



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

—
November 18th, 2022

4:30PM

Meeting Chair: Jonathan Hanon

Minutes: Alex Jiang

Minutes Assist: Silvia Rivera Alfaro

Attendance

Present: Lea Coffineau (LC), Nan Coffey (NC), Pablo Yankelevich (PY), Chris Buonanno (CB), Noah Cohen (NC), Christina Weinbaum (CW), Thomas Tong (TT), Zoe Hu (ZH), Zhuo Yin (ZY), Maria Teresa Tapias (MTT), Edward Charnley (EC), Ligia Mendonca (LM), Itsue Nakaya-Perez (INP), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Adam Kocurek (AK), Astrid Wik Hallaraaker (AWH), Hadley Newton (HN), Jianing Qi (JQ), Bilal Abdulrahman (BA), Cassandra Barnes (CB), Sayantika Mondal (SM), Angela LaScala-Gruenewald (ALG), Madalyn Lianford (ML), Robert Wrigley (RW), Amour Castillo (AC), Silas Grossberndt (SG), Alex Jiang (AJ), Ian Williams (IW), Jonathan Hanon (JH)

Absent: Daniel Okpattah, Roderick Hurley, Abhipsa Shatarupa, Bryce Barthuly, Sharanya Dutta, Katherine Anderson, Jasmin Pathan, Aurash Khawarзад, Brian Aguilar Avila, David Amoh-Boateng

Guest speaker: President Garell

President Garrell is happy about being in person with the DGSC for the first time. She thanks student leaders for their participation in this space. She mentions that this space is a place for nurturing transferable skills.

Garrel: Interest in getting food in the building. I understand that because the price has been going up. We have made some progress. First off the dining commons is open. You can always bring in outside food. Two weeks ago we installed new vending machines in the Foundation Lounge. It is a really nice space, table, comfy space, coffee machine, cheaper than next door. One of the



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machines has cold sandwiches and things that can be heated up. What is going to take to go to the next stage -- more fresh food, whatever hot food, is to use the facilities. The vendors count how many people come into the building. We have some updated data, peaking on Wednesday we have 400 people between 8am -10am, more than 400 between 10am -2pm, more than 1000 on peak days. We have food pantries where we can pick up food at all CUNY campuses. If anyone needs food support, they can use the food pantry. We are going to ask students whether they need food pantry at this site, before COVID, we didn't have enough interest to establish a food pantry at GC.

Lea (Antro): Foundation lounge is not used. No communication on that room being available to students.

Adam (History): You mentioned vendors use their own numbers to measure what is viable, do you have any ideas? We can share with students.

Garrel: Unfortunately they won't share that information. They were losing money on the 8th floor. They were using the facility to provide food to outside business to make up for the loss. Our kitchen also needs a major renovation. We are looking at options that expands available options

Léa (Anthro): The GC is not planning to reopening the dining commons. What's the timeline?

Garrel: Not at this time. It would require a major renovation and a vendor who would like to occupy that space. It would take a year to renovate. We are looking at creative options -- are food trucks possible? We are looking at all possibilities.

Astrid (Political Sciences): It is also about the space. Vending machine do very little to help that. In the building we don't have a space for us to meet with our colleagues, etc. We need to be able to build up the space. What about a bar? Is a bar possible?

Garrel: That would have another complication that we require a license.

Lea: What about a coffee shop?

Garrel: The coffee shop we are exploring for the foundation lounge. However, we are not ready for that yet.



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Angela (sociology): It is more about “vibes”, people just want a cup of coffee, or if the space is well lit [people can just hang out]. If we want a space that Astrid described, it sounds like we need a kitchen renovation, which takes a year. What I am dying to hear is that we have a two year plan to get the place back to how it was. Small plans to get incremental changes.

Garrel: This is our shared goal. We have to plan for those spaces: they were spaces for good conversations. Foundation lounges are really nice spaces.

Léa: there is no windows

Garrel: Those are the spaces we have. We have plans to renovate the kitchen. What we don't have is a vendor that wants to do that today. Let's move things up slowly. We are in conversation with all kinds of vendors. There is a vision, but we are dependent on how traffic comes into the building. We are also tethered to procurement, there was a contract, and they backed out.

Ian (Social Welfare): I was thinking about the cafeteria. When is the last time that the cafeteria was renovated. Students can't turn on the lights last time people were there. We couldn't figure it out.

Alex: I don't know if we have control over the lights next when you enter. I don't know if we have control to turn those lights on.

Garrel: if you have suggestions on food, then send me a suggestion.

Astrid: Could you ask the potential vendors to find out about the numbers?

Garrel: We will try to find out. The other topics I have here are fundraising and fellowship. Questions on payments. My goal is to boost funding for graduate students. I was very glad that the chancellor made that a priority last year. We got a lot of good educational effort, not many people know what grad education is about, so we did a big ask, and unfortunately we didn't get it. However, it became the conversation focal point. I had lunch with our campaign person, and that remains a focal point. The key statement is going to be framed a little differently. The governor used a phrase, last spring, Buffalo - ... - SUNY flagship. CUNY of course thought what does that mean for us. Part of our key statement is to frame CUNY as a great research center in relation to that, with data. Our funding, number of PD grad, etc. It is also going to be build on



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comparing us with other institutions... It doesn't click with the elected officials when we tell them we get paid for less than Princeton. But it does make sense if we frame it in terms of our competitors. It will be up to the chancellor and his team for them to figure out how they want to present the story, and it will be up to us for us to get the stories out. Your voice as students will be very influential. You are voters, leaders, etc. We are building sponsored research offices to get external funding. Also we are trying to [missed out] ... third pillar, philanthropy, we work with programs that get funds directly. Fundraising for grad support is the first priority. In our CUNY Tuesday campaign, a lot of it is about fundraising. Our goal this year, same as last year, support for students, conference, research travel kind of money. I am going to use today to ask you to get words out, get the words out.

Ed (History); I want to thank you for coming. From higher administration I see a disconnection with our reality. Many of us are adjuncts and we are some of the worst paid adjuncts in the entire country. CUNY has been avoiding that problem. Surely a simple way to help with that is to pay us better. Further you suggested a vendor maybe losing money. Surely CUNY is saving money by refusing to raise wages in line with inflation. You mentioned that CUNY graduate students, comparatively, are one of the largest institutions of higher education, yet we rely nearly entirely on part time staff. For example, if all staff and faculty were on strike it would impact teaching as severely as all the graduate students, if we were out. As we see in the country, that's what people in our position are starting to do [Cali strike] Is there an awareness in CUNY Central of how close to total disaster in terms of adjuncts strike we are actually drawing to? Is that being taken seriously? Because when we are being asked to donate, when the steering committee are thousands of dollars out of pocket, it is hard to imagine that we are being taken seriously.

Garell: Thank you for that. I am not asking you for money. I am saying when I go out and fund raise, it is about helping people understand the need we have. We have a campaign, it is about asking you to make ourselves aware. There is an acute awareness that we are [underfunded]. I can't speak on labor management. ... As you all know, the state has not paid contractual wage increases. CUNY is now facing a deficit.

Ed (History): In 2010 Lisa Federara said that the Chancellor's pay outrises the faculty. Rodrigues' salary rises are in line with the report. You might find that immaterial, but e.g the New Republic has an article that says UC students may have a point. Is there not an increased risk that as an institution we are exploiting the most vulnerable?



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Garrel: There is a commitment to do the best we can for people who make CUNY happen. I am new to CUNY relatively speaking, I've seen the resolve since I was invited to join CUNY. I joined in part because of that resolve. NES and other states benefited from a better economic environment last year. Here at the GC when we do our budget, we've had a very challenging fiscal envior. Each year, our number 1 priority is to ensure our commitment to our students. Regrettably, in order to do that, we don't have money to do other things, e.g. research funding, travel grants. Our number one priority is creating that funding. That is what I care for.

Jonathan (Computer Science): Ed's comment on being thousands out of pocket. We just got moved to CUNY central Shared Services Unit, without clear instructions from the Business Office.

Garrel: I will go to that topic next.

Joe (Physics): We held the physics department last Friday. We had 50 students show up. During the event the students gave me this flyer. A lot of students have difficulty paying rent: \$900 is the appropriate amount, and that's pretty difficult. I want to know: is anyway you can help our doctoral students to change this with CUNY Central?

Garrel: This is the advocacy that we were doing last year. The proposal we put forward is singularly focused on this issue. We want to raise the minimum to \$30k.

Zoe (English): Speaking as an English student. I appreciate how you break things down, I understand that it is difficult because it is state funding. COO Hector Batista 300k to 420k wage increase, we only get a 2%. I am not a budget person, I am sure things are complicated, seeing the numbers I feel like there is money in the system, but it is not being allocated to students. If you take the highest pay stub on grad AB, the rent burden is 44%. Can we talk about what is happening inside CUNY? What can we do in a way that doesn't differ the question into the state? I mentioned the 2% rate, but in actuality we don't really get the 2%. I would like to talk about getting the stipend in the contract?

Garrel: It is not my role neither I have no information to speak to those positions. You can look at the CUNY 2022 fiscal close document. This was issued 10 days ago, it also gives a projection for the next 10 years. Virtually every campus will be in deficit. Either there is a major in cost cutting, or increase in revenue (from state). Our major income is the state. I understand exactly your position is, my priority is building support for you.



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Zoe: Do you have any thoughts on the aspects of bargaining and how the GC could advocate for better salaries?

Garrel: The central office knows well what the needs of our students are.

Ed (History): Do you know how many adjuncts are GC students? We can divide CUNY into blocks, my head of department at Lehman explained to me she wants to take fellowship students, because it doesn't come out from her budget. Do you have an idea of how % of adjunct teaching we are?

Garrel: How many students are adjuncting, and our % of students is. I won't speculate.

Lea: From what is available in the GC website, at least some numbers that give us power to bargain. GC doctoral students teach more than 500 courses, peaked 183k students.

Ian (Social Welfare): Are you sure what it is like to communicate to funders in the state? What about the relationship between time to degree and the problem of having to adjunct to meet their budget?

Garrel: It is remarkable that you give the commitment you all make. Time to degree is still in the national norms. Our students are not talking undoable loan, their research productivity is good, and we have the information of where they go next. The % of students who go to a place where they can stay in their area is really high. Our student outcomes is good.

The other topic is reimbursements and payments - one is the stipends for the DGSC and the other is reimbursements. I am sorry the delay is happening. We have been trying to sort things out. This week we got some info, which has led to some decisions about some changes. One step is to look at the timing of the appointment paperwork, we know that it was successful in the previous years. The second piece relates to expense processing. The notion of shared services is just the fact that accounts are payable is now being done by the central office. The person seeking reimbursement doesn't see this side. We are implementing a new process for reimbursement, as of today, we filled several vacancies at the business office. That will get us back to our expectation on processing time. We're getting a P card for Matt Schooengod so that the DSGC will work directly with him to buy the things.



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Jonathan: I want to clarify about the Shared Services Unit, I was instructed by the Business Office that I should go directly to CUNY Central. At the moment I don't have information on where I should send things.

Garrel: Let's talk later more about this. We can arrange a meeting. We want to be sure that there is a written procedure, and that it can be passed on. We make sure you have a point person you can engage with.

Zoe: From my perspective. It sounds like a structural issue. When POs and APOs have encountered a similar issue, and they are not being reimbursed not on time. I just wanted to know that for things that you are doing are things going to be easier for other workers?

Garrel: Yes, it will. We have learned a long way that in the course of answering some questions, different venues people get a misperception of how things are not connected. We are working on a package of infographics about this. Staff [for the infographics?] were just hired, I am confident that we will greatly reduce these problems. Institutional memory has to be built again. Processes might have changed during COVID because people weren't buying as much stuff.

Alex (Physics): It would be good if we have a lounge where we could study.

Garrel: There are too many kinds of needs. Some people who need where to do their stuff, but also community space. I am going to ask Steve Everett to talk with the EOs to identify those that have nothing at the moment. To see the most critical needs, like a wework space.

Joe (Physics): I want to mention that I haven't been paid yet from my lab. What's the progress on a centralized payment system?

Garrel: Is your EO aware of the payment issue?

Joe: I try to get students to tell EO, but they are worried about confrontation from department.

Garrel: This individual should get in contact with Josh Brunberg.

Central means different things for different people. Fundamentally we want everyone to know what they are going to get and that they get it. How do we get there? The payment issues that have been identified are varied. Some are related to the graduate center, relatively few, others that involve a PI that has a grant that hasn't filled out a form, that has to do with RF outside of



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the department. In terms of a system wide solution, there are a couple barriers. The main ones I've seen: 1) CUNY first is a legacy system, it is at the end of its life. I have inferred that there would be a reluctance to make large investments into CUNY first now; 2) RF is a 501(c)(3) it is independent from CUNY. There are fundamental financial difficulties in combining RF with CUNY. There are legal issues there. We have a commitment to prevent these problems, what can we do now? First we want to rapidly resolve them when they do occur, and also prevent them. Whether this [centralized payment system] is the exact solution is not clear

Joe: I want to point it out. The first year had no issue. From first year to second year . The fundamental issue is that we are not tracking their payments. In the future maybe we can track the payment.

Garrel: We want to prevent these problems, you raise good points, I'll take those back.

Ian: For the record, our program has very low funding. Most of our students are nontraditional. For many of them have jobs outside of school. They want an additional grad D. In terms of history and legacy, it makes a huge difference for students to have waived tuition and guaranteed health insurance.

Garrel: I will follow up with the leadership on your issues. Have a good

Meeting called to order at 5:48 pm.

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: Jonathan (CCB) Motion to to approve with the amendments of putting first 1. Extraordinary Circumstances before Co-Chair Reports 2. Resolution regarding September Attendance 3. Report by USS Alternate after Steering Reports

Seconded: Ed (History)

Vote: unanimously

II. Approval of the Minutes of the 21 October 2022 Meeting

Motion to Approve:

Seconded:



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Vote:

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

Updates:

- Student issues from the Office of Student Affairs:
 - Please remember to complete SPARC. If you did it, but it is not showing as completed on BlackBoard, please contact Eric Brown (ebrown2@gc.cuny.edu). It seems like some people are having problems with this. Please check that you have access to the certificate and if not, contact Eric or contact me on the matter.
 - Child Care Center Survey: OSA sent a survey to find out about the needs of the student-parents in relation to the Child Care Center. The survey includes a topic the DGSC has been working on since last year, which is the hours of access to this service.
 - International Students: I am working with OSA on some details related to the International Students Office.
- Chartered Organizations:
 - The call to prevent dechartering ended last week.
 - On Monday the roster for the organizations will be opened for signatures, please help the organizations by signing as many rosters as possible.
- Food services:
 - An important update is that the common space for lunch on the first floor has been reopened. At the moment, there are vending machines.
 - At the meeting with the President and the Provost we discussed the issue of the cafeteria. The main argument, as we have mentioned in previous plenaries, is that we need people in the building so we will be able to have a cafeteria. Vendors have been coming and counted the number of people attending in person and it seems like it is not sustainable for them. They explained how the in-person attendance to the building grew from around 600 people at the beginning of the semester to 1200 people per day during the past weeks. Both the President and the Provost were suggesting that if we buy from the vending machines we can prove there are people here to buy the products; this is an issue we disagree with as we shouldn't be asked to buy products as a campaign. Another issue they brought up is that the pre-pandemic vendors also had problems making their income with the



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food they sold in the building, so they used the space of the 8th floor to prepare catering and serve it across the city. This makes it clearer that we need to work for a cafeteria, because it is an argument that can be used forward on the topic.

- Task force for the cafeteria: We are six people in this initiative at the moment. We have a draft of the petition. We will create a form for people to sign in and start sharing in the upcoming days. We also want to have some presence in that space, so we are working on having some event there so that we can also promote its revitalization.
- Pantries: During the meeting with the President and the Provost, they asked us about food insecurity within the student body. They informed us that there are food pantries in all CUNY campuses (excepting the GC) and that they are open to all CUNY students who could need them. We mentioned that we have some knowledge about this situation and were informed about some cases; however, as the information we have as DGSC was limited, I offered myself to follow up on the topic. At our meeting with OSA I asked this office if we could do a collaboration for getting this information. As members of the DSGC, we know a pantry is not the final solution to the systemic problems faced by the student body at the GC, but this is an immediate solution for those who are experiencing food insecurity right now in a context of inflation and economic crisis.
- The Graduate Council Budget Committee met on November 07. The most important discussion is the expected deficit the GC will have in 2023 (around \$1.3 million per year), related to our dependance on CUNY Central and the limited allocation of funds. The money allocated doesn't change, but salaries and other expenses change. Other CUNY colleges cover the deficit by charging the students more tuition. This is not the case at the GC, so every year there is a part of the fellowships we receive that is not covered by the budget, and these numbers are growing. I believe this information is crucial to think of strategies to improve our stipends as it seems that we should focus on CUNY Central.

Upcoming meetings:

-December 7: Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation meeting

Discussion:

Astrid: The funds for renovating the cafeteria were there, and the problem is a vendor. We should keep an eye and not let that money be spent elsewhere.

Lea: So we don't have a pantry?



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Silvia: No, the question is if we would like/see the need of having one in the GC.

Noah: So where are the pantries?

Léa: A website to find where the pan

Ian: Importance of strategically thinking about CUNY Central?

Silvia: We should come up with a strategy for CUNY Central. Somehow we should show that our labor is important for CUNY, as Ed mentioned earlier about the impact of our work.

Joe: Issue that are affected by CUNY central are influenced through USS. We should testify at BoT meeting.

Zoe: I am frustrated by Garrell deferred question to state funding. We got a budget increase, but somehow we still don't have enough money. We are going to be bargaining soon. I encourage you all to get involved with the union. Also within the union we have to advocate for ourselves. Union is scared to strike, but grad students are pro-strike. We need to put pressure on the union and through that put pressure on CUNY.

Itsue: what is the tailor's law?

Ed: Instituted after MTA strike in the 90s. To prevent that, basically everyone who works for the state to be illegal to strike, because (most of the time) they are emergency service. Most of us go beyond what we need to do. So if we just don't do that, then we can make this institution malfunction.

Itsue: So when we are not striking is this why? Will the state apply this law if all CUNY students strike? How does strike impact CUNY?

Ed: I don't think PSC cares about us. GC-Chapter is a minority within the larger union. Also the adjuncts had a separate union, but it was merged, the theory was that it would increase our bargaining power. But others in the union are ditching us at first moment.

Zoe: There are factions within the union. There are many positions that don't want to strike. Particularly full time faculty, because they don't want department rating to go down if they are full time faculty. PSC is by nature that is antagonistic to CUNY. If the tailor law is broken, you are not going to be arrested, but union leaders might.

Silvia: Point of order: we will have the PSC-Chapter as guest speaker. Meeting is long, we need to get things over.

Angela: Would it make sense if PSC comes here next session. (Rafa?)

Ed: Will next month be a GC-chapter? GC-chapter is not the problem, because they are supporting us.

Zoe: A recommendation, get someone from the bargaining team to come over. I can send information to the Co-Chair of students affairs about that.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Christopher Campbell)



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Updates:

- Meeting with President, Provost, and Interim Associate Provost
 - President Garrell suggested that the Centralized Payment System Resolution would not see implementation at the Graduate Center as there is a new system rolling out within the next couple of years (what the new system is and how it will function is unclear).
 - i. That said, we discussed alternative solutions for signing MOUs, which included expanding who is designated to sign off on MOUs. For example, instead of lab heads signing off on MOUs, APOs could have the ability to sign off on MOUs.
 - Opening Hours: President Garrell cited low occupancy in the Graduate Center after 5pm or so as a way of suggesting that GC opening hours will not be extended. However, if traffic in the building picks up in these later hours of the day, it's possible that hours will be extended.
 - i. This begs the question though: Maybe students aren't staying late because they know the GC will close?
- Thinking back to our last Plenary meeting, we had discussed organizing and potentially doing a press release. Shortly after, the Business Office provided dozens of reimbursements, easing some of the tension that had been building on that front. Instead of organizing a task force or the like, me, Jonathan, Angela, and a few others will be meeting with members of the Business Office on November 30th at 3pm. Part of this meeting will involve us asking the Business Office what their plans are for helping us make sure that reimbursement and stipend payments aren't delayed further. HOWEVER, Jonathan has some news for everyone that might change this picture entirely (I imagine Jonathan might have a dread-smile on his face right now).
- Extenuating Circumstances Clause for Remote Attendance
 - Note that, if passed, myself, Ian, and perhaps a couple of other members of the EC will take these requests. If you feel that your request is personal in nature and you would not like to share this information with fellow students, you should reach out to Disability Services or the Office of Student Affairs.
 - i. Please be aware that there are certain matters that the OSA is required to actively resolve or report, including living out of state



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while claiming in-state residence for tuition purposes (i.e. don't tell on yourself).

- If passed, we will still need to maintain an in-person quorum going forward. This means that we will need to limit the number of requests we take per Plenary meeting. If your requested is not granted and you will miss the Plenary meeting, you will need to find a proxy to attend in your stead.
- While the expectation is that a couple of individuals will need year-long remote accommodations, we hope for there to be room for individuals to take a meeting remotely if they're sick, need to visit family, etc.
- Lastly, if you attend remotely, you are required by law to be seen and heard at all times except for when the Plenary is in an executive session. This means that webcams must be turned on for the duration of Plenary meeting and you must have a working mic.

Discussion:

No discussion.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Jonathan Hanon)

Updates:

- College Association met to discuss DGSC budget and plans for surplus
 - Context: The College Association consists of the Co-Chairs, and other representatives from the DGSC, the faculty, the Business Office, and Student Affairs.
 - The surplus is just under \$300k in funds left unspent over the past few years that we were unaware of. To clarify for the record, this is public information now.
 - A participatory budgeting initiative will be put into place to discuss where these funds can be allocated.
 - These funds can only be allocated by the College Association, and not by the DGSC itself, so we will continue to meet to get these funds moved forward.
 - College Association Executive Committee (6 members) will meet frequently to work towards rapidly expending the
- Payment updates



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- I understand that many of us who have been waiting for reimbursements and stipends have seen delays beyond reason. At this point, most submitted requests have been resolved, and I am aware of any issues that are still pending.
- Future payments
 - We have just (yet again) had our workflow changed overnight to work with the CUNY Shared Services Unit, rather than the GC Business Office.
 - At this current moment, I am unsure what our process for submitting requests will be moving forward. I have requested an explanation from the GC Business Office and am awaiting further response.
 - Based on concerns from USS and Student Affairs, there are some aspects of this which seem legally questionable. We are non tax levy, yet with the CUNY first system, we are required to follow the procurement guidelines for tax levy entities.
 - I will continue to follow up on this matter, and plan to speak to the CUNY COO on Monday at the BoT Committee on Finance.
- Program Allocations

DGSC Program	Fall Enrollment	Fall Program Allocation	DGSC Program	Fall Enrollment	Fall Program Allocation
Anthropology	133	\$665	History	96	\$480
Art History	84	\$420	International Migration Studies	20	\$200
Audiology	36	\$200	Latin American, Iberian, & Caribbean Studies	50	\$250
Biochemistry	99	\$495	Liberal Studies	108	\$540
Biography and Memoir	35	\$200	Linguistics	75	\$375
Biology	144	\$720	Mathematics	76	\$380
Business	59	\$295	Middle Eastern Studies	10	\$200
Chemistry	117	\$585	Music	125	\$625
Classics	20	\$200	Nursing	14	\$200
Cognitive Neuroscience	44	\$220	Philosophy	92	\$460
Comparative Literature	97	\$485	Physics	114	\$570
Computer Science	118	\$590	Political Science	135	\$675
Criminal Justice	68	\$340	Psychology	309	\$1,545
Data Analysis and Visual	55	\$275	Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences	46	\$230
Digital Humanities	39	\$200	Social Welfare	74	\$370
Earth And Environmental	82	\$410	Sociology	103	\$515
Economics	86	\$430	Speech	40	\$200
Educational Psychology	38	\$200	Theatre	55	\$275
English	151	\$755	Urban Education	85	\$425
French	30	\$200	Women and Gender Studies	19	\$200

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- Upcoming Meetings:
 - Business Office Meeting November 30th

Discussion:



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Adam: Please make sure to use the allocation before the end of may and send all the information to Jonathan so that you can get reimbursed, as they have to be processed before the end of the fiscal year.

Astrid: Can we double allocation?

Jonathan: We didn't double it last year.

Alex: Can we do investments?

Jonathan: Let's talk about that offline.

D. University Student Senate Delegate (Alex Jiang)

Updates:

- PSC Contract Negotiation
 - Total compensation
 - Teaching
 - Stipend (GC Fellowship / RF)
-



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PSC-GC & DGSC Meetings

CUNY Board of Trustee Public Hearing:

When:

December 5th, 2022, Monday at 4:30 PM

Where:

TBA

Why:

- With respect to science doctoral students' funding structure at the Graduate Center, it involves multiple CUNY campuses, the real change must be made by the CUNY Chancellor and University Provost.
- Because the CUNY Chancellor, University Provost, and Presidents from each CUNY campus usually attend CUNY Board of Trustee Public Hearings, CUNY Board of Trustee Public Hearings can be one of the channels to influence CUNY Central's decisions.

How:

Any CUNY person can testify for a maximum of 3 minutes. The more science students testify, the more attention CUNY Central will pay to.

Sign up to testify:

<https://psc-cuny.org/calendar/cuny-board-of-trustees-budget-hearing/>

PSC-GC: GC labor union

website:

<https://psccunygccommons.gc.cuny.edu/>

become a PSC member:

<https://psc-cuny.org/join-psc/>

Get Involved in PSC-GC (strongly recommended):

<https://psccunygccommons.gc.cuny.edu/get-involved-2/>

PSC-GC contact emails:

- **PSC-GC:** psccunygcc@gmail.com
- **Silas Grossberndt:** silas.grossberndt@gmail.com
- **Nathan Nikolic:** nikolic.nathan@gmail.com

If you have any ideas for future events, are curious about getting involved in union organizing, or have any labor-related questions or concerns, please contact PSC-GC, Silas, and Nathan.

PSC-GC chapter meeting:

- **When:** Friday, December 2nd, 2022 at 3:00 PM
- **Why:** It is likely that by then, the PSC bargaining committee will have made public its official list of demands. At the December 2nd, 2022 PSC-GC meeting, we're going to be debating the merits of these demands and adding our own to the list. The more people show up, the more powerful these demands will be when we bring them to the bargaining team!
- **Zoom register link:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZEsf-CupjkvGdBbWmruD7bc3yuGv74WFah4>

DGSC:GC student government

DGSC Plenary Meeting:

When: next Friday, November 18th, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Where: at GC Room 5414

Guest speaker for this meeting:

Graduate Center's President Robin Garrell

what you can do:

You can join the meeting and ask the Graduate Center's President a question that impacts GC students.

Discussion:



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E. University Faculty Senate Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates: No report.

Discussion:

Jonathan: I was present at the last UFS plenary and the main initiatives are focusing on CUNY Online, and putting the authority into the hands of the faculty. We were informed that 70/30 is not a CUNY policy, it is a campus policy.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

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

- Yoga classes started last Monday.
- There will be another day of yoga. More updates on this coming soon.

Discussion:

Jonathan: We have been having the same restricted pay for 20 years. E.g. student activity fees, among many other things.

Angela: Can we subsidize this?

Jonathan: No, we can't give two stipends at the same time.

Sayantika: Can we just pay them directly?

Jonathan: No, for tax reasons.

B. Officer for Outreach (Natalia Lara)

Updates:

- Planning a Thanksgiving event for GC students with Sayantika (Officer for Student Life and Services) on Monday 11/28/22. An RSVP has been sent to the DGSC list serv and the international students whatsapp group. We are trying to see how many people can make it so we can budget for food (we have \$15 per student). The event is to take place at the GC.

Discussion:



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

Updates:

- Organized a Halloween photo contest and we received about 30 entries!
- We will be having a thanksgiving potluck on Monday 28th Nov . Sent out posters and already have received about 20 RSVPs.
- Planning an end of semester holiday party. We are currently working on securing a location. If you'd like to help with the organization please contact me.
- As part of the Cafeteria taskforce we are also exploring the idea of doing an event in the space.
- Program event (Mathematics):Halloween trick or treat event.
- Chartered Org (Women in STEM): coffee meet up on Dec 8th.

Discussion:

(Philosophy rep): Is the end of the semester party for everyone?

Syantika: Yes! Everything is for everyone.

Joe: We invited PSC for physics event. No one knew about PSC. Maybe when we host DGSC event, we can get PSC involved.

Syantika: In RSVP form I ask how people hear about the event. On the day of the event if people want to come and distribute anything they are welcome.

D. Officer for Library & Technology (Daniel Okpattah)

Updates:

- Discussed library hours changes with Maura Smale
- Meeting with Maura Smale on 21st Nov, 2022 to discussed stressing issues pertaining to the library.

Discussion:

Alex: In our last steering meeting Daniel told us about the importance of staying longer so that they see more people and see the importance of being open for longer. There was almost no one at 8pm.

E. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:



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- There are several upcoming grant deadlines (one tonight!) that people should keep on their radar to apply for funding for spring semester. Remember to apply at least 2 weeks in advance of when you need the funds so we can get you a response and work out any issues with your application.
 - Upcoming Deadlines
 - November 18
 - January 20
 - February 17
 - Full list here: <http://cunydgc.org/grants/>
- New Funds Approved
 - \$700 for a Colombian Cultural Workshop, “Cumbia”
 - \$233 for Traditional Mexican Altar de Muertos
 - \$700 for the XXVII Latin American, Iberian and Latino Cultures Graduate Student Conference: In trance: Corpographies, cosmopolitics & geopoetics
- Considering for Future Funding
 - Next Grants Committee meeting is Dec 9
 - Evaluating the application for the Graduate Students in Music (GSIM) Conference & MORE!
- Following us on social for deadlines reminders!
- Finally, some reminders about submitting reimbursements
 - You must attach your flier to all reimbursement requests if it was an event
 - If it was an event where we funded food, please be sure to include a list of GC students in attendance (an RSVP list will do! Or a sign in sheet!)
 - Be patient with us but also check in if you have questions—if you don’t receive money, we want to know ASAP and figure out where the hold up is!

Announcements:

Discussion:

Issue: Events outside CUNY?

Angela: Organized by GC students, free open to all GC students.

Silas: Does DSRG fall under you?

Angela: This is funded through our student activity fees, so we want to make money go back to all students.

Sayantika: Is there a limitation to applying for funding?



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Angela: Individual students apply, we pay attention to who received money. We do keep track of who just keeps on getting money. No restrictions on applying.

Ian: I don't know if I can get things in before Thanksgiving.

Angela: Just talk to us.

F. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ian Williams)

Updates: I tabulated attendance and absences for the September and October plenaries, which Co-Chairs have access to the full data on.

- September attendance was not great (we had 27).
- October was only slightly better (30).
- September is not surprising given that we had five days' notice for the change to mandatory in-person attendance. We had fewer requests for proxies for October.
- I have not received that many proxy requests for November, but Chris and I are tracking requests and assignments in a way that we think will be more efficient.
- There are several roles which will be automatically removed this month in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, unless we decide to, under extraordinary circumstances, waive the September attendance. We are voting on a measure for that today.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Audiology	1
Biography and Memoir	1
Chemistry	1
Classics	1
Cognitive Neuroscience (M.S.)	1
Computer Science and Data Science	1
Data Analysis and Visualization (MA)	1
Digital Humanities (MA)	1
Educational Psychology	1
English	1



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Program	Vacancies
French	1
International Migration Studies	1
Liberal Studies (MA)	2
Middle Eastern Studies	1
Music	1
Nursing	1
Political Science	1
Psychology	1
Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences	1
Speech-Language Hearing Sciences	1
Theater and Performance	1
Women and Gender Studies	1
Total	26

- Linguistics petitioned for a representative and submitted a completed petition to me.
- Silvia is helping me with reviewing previous election outcomes to identify potential vacancy fill-ins, and outreach to program EOs and APOs regarding vacancies. We are also recruiting through flyering for
- Constitution & Bylaws Committee
 - I have not yet been able to organize a C&B meeting, as we've been tied up in resolving attendance tracking and resolution.
 - For C&B members, expect an email in the next few weeks about scheduling a meeting.

Announcements:

- Reminders about signing in at Plenary attendance, and requirements for attending Plenary and/or arranging a Proxy. This is everyone's responsibility to take care of for their own role.



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- Silvia is helping me with reviewing previous election outcomes to identify potential vacancy fill-ins, and outreach to program EOs and APOs regarding vacancies. We are also recruiting through flyering across campus. Here's the flyer:



Would you like to take the lead and represent your program?

The Doctoral and Graduate Students Council (DGSC) is looking for representatives for:

- Audiology
- Biography and Memoir
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Cognitive Neuroscience (M.S.)
- Computer Science and Data Science
- Data Analysis and Visualization (MA)
- Digital Humanities (MA)
- Educational Psychology
- English
- French
- International Migration Studies
- Liberal Studies (MA)
- Liberal Studies (MA)
- Middle Eastern Studies
- Music
- Nursing
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences
- Speech-Language Hearing Sciences
- Theater and Performance
- Women and Gender Studies

Programs with a representative have access to their program allocation, and have a voice in policy-making in the DGSC.

To be eligible you need to be in good academic standing and be at least on your second semester.

Write to membership@cunydgsc.org
(from your student email address)

Discussion:

Joe: Most EO and APO don't know what students represent at the DGSC. You might write to Josh B. He is their boss, so they will do it if it's from their boss. Can astrophysics get representation because they have only 5 people?

Jonathan: There is ambiguity. They had no one last spring. Nanoscience also has no program rep. Next year, neuroscience is going to branch off and we will observe that.

Joe: Who decides?

Jonathan: It depends on Spring enrollment.

Joe: EO wants the student to be able to host events to use the student activity fee.



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V. New Business

A. "Extraordinary Circumstances" Clause (vote)

Adam: We are just following the BoT. If we have very important voting items, then we just need to make sure people come. These need to be extenuating circumstances.

Astrid: I believe it is important to be here. What is the procedure, and what is the bar to stay home. I think it is good to push people to come.

Jonathan: Regarding documentation. There may be some circumstances, if someone has a disability that they don't want to be disclosed, they can work with the student life office. That's why we didn't want to put guidelines that are hard coded.

Joe: I prefer in-person meetings. It is important to say that we have food here.

Motion to approve this clause: Adam

Second: Joe Yin

Approved unanimously

B. Resolution to Rescind September 2022 Plenary Attendance From the DGSC Recall Guidelines

Silvia: according to our constitution, we can't miss two meetings. This resolution will change how that works.

Jonathan reads the resolution.

Joe: Are we only voting for the September meeting?

Jonathan: Yes. This is the only meeting where the notification was not in a timely manner.

Ian: We are deciding whether to count the September meeting. It would be about when the counter starts.

Sayantika: I am fine with not counting the attendance. I feel like it's not fair for people that actually came.

Joe: I want to respond. The September meeting is different because the meeting was changed to in person at the last minute.

Sayantika: I am talking about the people who came anyway.



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Amour (Critical Psychology): Do you get something for attending the meeting? If you don't then what are you expecting?

Jonathan: The point is that some of the unfairness mentioned by Sayantika. [Some information missed here]

Ammour: my question is if there is something I should get?

Sayantika: I don't think she is asking that. The point is that you cannot be absent for 2 consecutive meetings.

Sandra: It is great that a lot of us were able to attend. For us it is an expectation. What is the point of getting upset because it is our duty.

Ed: Earlier today I went to the library. I showed my card and it has a sticker from last semester. So they said go up to the bursar's office and fix it. I went to the bursar's and it was close as they are remote on Friday. That is not so much for me, but last meeting we voted on the budget and if we don't have a quorum for the budget. A lot of us are here not just because of the higher calling. We don't want to strip people of their membership. You debilitate debate if we just strip people of their positions.

Angela: Do you feel like you are not getting credit for attending?

Sayantika: If you are a member you should be here. September meeting I was not in the country, and I got a proxy in a week. I used a favor. There might be a situation in the future in which I don't have that favor and can't make it. Had I known it I could've saved my proxy for later.

Ian: We only get one free pass. Article xx says that there are people who are absent until two consecutive plenaries are removed. I am very strongly in favor of this resolution. There are a lot of free riders. I appreciate people who do the work that gets a proxy. But I think we should respect the rules but also be humane.

Noah (proxy): Is this going to create an institutional presence?

Joe: Request for information? If we don't pass this, how many people will be removed?

Angela (sociology): We have never done this in our history?

Jonathan: This has never been done before. Our modality was changed within a matter of days.

Amour: Two separate things?

Itsue: What is happening here is a real disagreement, why don't we just vote?

Jonathan: we need discussion before voting

Itsue: maybe we could take this time for questions and not antagonize..

Amour: Every question I have is a real question. I am not saying anything to belittle. I am new to this.

Ian: The total would be 4 who would be removed. 24 vacancies. There are going to be a number of people who will be removed from their positions.

Alex: So we can miss a meeting every two meetings?



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Motion to pass the resolution: Adam

Ay: 21 people

Nay: 1 person

Abstentions: 7 people

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Silvia

Seconded: Adam

Voted: Unanimously

Meeting is adjourned at 7:33