

CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Steering Committee Minutes

August 26, 2005

Chairperson: Stephanie Domenici

Minutes: David Golland

Meeting called to order at 6:19 p.m.

Present were Steering Committee members Celia Braxton, Ericka Calton, Stephanie Domenici, David Golland, Lee Hachadoorian, Tina Lee, Charles Lieberman (non-voting ex-officio), Adriana Tomasino, Brenda Vollman, and Chong Wojtkowski. Quorum established to conduct business.

I. Approval of Agenda.

Amendments: New item III c: Keys (Tina); item IV d: Celia added to presenters. Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by D. Golland; seconded by T. Lee.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

II. Approval of Old Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the transitional Steering Committee meeting of May 20, 2005 (without amendments).

Moved by D. Golland; seconded by T. Lee.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

III. Old Business.

a. Budget Items (Tina). T. Lee made a presentation on the budget, which included the following items:

- i. Movie tickets. Wholesale prices are changing. We'll buy no more until they're needed. We'll charge \$6.00, which is as much as we can charge legally; the plenary authorized \$6.50.
- ii. Advocate advertisements and movie ticket sales don't count as income for the purposes of dedicated expenditures.

- iii. Conferences, Publications, and Professional Development (budget line 57) will require a new bylaw to determine disbursement guidelines. Cultural Affairs (line 55) will serve as a model. L. Hachadoorian and T. Lee volunteered to handle this.
- iv. Medical Test Subsidies. Motion to reduce DSC subsidization of laboratory costs for tests taken at the Wellness Center for uninsured students to 70%.
**Moved by L. Hachadoorian; seconded by T. Lee.
D. Golland recused.
Motion passed unanimously.**
- v. NYPL copying. We'll try to obtain another contract. If that falls through, we will get Vice President Schoengood involved and/or consider purchasing copy cards for resale.
- vi. Telephone billing. We haven't been billed for our telephone usage in several years. There is extra money in the budget to cover the possibility that we will be back-billed.
- vii. Travel and research funds. The administration needs advance notice on increases if they are to be expected to match increased funds. As a result, we're not increasing that line now, but will probably do so next year. The money we had allocated for that increase will now be used to pay our share of the Wellness Center operating budget for the fall semester.
- viii. Motion to recommend the passage of the budget to the plenary.
**Moved by D. Golland; seconded by C. Lieberman.
Motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Items that didn't get paid for in 04-05 (Stef). Motion to retroactively pay the following items:
- i. Overtime for Steering Committee members who worked the 2005 election at \$200 each (P. McBreen, S. Domenici, T.Lee);
 - ii. Up to \$100 for food and transportation for campus visits (S. Domenici, P. McBreen);
 - iii. Up to \$50 for Presidential Search Committee car service usage (S. Domenici);
 - iv. Up to \$83 for Vistaprint (S. Domenici); and
 - v. The equivalent of one month's co-chair stipend for May overtime related to business management not involving the Co-Chair for Business (T. Lee).

Moved by D. Golland; seconded by C. Lieberman.

T. Lee recused.

L. Hachadoorian abstained.

Motion passed (7-0-1).

- c. Keys (Tina). T. Lee made a brief presentation. The new locks and keys for the Steering Committee offices are still not done. Steering Committee office keys were distributed to E. Calton, L. Hachadoorian, C. Lieberman, A. Tomasino, B. Vollman, and C. Wojtkowski. They had been signed out under T. Lee and MUST be returned after the new locks are installed.

IV. New Business

- a. Goals and overview (Stef). S Domenici made a brief presentation on Steering Committee member goals, parties, business cards, and the new research grant. The deadline for submitting grant proposals to academic programs is 10/24/05. More information will be available on the website after Brian Schwartz writes it up. S. Domenici also talked about outside grants and noted that the GC caps dissertation funds at \$20,000 per year. E. Calton volunteered to work to improve that. S. Domenici talked about the GTF, mid-level tuition remission, and recent changes in the WAC Fellowship policy and suggested that we

push for upper-level Level II students (post classes/pre orals) to be eligible for WAC Fellowships.

- b. DSC Committees (Stef). S. Domenici pointed out that there is currently only one other standing committee in the DSC (Health Issues) and suggested that Steering Committee members form committees to help them address their goals.
- c. GC wide bodies (Stef, Dave).
 - i. The College Association. D. Golland discussed this group, which includes two DSC reps other than the co-chairs (to be approved by the plenary). The committee decided to seek volunteers from the plenary.
 - ii. The Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation Board of Directors. D. Golland discussed this board, which includes two students (not necessarily DSC reps) other than the co-chairs (to be approved by the plenary). The committee agreed that former co-chairs should fill those slots as a general principal and nominated Carrie Fischer for one slot this year. C. Lieberman volunteered to fill the other slot.
 - iii. Graduate Council. S. Domenici discussed vacancies on the Curriculum and Degree Committee and the Student Services Committee. The committee decided to seek volunteers from the plenary.
- d. Referendum and Appt. of new Health committee Chair (Dave, Tina, Celia).
 - i. T. Lee outlined the current timeline and deadlines for the petition and referendum. Thirty more petitions will be needed within the next two weeks. October 7 will be the probable postal deadline for the referendum.
 - ii. C. Braxton and E. Calton agreed to co-chair the Health Issues Committee.

- e. Miguel Malo Action Committee (Dave). D. Golland gave a brief presentation on the case. C. Wojtkowki volunteered to speak on behalf of the DSC at the September 6 event at Hunter College. Motion to extend the DSC's endorsement (until the plenary meeting) of the position that CUNY drop all charges against Miguel Malo.

Moved by D. Golland; seconded by T. Lee.

Motion passed 8-0-1.

- f. Fall Party (Dave). S. Domenici discussed the need for committee members to handle planning for the DSC party, scheduled for September 23, 2005. A. Tomasino volunteered to handle flyers and publicity. L. Hachadoorian volunteered to handle alcoholic beverages. S. Domenici volunteered to handle food and non-alcoholic beverages. C. Lieberman and B. Vollman volunteered to handle entertainment. C. Wojtkowski volunteered to handle decorations. D. Golland volunteered to serve as the overall point person.
- g. The Steering Committee!, positions, meeting and party tasks, office hours (Celia).
 - i. C. Braxton gave a brief presentation on Steering Committee member duties and took office hours requests.
 - ii. C. Braxton volunteered to serve as Office Coordinator. C. Wojtkowski volunteered to serve as Coordinator for International Students. L. Hachadoorian volunteered to serve as Coordinator for Off-Campus Students. B. Vollman volunteered to serve as Coordinator for Students with Disabilities. A. Tomasino agreed to find a coordinator position that would suit her abilities and interests.
 - iii. S. Domenici announced the schedule of fall semester DSC plenary and Steering Committee meetings, and took fall meeting duty requests.

- V. Other New Business. There was no other new business presented.

VI. Announcements. D. Golland announced that USS Chairperson Lauren Fasano was unlikely to seek re-election; undergraduates Dwight Dunkley (College of Staten Island) and Carlos Sierra (Lehman College) seemed likely candidates. He announced that he and S. Domenici had agreed that starting this November, future USS Chairpersons will be invited to speak at the November DSC plenary meetings, rather than in September. Lauren Fasano has not confirmed her attendance at this September's plenary meeting; GC Ombuds Officer Rolf Meyersohn has.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Golland.