



Steering Committee members present:

Brenda Vollman (BV); Charles Lieberman (CL); Ericka Calton (EC); David Golland (DG); Aaron Ibur (AI); Rouzbeh Nazari (RN); Kate Wilson (KW); and Chong Wojtkowski (CW)

Steering Committee members absent:

Michael Broder (MB); Zeeshan Suhail (ZS) [non-voting ex-officio]

BV called meeting to order 12/01/06 at 5:59 PM; CL minutes

I. Approval of Agenda (amended)

**CW motion to approve amended agenda; DG 2nd
Unanimous**

II. Approval of Old Minutes (amended)

**AI motion to approve amended minutes
CW move to table until January meeting; DG 2nd
Unanimous**

III. Old Business

- a. BV: outstanding receipts
 - i. BV: SC members 2nd their own check requests
 - ii. BV: SC members 2nd signature on check requests in BV box during office hours
- b. AI: Article XI
 - i. language approved by AI
 - ii. DG summarized Article XI in regards to following positions to be changed from Media Board members to advisors
 1. Webmaster
 2. Advocate Editor
- c. CL: Community Building Committee (CBC)
 - i. CL discussed pool table donation possibility; movie night; additional comfortable seating (chairs or couches)
 - ii. CW discussed lighting in rooms 5414 & 5409; room design
 - iii. BV recommends all interested parties discuss further with CBC

IV. Student Affairs Report (CW)

- a. Business/Holiday Cards

**CW motion to approve \$175 for holiday cards from SC discretionary fund; EC 2nd
Unanimous**
- b. Student Involvement in Departments
 - i. some departments are alleged to have been noncompliant in conducting course evaluations

- ii. CW will conduct a survey to determine how widespread the problem
- iii. CW will survey to determine if students are being given appropriate representation on committees
- c. Holiday Party Duties
 - i. CW asked for volunteers for party
 - ii. BV volunteered for beverages
 - iii. EC volunteered for decorations
 - iv. AI, DG, & CL volunteered for set-up
 - v. music will be handled by SC

V. Communications Report (DG)

- a. Webmaster Bylaw Amendment and Acting Chair Bylaw Proposals
 - i. Webmaster Bylaw Amendment Proposal. Prompted by our ongoing discussion of the relationship between the DSC webmaster and the DSO Media Board, and with the issue brought to the fore by Camille Tipton's resignation as webmaster, Chong, Brenda, and I would like to recommend that we reconsider the role of the DSC webmaster and amend the website bylaw (#11) as necessary. The idea is that the DSC website, unlike *The Advocate*, is not a DSO medium but rather a DSC project, more like the Adjunct Project. The website is, after all, for the DSC, meaning student government, unlike the newspaper, which is only indirectly supervised by student government. The content of the website is not editorial but informational, and the informational content is determined by the DSC, through the Steering Committee. In contrast, the newspaper has both editorial and informational content, and such content (except for the DSC page) is determined not by the DSC but by the newspaper staff. And so the recommendation is that the bylaw be amended so that hiring, supervision, and termination of the webmaster be a DSC Steering Committee function, organized by the Co-Chair for Student Affairs, rather than a DSO Media Board function, organized by the Co-Chair for Communications. This will require changes to the bylaw's title and sections 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, and 11.6.
 - ii. Acting Chair Bylaw Proposal. While statute and Robert's Rules stipulate that the Media Board and DSC standing committees shall select their own chairpersons, in reality the Co-Chair for Communications serves as the *de facto* chair of the Media Board, the Co-Chair for Business Management serves as the *de facto* chair of the Professional Development and Cultural Affairs Committees, and Steering Committee members, volunteering at the joint meeting in May, serve as *de facto* chairs of the other three standing committees (Health Issues, Constitution and Bylaws, and Community Building). I was talking this over with Brenda last month and we would like to propose that we codify the reality not by forcing the *de facto* chairs permanently on their respective boards/committees, but rather as "acting chairs" until (and unless) the board/committee should choose to formalize that person as chair (or elect someone else). The need arises from the fact that the boards/committees take office in June but do not meet until the fall semester, and sometimes issues arise in the late spring or summer which require board/committee action. Board/committee action does not take place spontaneously, but is organized by a chairperson. The current system works well but without this new bylaw, actions taken under it could be challenged.

- b. USS/BOT Report.
 - i. The University Student Senate and the Board of Trustees spent the bulk of their November meetings dealing with the renewal of the Chancellor's Compact. At the USS, I opined that the Compact has largely benefited the students of the Graduate Center and that we have been adequately and regularly consulted on how the additional student services funds will be spent. At the Board, the student trustee expressed concern that this has not been the case throughout the university, and the faculty trustee, who will be the DSC guest speaker in December, expressed concern that part-time students (who are ineligible for TAP) will have to pay the full cost of any implemented tuition increase. The Compact, which is actually called the CUNY Budget Request (because it is the official budget request that CUNY will be making of the state legislature), was approved unanimously by the Board. I have the materials presented to the USS and to the Board if anyone would like to look them over.
 - ii. The Board named as Distinguished Professors the following faculty members: William B. Rossow, Electrical Engineering, CCNY; Ruth Stark, Chemistry, CSI; Wayne Koestenbaum, English, GC; Godfrey Gumbs, Physics and Astronomy, Hunter; James Lynch, Criminal Justice, John Jay; and Morris Rossabi, History, Queens.
 - iii. The Board approved the following honorary doctorates, to be granted by John Jay in May, 2007: Taylor Branch, Doctor of Humane Letters; Patricia Cornwell, Doctor of Letters; Richard Delgado, Doctor of Laws; Paul Farmer, Doctor of Science; and Deborah E. Lipstadt, Doctor of Humane Letters.
- c. Media Board Report. The Media Board currently has four applications for the position of DSC Webmaster, all of whom are qualified. The deadline is December 7. Interviews will be held at a special Executive Session of the Media Board on December 15, at which time a decision will be made. Chong and Ericka have graciously agreed to handle any emergencies which may arise between today and February 1, although it is possible that the new webmaster may start early if necessary.

VI. Business Report (BV)

BV motion to approve up to \$210 for DSC representatives' business cards; DG 2nd Unanimous

- a. Stipends
- b. Office Hours
 - i. BV requests SC hold office hours in December during Finals Week
 - ii. BV requests SC volunteer to set up for plenary and SC meetings
- c. Spring Coffee Hour & Party Dates
 - i. BV suggests Thursday, March 1st for the Spring Coffee Hour (3:30-5:30 PM)
 - ii. BV suggests Friday, May 4th for the Spring Party
- d. Spring Meeting and Party Duties
 - i. BV asked for volunteers for first SC meeting on January 26th
 - ii. EC volunteered as chair; KW minutes; MB food

VII. New Business

- a. Co-chair Transition (BV)

BV motion for \$250 honorarium to co-chair for communications elect for January; AI 2nd Unanimous

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- i. DG volunteered to assist new co-chair in transition
- b. International Student Advocacy (RN)
 - i. RN states international students represent 25% of GC community
 - ii. RN requests a committee be created for international students
 - iii. CW states this is a Student Affairs issue
 - iv. RN propose helping to inform international students in GC
 - v. suggestions include:
 - 1. help acclimate international students to US system, including social interaction and dialogue
 - 2. promote grants for international students
 - 3. include adjunct project coordinator in process
- c. Steering Committee/Representative Gap (KW)
 - DG moves to capitalize the “g” in gap for the Agenda (VII sub c); CW 2nd Unanimous**
 - i. KW discusses the issue of the gap between the SC & other DSC reps and how we can close the gap
 - ii. CW recommends the SC send goals as reps to CW
- d. USS Delegate (CW)
 - i. (CW) Effective Immediately, ZS resigns from USS; election on 12/8
 - ii. CL recommends that the December 8th elections be held in the following order:
 - 1. Co-chair for Communications
 - 2. USS representative
 - 3. Steering Committee vacated seat(s)
 - 4. Media Board vacated seat(s)
- e. Other New Business
 - EC motion to reconsider motion to use discretionary funds to pay Co-chair for Communications elect for January; RN 2nd Unanimous**
 - BV motion pay Co-chair for Communications elect for January from stipend fund; AI 2nd Unanimous**

- i. DG reported on Executive Committee meeting
 - 1. DG request consideration of “student lunch”
 - 2. EC will take “student lunch” issue to Health Issues Committee

VIII. Announcements

- a. Patrina Huff joins the SC meeting at 7:15PM to announce that she will run for the vacated position of co-chair for communications
- b. AI resigns, effective January 1st, 2007, from his position as a DSC representative, SC Member, and Media Board representative because he will be teaching on Friday nights during the Spring 2007 Semester and not be able to attend the scheduled meetings.

IX. Adjournment

DG motion to adjourn meeting; KW 2nd Unanimous

**BV adjourned meeting at 7:59 PM
respectfully submitted by CL**