

Steering Committee Meeting of the Doctoral Students' Council
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
August 30, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

Members present include: Paul McBreen, Stephanie Cabonargi, Celia Braxton, Moira Egan, Camille Tipton-Allaband, Dave Golland, Eric Doviak, Aleta Styers on conference phone

Members not present: Tina Lee, Tomo Imamichi

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Old Business

A. Business Cards (S. Cabonargi)

Business cards researched during the summer by S. Cabonargi, C. Tipton-Allaband, and outside assistant (J. Adler). The most affordable: 250 cards for \$3.99 per person. Question raised by C. Braxton regarding need for business cards with responses from C. Tipton-Allaband, S. Cabonargi, and E. Doviak regarding efficacy of cards for raising professional status of DSC. C. Tipton-Allaband suggested that reps review their information, sign with their approval. Other comments followed regarding the technicalities and usefulness of business cards.

B. Health Center/Health Insurance

A. Styers stressed that we should make it very clear that the DSC is not going to fund the health center, raised questions as to whether or not we could even be in the business of "hiring & firing" and whose legal responsibility the maintenance of a nurse on campus is. P. McBreen said that it has been the practice to contribute funds to the health center and it has been done at other campuses as well. A. Styers mentioned the June "informal meeting" when a referendum was

discussed to find ways to fund the health center. If it isn't in the Graduate Center's operating budget then it's very hard to get it funded. Aleta said it was important to get information on how other campuses fund their student health center. Said she thinks we need to have the GSUC's position on paper so we have it in writing that they should fund health services. P. McBreen agreed it was a good idea to get it in writing and explained that they did provide a link which explains how all the campuses fund the health center. This he provided on a handout. C. Braxton: the information that was in the website/handout should definitely be investigated and followed up. P. McBreen spent more than 4 hours doing the preliminary research making calls to other CUNY health centers for information. It was mentioned that Student Affairs should hire a student assistant to do further legwork. The group agreed that a request should be drafted and presented to get more information. M. Egan: we should raise the issue of an association with student affairs since they are the ones that deal with this. D. Golland: there should be a standing committee on health care with subcommittees on health center and insurance providers. M. Egan: the committees should be formed at the plenary. E. Doviak: all should consider letting the nurse practitioner go. We can devote our energies to getting an insurance plan that can be used in local clinics

C. Office Assistant (S. Cabonargi)

We might need someone on a per task basis especially at election. J. Adler for instance helped out greatly with preliminary work on business cards.

III. New Business

A. Motion made to appoint D. Golland as an ex officio member of the DSC steering committee with no voting privileges but all other rights and privileges. Motion unanimously approved.

B. Motion made to appoint two at-large representatives to fill current vacancies. P. McBreen made a motion to appoint C. Fisher (former DSC Co-Chair), 6 approve and 1 abstention. M. Egan made a motion to appoint J. Zambrana as at-large rep, 7 for, no abstentions or nays.

C. Vote on Business Cards

S. Cabonargi wants to request specific contact information for at-large and program representatives (not alternates);

A. Styers made an amendment to the motion stating that at large reps (no second)

A. Styers proposed another amendment adding alternate representatives as recipients of business cards. Vote: 6 against and 1 in favor – amendment failed

Motion was made to clarify that business cards would be offered to all program and at-large representatives: Vote: 7 in favor, 0 denied, 0 abstain

MOTION PASSES: Business cards will be presented to all representatives of programs and at-large representatives.

D. University Student Senate (USS) Retreat (D. Golland)
Report followed.

E. Committees in need

C. Braxton voted Head of Standing Committee on health care issues.

D. Golland voted Head of Sub-Committee on Wellness Center Issues.

E. Doviak voted Head of Sub-Committee on Insurance Issues.

Technology Fee Committee –

Middle states –

Enterprise –

Structure Committee (2) –

Committee on Committees (1)

Graduate Council – make sure we have a rep (non co-chair person)

F. Lockers (A. Styers)

A. Styers: everyone should vacate their lockers. Sign should be posted about vacating lockers followed by a re-assignment of lockers. If there are more people who want lockers then the leftovers will be drawn by lot. P. McBreen hinks that we should find out whose jurisdiction this is and who has authority over the lockers.

**D. Golland and E. Doviak asked for keys to the DSC office, A. Styers to see to this.

G. May committee elections (2 volunteers to re-count)

Committees never got an official count, just the department and at-large reps were counted, so we need 2 volunteers to do a recount.

When do we need to have this done by? No date set, arbitrary but try to have it by Sept. 20 ; Camille

suggested that people use their office hours to count votes; Paul said we should consult C. Fisher on details on why they weren't finalized.

H. Fall plenary dates/event dates.

All dates seem to be good

I. Project leader for Health Services Committee

See new committee members.

J. Need 2 volunteers for orientation (struck from agenda)

E. Doviak agreed to help S. Cabonargi and P. McBreen with orientation.

IV. Steering committee

A. Schedule for chairing/note taking and catering at Fall plenary meetings; E. Doviak will head the party committee

Office hours

Monday 9am-noon (Moir)

Tuesday 12-2pm (Paul)

Wednesday 11-2pm (Celia); 12-3pm (Paul); 2-5pm (Eric)

Thursday ?

Friday 3-6pm (Camille); 1-6pm (Stephanie)

** (need office hours from: Tina, Aleta, Tomo)

(I don't have the sheet with the schedule for note taking/chairing/catering for the fall ... I must have misplaced that hand out ... Does anyone have this?)

- B. Office responsibilities
movie tickets, mail, putting up posters
- C. Areas of concern/ goals for the academic year
(Stephanie, Paul)
Everyone should think about what projects they want to do for the year.
- D. Set up calendar of duties and overall events calendar

V. Announcements

- A. Web page update
Web site is getting 500+ hits per month but we are still having outages; Camille is working with IR to monitor the problem and she asks that each member of the Steering Committee set their computers at home to the DSC as the home page. It would be very helpful to get reports back from as many students regarding when off-campus outages were noticed, what browser they are using, what computer operating system (XP, Win98, Mac, etc) and if they are on dial-up, cable, or dsl.
- B. Information Resources update – J. Haggard leaving by the end of October.
- C. USS retreat update (D. Golland)
Please note – this report was lengthy so D. Golland provided a written version of it after the meeting.
- I. The Annual Report of the Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs.
- II. The Political Atmosphere of USS.
 - A. My Unwillingness to run for the position of Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs.
 - 1. Amendment to the Report.

(CCNY), presented the following report at the retreat that I propose we enter into the record in its entirety. Each member of the USS steering committee presented a specialized report relevant to their position on the committee.

"As Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs, I had many projects that I accomplished for USS. My first priority for the academic year 2003-2004 was to determine the viability to implement a weekend program for graduate students in CUNY. Since last October I have successfully started to move forward to accomplish my task.

"By the end of the month of October I had visited many campuses and had called and spoke to many of my colleagues. I heard their concerns and I have been working together with them to make each campus a better place for graduate students.

"On November 24, 2003, I began sending letters to each provost of every campus where there is a graduate program. Although my term was too short, the City University of New York will now have weekend programs for graduate students on many campuses, beginning next fall. This will afford graduate students the opportunity to take all of their classes for their degree on Saturdays and Sundays. This is an initiative that the administration, especially the provosts of different colleges and the University Student Senate, initiated to help CUNY serve its students more efficiently.

"This past December, members of the City College Graduate Student Council and I met with the provost of City College, Dr. Zeev Dagan. We discussed the viability of having weekend graduate programs, and agreed on many points during the meeting. Dr. Dagan felt that the Graduate Education Program could support weekend courses as soon as the fall semester. A weekend program in Graduate Psychology will be pursued next.

"On January 15, 2004 I met with administrators at Brooklyn College: Provost Roberta S. Matthews, Anselma Rodriguez, Coordinator of Graduate Studies, and Louis Hainline, Dean of Graduate Students Affairs. Brooklyn College currently offers graduate weekend classes in Education, Computer Science, and the Arts. They were very pleased with our interest and welcomed any support from the University Student Senate.

"As elected Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs, I intended to have a CUNY-wide student newspaper, starting next semester. The newspaper would be named '*The 1847*.' It would be published quarterly. Each college would be encouraged to submit an article on the events occurring at their campus. I propose that the delegates to USS of each college, and the Vice Chairs of Senior College and Community College Affairs be accountable for getting these editorials.

"On Monday, March 8th, 2004, my colleagues of University Student Senate (USS) and I attended Lobby Day in Albany. I was there to interact with the elected officials and talk about the outlook of higher education in New York State. We lobbied to reverse the cuts that were made to TAP and to deny the Governor's reforming plan, increase financing for the opportunity programs, restore funding for the community colleges, and to add additional funding for SUNY and CUNY.

"I attended the 35th Annual National Grassroots Legislative Conference of the United States Student Association, which was held on March 26th-30th, 2004 Washington Court Hotel, Washington, D.C. Students from all over the United States were in attendance. I had the opportunity to meet students from California, Wisconsin, Illinois and Arizona, etc.

"I was in attendance at the primary workshop called the Dream Act Legislation. This was the first in a series of student workshops designed to help student leaders to better assist their immigrant constituents. The main focus of the workshop was to eliminate federal restrictions on in-state tuition and also assist immigrant constituents to apply for permanent legal status. Student participation will be the key to passage of this legislation.

" 'Each Year 50,000-60,000 undocumented students who have grown up in the United States graduate from high school face a difficult and uncertain future, due to their immigration status, these students face enormous barriers to higher education, work, and daily survival' [United States Student Association 'Conference Handbook' 2004]. USSA and many other national organizations are optimistic about the prospects for passage of legislation now pending in Congress. Among the presenters was Mary Cunningham-Legislative Director, USSA, and Patricia Loera, Esq., Legislative Director of National Association for Bilingual Education."

II. I found at the retreat that USS operates in a highly politically charged atmosphere. Many of these kids came out of hard political battles on their home campuses and they brought that backroom-fighting spirit to USS. I contrasted that atmosphere with our own, using my own experience as an example--I ran for USS unopposed and the DSC seemed happy to elect someone willing to take time out of a busy doctoral student schedule to do the work.

A. The position of Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs will be up for election in October, and Mr. Dorfeuille is not eligible for re-election as he completed his degree last Spring. My unwillingness to stand for election to the position is based on two reasons: First, I am hesitant to enter the political atmosphere of USS as a candidate but rather felt it would be more appropriate for the GC Senator to act as a bipartisan advisor to any parties which should seek informed advice. Second, I felt that I might be approaching the limits of my abilities with my schedule constraints during the upcoming year, as a DSC delegate, ex-officio member of the DSC steering committee, and USS Senator. I stated that if

the steering committee of the DSC (or the leadership of USS) should strongly feel the necessity of my candidacy that I would nevertheless run. The DSC steering committee's consensus appeared to be that I should use my judgment.

1. Amendment to the report (which I will propose at the next steering committee meeting if necessary): because it is beginning to appear that most parties in the USS want me to run for the position, and because it is beginning to appear that no other qualified candidate will step forward, I am at this time reconsidering and may indeed run for the position.