

CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Steering Committee Minutes

October 7, 2005

Chairperson: David Golland
Minutes: Adriana C. Tomasino
Meeting called to order at 6:07 P.M.

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

- I. Approval of Agenda.
Motion to approve agenda (without amendments).
Moved by T. Lee; seconded by C. Lieberman.
Motion passed unanimously.

- II. Approval of Old Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of August 26, 2005 (without amendments).
Moved by D. Golland; seconded by C. Lieberman.
Motion passed unanimously.

- III. Old Business.
 - a. Fall Party wrap-up (Tina, Stef). T. Lee spoke about our having spent \$2700 for the Fall party, \$700 over the amount allocated for this event. She suggests having a smaller party the next time around. For all intents and purposes, the event was a great success! S. Domenici mentioned having received many compliments about the Fall party, with at least 10% of the student population attending. She states that bottles are a problem, with C. Braxton adding that kegs are no longer delivered. T. Lee can pick-up a keg in Brooklyn—if need be, or have someone else with a car do so for future events. C. Braxton notes that this issue should be mentioned at a future DSC plenary meeting. Rental car for pick-up of liquor out of the question due to the DSC's liability issues. D. Golland introduced guest, Dwight Dunkley, former student body President at College of Staten Island, now third year in Senate and candidate for position of Chair.
 - b. Health Committee (Ericka, Celia). E. Calton informs the Steering Committee that she has written an article about the Wellness Center for *The Advocate* that will be sent to D. Golland. C. Braxton maintains that access hours to Wellness Center be improved. She and E. Calton will be invited to a meeting with S. Lerner regarding this. S. Domenici mentions sending out a survey, to which B. Vollman adds students should be able to discuss their concerns. E.

Calton suggests retrieving information from a survey on the website. D. Golland recognizes C. Braxton for her hard work with tabling for the Wellness Center, and talks about having a large increase in student participation overall.

IV. New Business.

a. Communications Report (Dave). D. Golland reported on several items, including:

- i. Public Representation. D. Golland informs the Steering Committee that tone of speech with students is very important, as repercussions may result if something is taken the wrong way, and one item from the Media Board needs approval.
- ii. Media Board *Advocate* Resolution. It states that half of all money acquired by advertising in *The Advocate* go directly to *The Advocate* rather than to the DSC. C. Braxton requests information about coverage, and T. Lee makes several suggestions as to utilization of funds: 1) Better software; 2) The process by which papers are sent electronically; 3) Changes in printing costs. Motion to approve Resolution.

**Moved by D. Golland; seconded by T. Lee.
Motion passed unanimously.**

- iii. College Association Appointment(s). D. Golland mentions that there are six positions to be occupied for the College Association, not five as originally thought. At the moment, the three Co-Chairs, S. Domenici, T. Lee and D. Golland are involved as are the volunteers C. Braxton and Aleta Aslani Styers, with one vacancy. C. Lieberman, as the non-voting ex-officio member of the Steering Committee, volunteers to serve if no one else can do so.
- iv. Curriculum and Degree Committee Appointment. D. Golland also informs the Steering Committee that there is an opening on this committee to which he is temporarily assigned.
- v. Grad Council Update. Meeting is two Thursdays from now. Thinking about installing a Nursing doctorate degree, and adding "Ethics" as a course rather than a part of one.
- vi. Board of Trustees Update. Otis Hill and Michael Solomon were honored on the occasion of their retirement for thirty-five years of service to the University. Hill retired as Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Solomon as CUNY Legal's head of student issues.

b. Budget Report (Tina). T. Lee made a presentation on the budget, stating that the DSC doesn't receive money until the school does. \$68,000 added with 3,500 students, with an additional \$35,000 as well. The DSC will have additional organizations, possibly two or three, so we may go over-budget, but that is not likely. C. Wojtkowski's Cultural Affairs request has been received and needs to be voted upon. If the Wellness Referendum passes, then there will be no charge for this year. Next year, however, another \$27,000 must be

paid for the Nurse Practitioner. If everything else is spent, there will still be an \$11,000 surplus in the budget, and another \$4,000 in the Discretionary Fund. There was also a discussion about the Travel and Research Fund, and whether or not the amount allotted should be raised from \$250. T. Lee mentions that there appears to be no budget deficit, which is a welcome departure from last year.

c. Student Affairs Report (Stef). S. Domenici makes a presentation on the following:

- i. Business Cards/Magnets. S. Domenici informs the Steering Committee that the expenditures for these items must be approved, especially since we are in need of both. Motion to approve Resolution for funding of no more than \$400 for business cards and magnets.

Moved by S. Domenici; seconded by D. Golland.

Motion passed unanimously.

One more issue came up regarding T. Lee's extra work as Co-Chair for at least a month before formally becoming Business Co-Chair. The Steering Committee decided that the only way to repay T. Lee for her work is to use money from the Discretionary Fund. Motion to approve payment of \$700 to T. Lee from the Discretionary Fund.

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

T. Lee recused herself.

Motion passed unanimously.

(C. Braxton had to leave meeting early and requested that T. Lee act as her proxy for the rest of the meeting.)

- ii. Banner in 5414 (\$250). S. Domenici notes that it would be important for the Steering Committee to have a full-color custom banner for events, and that the Steering Committee could use funding from its Discretionary Fund for such a purchase. Ray Ring would have to be contacted as well. Motion to approve funding of \$250 for such a banner.

Moved by S. Domenici; seconded by T. Lee.

Motion passed unanimously.

- iii. Grants Program. S. Domenici states that department representatives should make certain that Executive Officers know that they are to collect six copies of all applications by October 25th for the new Grants Program that has been instituted at the Graduate Center. The Executive Officers Committee (which will determine which candidates will receive funding) will consist of those in the Sciences, Social Sciences and the Humanities, with the largest group composed of Social Science Executive Officers.

- iv. Goals for *The Advocate*. S. Domenici mentions that Steering Committee “Coordinator” job descriptions should be sent to *The Advocate* to be included in the next issue.
- d. USS Report (Charles). C. Lieberman noted that the USS will be functional but that he would not be running for election on it. Dwight Dunkley, tonight’s guest at the Steering Committee meeting, will be running for election, and both C. Lieberman and D. Golland would be present at the next meeting.
- e. Flash Drives: How to Distribute Them? (Dave). D. Golland, working with Paul McBreen, has found that the Flash drives seem to be ready for distribution. The problem lies with the chosen method of distribution. A discussion ensued about how involved or uninvolved the DSC should be in the distribution of the available flash drives. Motion to table the discussion until the next Steering Committee meeting.

Moved by D. Golland; seconded by B. Vollman.

Motion passed 8-0-1.

- f. Coffee Hour—November? (Stef). S. Domenici believed that the most effective way of negotiating a new contract would be to gather everyone together earlier in the semester—before negotiations began, and suggested that the Steering Committee move Coffee Hour into the month of November, rather than December. It was decided that Coffee Hour would take place on Thursday, November 10th from 1:30-4:30 P.M. in the DSC’s own space—Room 5414. C. Braxton volunteered E. Calton for the survey. B. Vollman would order coffee; A. Tomasino would create flyers, and other Steering Committee members will work on other aspects of the day, and request that other volunteers help as well.
 - g. Adriana’s New Full-Time Job. A. Tomasino informed the Steering Committee about her new job at St. John’s University. She presented the Steering Committee with a new schedule of her Steering Committee Office hours, which would change as a result.
- V. Other New Business. (Stef). S. Domenici requested that other Steering Committee members join her at an event on October 23rd in Flushing for Bernard Schwartz (the Vice-President for Sponsored Research), and for which ten people were needed. It appeared that no one present was available.
- VI. Announcements. (Stef). S. Domenici reported that Bernard Schwartz wishes to have Open Mike Nights (with a bar) on Mondays at the Graduate Center in the 365 Express space, with each week having a different theme.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,
Adriana Tomasino**