happens once, sometimes two, times per year, so this is incredibly helpful time for us to express any issues that we're concerned about around the Graduate Center.

Discussion:

Jonathan: How many people in the body?

Ian: Zhuo, PHYS: Meeting with provost: mention late payment issue, some students haven't been paid from the research foundation.

Sayantika: pre-covid: department can give late access to GC building. Can we have this system back? (question for)

Katie, Bio: Follow up to Zhuo's point. STEM paycheck issue: more actionable item: documentation system for student payment, i.e. one place to keep record of all payments from different sources. This exist for every semester, but its not complete. Grad council: how was attendance? Were there STEM people?

Chris: CS EO was there. My first time as well. Chance to meet the president and provost to ask questions. EO suppose to be there. They talk about credit card access etc. We'll let the body know next time when that meeting takes place. They are all pubic meeting.

Adam: It is open meeting, so all info, e.g. meeting minutes, online. With regard to actionable items: new point person for DGSC to replace vacancy, update mreimbursement procedure, protocol on procurement, need more personnel, how much money we areworking with

Cassandra, Anthro: Grad council entire schedule post online. Point person changed. Lot of processes are being delayed because of the switch over.

Rod: Add to Katie. CUNY first under account, and also NYC payroll online. It will show everything this way. The city website will have record of all payment through the state. Research foundation is different. These three things should give everything (CUNY first plus the other two). Try to enroll NY payroll online.

Alex: Grad council has no STEM faculty on grad council. The fact that we need to go to 3 sources to check for payment is a problem.

Zhuo: We've been pushing this issue. We need more student, invite people to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Ed: On maintaining quorum. I did the USS, and they post them on Facebook, so it is open stream. We have a chair so that we can control the members and the gallery. USS facebook stream is crazy. People use chat to hash out conversations which is not recorded. If we are going remote, what's the process? Are we going to vote on that? Do you have an idea of rules that we will have for Zoom. E.g. lock the chat? Make it safe and equitable.

Chris: BoT will let us do different options. Maybe we can say that there is no online meetings. We can vote in Nov. I agree that if you are online, since they don't count quorum, maybe they should be able to speak. Everyone will have a chance to vote

Ed: Once we had USSERC and everyone was fighting. There were two factions. I was trying to sort thing sort out, but b/c we were online, USSERC refuse to let us to talk to each other. And nothing could be done. We need to think about how to do it otherwise there will be problems.

Chris: BoT will pass that under extraordinary circumstances they can attend online. Definition of Extraordinary circumstances unknown.

Jonathan: Regarding NYC payroll online, you can enroll on CUNY First. You need different EMPLID to register, namely your NYS id. Regarding no stem on grad council: if there is no representation, it is the problem of the department, b/c representation is proportional to the number of students.

Cassandra, Anthro: I understand the concern for online option being a free for all. But the nature of USS is different. It depends on what the BoT says. Comment from Bio rep. The question is about whether the grad council reps showed up.

Ian: speaking as the person who gets all the proxy request. I think there is advantage to having internet access. We are in person to comply with open meeting laws. Open should mean accessible, which hybrid option definitely is more accessible than in-person. We should think about code of conduct, b/c internet is not going away.

Jonathan: The only committee that requires to be in person are grants and constitutions and bylaws committee.

Zhou: Comments on EO at grad council. I organized department gathering. Prof test Research foundation boundary. I invite EO and people to talk to students about their issue. But EO didn't show up after knowing what the meeting is going to be about.

Daniel Moy send someone else to find out what the meeting is about, that person isn't even a physics student.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Jonathan Hanon)

Updates:

- GC Business Office
 - Aside from two Steering officers who the GC Business Office has still not yet onboarded, stipends have been paid.
 - At the moment, most of the Business Office is on vacation (they seem to be taking a lot of those lately), so we're on standstill for two weeks, again.
- CUNY Central and Board of Trustees
 - Reimbursements have not been paid since June, and I don't expect that to resolve any time soon due to difficulties with CUNY Central.
 - I was reappointed as the Student Representative on the Board of Trustees Committee on Finance and Administration.
 - CUNY COO Hector Batista came up to me to discuss CUNYBuy, and to acknowledge that he was made aware by CUNY CFO Christina Chiappa, who was made aware by VP Ken Tirino of the difficulties we have been having. However, he seemed to be in denial that there are any issues happening with payments at CUNY Central. He connected me to CUNY Procurement Director Martin Sturla, head of CUNYBuy.

- I will follow these connections in hopes of making this process more efficient in the long-term, and to hopefully modify these policies so we aren't under a microscope anymore.
- Letter regarding GC Budget and Spending Concerns
 - <https://bit.ly/gc-budget-letter>
 - Members of the faculty wrote a letter to GC Administration regarding the difficulties of purchasing anything without having to wait months for reimbursement, including the lack of credit cards, the fact that GC invoices are no longer seen as acceptable, and the difficulties of CUNY first in all of these processes.
 - The DGSC Co-Chairs have signed on to this letter, because we are going through these very same issues.
- New Check Request Rules from CUNY Central
 - I have been micromanaged about many things, including uploading rosters for old events and editing old check requests for pennies in sales tax. These are not suggestions from me, they are demands from CUNY Central.
 - Attendance rosters must be kept for all events and meetings.
 - Food must be kept to a maximum of \$15 per person.
 - A flier or notice of any event or meeting must be provided.
 - Tax-exempt forms must be used, CUNY will not reimburse any sales tax.
- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Oct 26th: Meeting with CUNY CIO Seb Formoso
 - Nov 2nd: Meeting with GC Finance re: DGSC Finances
 - TBD: Meeting with GC Admin re: Business Office
 - Nov 7th: GC Budget Committee
- Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss DGSC Finances: Jonathan Hanon
Second: Zhuo Yin Physics
Vote: unanimous

The Plenary went into Executive Session at 6:17 pm.

Motion to return to Public Session: Jonathan Hanon
Second: Zhuo Yin Physics
Vote: unanimous

The Plenary returned to Public Session at 6:28 pm.

Discussion:

All discussion occurred in Executive Session.

D. University Student Senate Delegate (Alex Jiang)

Updates:

- USS Election (Oct. 2nd 2022)
 - Result:
Chairperson: Salimatou Doumbouya, New York City College of Technology
VC for Legislative Affairs: Frank Lachapelle, New York City College of Technology
VC for Fiscal Affairs: Jonathan Colon, Brooklyn College
VC for Graduate Affairs: Xiaole “Alex” Jiang, Graduate Center
VC for Senior College Affairs: Aharon Grama, Brooklyn College
VC for Community College Affairs: Nikki Tam, Kingsborough Community College
VC for Evening and Part-time Affairs: Daniel Flores, Baruch College
VC for Technology Fee Affairs: Tessalia Serighelli, Kingsborough Community College
VC for International Students Affairs: Gridlock, Zhuo Yin (GC), Zeinab Cisse (CSI)
VC for Disabilities Affairs: Gridlock, Zaire Ali (SPH), Lucia Chavira (LGCC)

The gridlock will be resolvable in December at the earliest.

- Board of Trustees Committee Appointment
 - Education Policy Committee: Tania Caldwell (SLU)
 - Enrollment Sub Committee: Carlene Nelson (BMCC)
 - Investment Sub Committee: Abigail Boateng (HCC)
 - Student Life Committee: Salimatou Doumbouya (City Tech)
 - Facilities Planning and Management Committee: Aharon Grama (Brooklyn College)
 - Research and Innovation Sub Committee: Janyah Mercedes (CSI)
 - Advancement and External Affairs Committee: Xiaole Jiang (GC)
 - Finance and Administration Committee: Jonathan Hanon (GC)
 - Subcommittee on Technology Planning: Tessalia Castro (KCC)
 - Subcommittee on Diversity, Inclusion and MWBE: Assantee Mitchell (SPS)
 - Audit Committee: Akilah Clarke (Medgar Evers)
 - Governance Committee: Gilles Seulio (CCNY)

Discussion:

CC: Is the resolution finished?

Alex: Not yet.

Zhuo: Resolution has been drafted by a Iranian student of physics.

Alex: The idea is we want the admin to be proactive:

Amour, Critical Psychology: Do we ever take these issues further? Eg. Organizing protest

Zhuo: Usually PSC GC Chapter do the protest. USS can support resolutions, as well, and bring issues to the Board of Trustees.

Amour, Critical Psychology: Hearing that the USS representative also has difficulty bringing our voice, it's hard to know, where does our voice matter?

Rod: As DGSC, one of the most radical things we've done is to make issues public that we were facing. This was in my first year, but the CCC did a press release and an interview with NYT, something to do with personnel, I believe the nurse practitioner, similar to right now when we're trying to get a healthcare provider on campus. In terms of protest, we have done that with USS, like going to the Chancellor's apartment.

Angela: We were talking about open letter and gathering signatures. Sending letters to President and Provost, is somewhat of an intermediary. When we go to the press, we can do a cataloging of GC students with us.

Rod: Support from Faculty

Cassandra: Some of the older actions had pushback and received threats. We had to call security etc. Historically there has been a larger trajectory with activism. It has changed with the administration. The body was divided because of politics. We demanded a budget, and that worked out.

Ed: At some point they have stolen from you. Get some students from this situation, and find a lawyer. B/c they are literally not paying us back. Its either negligence or incompetent. They have no fear for us, they don't care.

Amour, Critical Psychology: if this is a historic problem, everyone is getting impacted by it, we need to do something about it.

Adam: It is getting late, we don't have time, we should move on.

E. University Faculty Senate Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates:

Discussion:

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- Grant Deadlines for the rest of the semester
 - Today, October 21st (at midnight!)
 - Received 3 applications so far

- November 18th
- First Grant Deadline Spring Semester is January 20 – great time to apply for any funding needs in the spring for events or services
- Grant Committee met today to review two grants
 - Theatre and Performance Conference (October 2022)
 - Approved funding for food,
 - 52 attendees!
 - LAILAC Student Conference (March 2023)
 - Awaiting flier, then expedited review
- Considering future funding for
 - Colombian Cultural Workshop. Cumbia: The Legacy of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Resistance
 - GC Music Teaching Hub Student Submission Incentive Program
 - The Ofrenda
- Next Grant Committee Meeting is Nov 11 at 3 pm Room 5409
- New social media promotion on grants rolling out! Please follow and share our DGSC materials – **@cunydgsc**
- Managing new requirements with CUNY business office (mainly, flier and attendance requirements). Please see CCB report for details.

Announcements:

Discussion

Katherine: It is @cunydgsc on Instagram

Jonathan: Please apply

Zhuo: who is managing social media?

Silvia: The social media manager is Inma. They have been working with the DGSC for about 2 years.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ian Williams)

Updates:

- Vacancies
 - There are currently 22 vacant roles (among At-Large and Program Representatives).
 - No updates on vacancies discussed at previous Steering and Plenary meetings, but I anticipate several resignations this month.
 - Linguistics is currently working on petitioning to fill their vacant Program Rep seat.

- Plenary Attendance
 - First, thank you to those who arranged a proxy for tonight and those who volunteered as proxies. We couldn't have this meeting without you.
 - Since required in-person Plenary attendance was determined, several Program Reps expressed their concerns about being able to attend in-person Plenary, either in September or in an ongoing capacity. I advised them that they could work with their programs to recruit students to Proxy for them on a rotational basis, as it is preferable for a Proxy to be from the program in which they are representing for their time as Proxy. They could also resign, but that might trigger a vacancy or special election.
 - I will follow up with Program Reps and At Large Reps who have not attended Plenary and not arranged for a proxy nor communicated about their inability to attend.
- Follow-up from September Plenary
 - At the September Plenary it was suggested that I should reach out to EO's and APO's about vacant and currently non-represented programs. I aim to start this outreach by November. If anyone has personal connections with EO's or APO's of any programs that fall under this, please reach out to me so we can set up introductions.
 - At the September Plenary, students asked about committees they are a part of but have not had meetings scheduled yet. Since I Chair Constitution & Bylaws, I contact C&B committee members to schedule a meeting for November.
- Proxy Requests
 - Currently Proxy requests are being handled by email; please email myself at membership@cunydsc.org and copy Chris at ccc@cunydsc.org for all Proxy communications.
 - When DGSC Works is able to handle Proxy requests again, we will resume the previous practices.

Announcements:

Discussion:

No discussion.

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

Updates: First meeting with committee completed 9/12, scheduling second meeting soon. Yoga has still not started, an issue with HR has delayed the onboarding of the instructors. I hope to have a solid start date in the coming week. Meeting with the Wellness Center along with SRA and NL next week. Supporting NL with spearheading the creation of a support group for international students of countries that have political/social unrest in

their home countries. Updated the Commons website. Mental Health campaign in the library as well as the scheduling of activities has been suspended until further notice, due to issues with payment and reimbursements.

Discussion:

No discussion.

D. Officer for Outreach (Natalia Lara)

Updates: Going to a Wellness Center staff meeting on 10/24/22 to learn about the services they offer as they have transitioned to more in-person services. Reached out to the Wellness Center to discuss support groups for international students who are experiencing significant distress due to political/social unrest in their home countries. We will discuss options in the staff meeting.

Meeting with Silvia, Cecilia and Matt Schoengood to discuss issues with the international office. Some of these issues are improper division of workload, dynamics in the office and lack of staff training.

Discussion:

Zhuo: I would vote for you for Co-Chair

Jonathan: about parties, we can use some of the money we took from the adjunct project for parties

Ian: I have heard there are copies from the book “Thriving through Graduate School” at the Wellness Center, do you know if they are available?

Natalia: I am not aware.

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

Updates: Looked into buying board games so that we can start our board game nights soon.

Look into doing a smaller Halloween activity. (Maybe a virtual event : an online outfit photo contest , and an in person themed game night as the first game night as well)

Definitely host other activities I mentioned last time in November.

Discussing with Officer of outreach the idea of a thanksgiving/Friendsgiving event for students who are away from home and others interested (tentatively Wednesday 23rd Nov)

Discuss hosting an end of semester party for all students with other members.

Follow up on the off hour access issues.

Discussion:

No discussion.

F. Officer for Library & Technology (Daniel Okpattah)

Updates:

1. I met with Maura Smale and Elvis Bakatis on 09/26/2022. Discussed about the room allocation for the zoom conferencing. I put forward the suggestion of allocating room 5396 for this purpose. Maura Smale also said that from the USS meeting they attended in September, they also thought about these issues and the school is planning on allocating certain rooms for this course but not finalized so she can't give me much info till then.
2. Several first year students of GC complained about not receiving their CUNY credentials and logins needed for using the computers in the library. I spoke with Mark Choon of the IT services and this is currently under control. The major issue here was some studies didn't receive information on how to activate their GC emails hence all the information passed from the IT couldn't reach to them since that was the email used on CUNY first.

Discussion:

Zhuo: Last semester some students complained about open hours in the summer. I want to know if there could be a conversation for the library to open longer hours during the weekend.

Daniel: I will speak about the librarian on the issue, but during the weekend it is hard to get people willing to work additional hours.

Zhuo: Some people go to other libraries because there are no good hours.

Amour: We have a small library, that's just reality. We don't have as many hours. There are possibilities to open more lines, but most of it is staffed by students, for low pay. Ask if we can pay more students to see if we can get more people to work here so that we can have longer hour.

Sayantika: I have heard other concerns that libraries have short hours on the weekend.

Katherine: One of the concerns was that there is no space to meet in the library. Is there a place or would library be a place for students that don't have offices to take zoom calls?

Amour: First floor has a media center, it is a small room, where people can take zoom calls. Upstairs there are two very large room that people can take calls. There are meeting rooms. There are no reservation process.

Silvia: Students can take DGSC room to do zoom calls.

Jonathan: Some other schools have student government funding 24h libraries near finals. At least at John Jays and Brooklyn College.

V. New Business

A. Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget (vote)

- a. Affiliates fund now into executive discretionary
- b. Adjunct project budget zeroed.
- c. OpenCUNY vacant position zeroed until January.

Discussion:

Angela: Now and Nov we should think of something, but we have some free money now, should we think about where to spend that money?

Adam, Hist: Discretionary budget is good b/c it can be used very easily. Last year we used it to buy books to donate to the library. If people want something done, we can communicate. Maybe not today, but we should talk among ourselves and finalize it in Nov.

CCB: We dont have to allocate in Nov b/c we can just wait for the body to decide. As it is Exec discretionary.

Zhuo, PHYS: Program might need more funding for gathering; GC 90% from NYS, maybe we can spend the money on a trip to Albany to lobby.

Adam, HIST: Prog allocation \$5 per semester per person. We can continue our conversation about increasing funding asynchronously.

Adam from history motion to approve, Chris second, budget approved unanimously.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Jonathan

Seconded: Chris

Voted: Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 19:15 Oct 21st 2022.