

-- D R A F T --
CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Joint Steering Committee Minutes
May 29, 2007

Chair: Charles Lieberman
Minutes: Rob Faunce

Steering Committee members present:

[outgoing] Ericka Calton (EC), Chong Wojtkowski (CW), Rouzbeh Nazari [non-voting ex-officio] (RN), Patrina Huff (PH), Kate Wilson (KW), Charles Lieberman (CL), Michael Broder (MB);

[returning] Brenda Vollman (BV), Rob Faunce (RF);

[incoming] Greg Donovan (GD), Alissa Ackerman (AA), Anton Masterovoy (AM), Andrea Efthymiou (AE), Danielle Wu (DW)

Steering Committee members absent:

[returning] Denise Torres (DT);

[incoming] Nancy Medina (NM), Jessica Anderson [non-voting ex-officio]

**Meeting Called to order at 6:05pm. CL motion; RF
Seconded. Unanimous.**

I. Approval of Agenda

**CL motioned to approve agenda; RF seconded.
Unanimous.**

II. Approval of Minutes from 5/11 (2006-7 SC reps only)

PH states that this submission does not reflect her revisions including comments from DT. KW states that PH might not have been there the whole time. CW states that those comments occurred before the meeting was called to order.

**BV motioned to table this item; PH seconded. EC
opposes tabling motion. Motion fails 3 for
(PH/BV/RF), 5 against (CL/CW/KW/EC/MB).**

RF is unclear on when DT's comments took place, but feels that PH's minutes need to take precedence, per the Constitution.

**EC motioned to approve minutes; CW seconded.
Motion passes 5 for (CL/CW/KW/EC/MB), 1
against (PH), 2 abstained (BV/RF).**

III. Old Business

None.

IV. Student Affairs Report (CW)

CW reports scheduling to meet with GD in July for transition; discusses the 27 chartered organizations and the Chartered Org Fair at Orientation. KW asks about room requests. CW says SC should check the Google account and the office over the summer. EC suggest schedules be posted in each room. PH suggests creating an interactive calendar for requests. GD asks about the webmaster. RF and EC respond.

V. Communications Report (EC)

EC reports that transition will be scheduled with RF, along with ownership of the Google Groups account. EC discusses the role of the webmaster, AJ Singh. PH asks about the forums and spam issues, noting recent improvements. EC responds. CW and EC discuss forum ownership issues.

VI. Business Report (BV)

BV reports that all receipts for 2006-7 are due ASAP. BV discusses the process of receipt submission and DSC rep accountability. BV discusses the role of the SC discretionary fund, and mentions the second team building session as an activity that is spent from that budget. KW asks about leftover budget monies; BV responds that they revert to the Scholarship Fund. KW adds the standing committees need members.

VII. USS Report (RN)

RN reported he will be transitioning to JA, and plans to attend the next meeting. The DSC voted against the Master Plan, causing it to fail. KW adds that we don't want money in Tammany Hall hands. BV mentions the new proposal asks to double the USS fee from 85 cents to \$1.70 per student. KW notes that they have done nothing for us since 1972, making their inflation argument irrelevant. EC adds that they have no accountability. CW adds their plan is unspecific. CL relates the history of the lawsuit he filed against USS during his tenure as delegate. PH notes that she is unclear what USS does, or what their accountability is. BV would like to open fiscal negotiations with USS. CL notes that on principle we can not be bought.

VIII. Community Building Committee (PH)

PH discusses the picnic and the genesis of the committee; mentions that they did not spend all their funds; discusses the IPOD purchase. KW mentions A/V issues in our rooms. GD brings up Tech Fee Committee jurisdiction on this. BV discusses future tech issues. PH mentions that calling for help from the A/V people gets results. CL mentions changing the room reservation form to reflect A/V issues. EC suggests holding training with the A/V people to prevent onus being on students. BV suggests that training for chartered orgs with regular A/V usage. GD wants to compile complaints for submission.

IX. Health Issues Committee (EC for DT)

EC discusses the committee's goal of getting health insurance for all students, and the interference of NY laws. EC mentions the Advocate articles, and the goals of being more involved with the Wellness Center. EC mentions that testing will stop June 14 at the Wellness Center due to Mary Clancy's impending retirement.

X. New Business

- a. *SC Duties and Responsibilities (CW)*: CW gives a history of the coordinator positions before the current iterations. EC discusses the SC setting its own rules. CW mentions the 5th floor is our domain. GD asks about chartered org office space; CW explains that process. KW mentions the history of our space, which GD elaborates on. CW mentions that the perception of how our space is used is contingent on active chartered orgs. DW suggests that chartered orgs should present at plenaries; KW urges caution.
- b. *Ongoing Issues of Importance (BV/EC)*. BV discusses meeting duties, and the importance of doing small things. KW urges to use your own feelings of alienation for positive effect at meetings. RN, RF, CW, EC all relate anecdotes that reflect the importance of positive representation of the DSC as SC members. GD asks about minutes; CW refers him to Open Meetings Law. CW discusses in-person communications and talking up DSC events whenever possible. BV discusses the locker lottery history, and refers to the cultural affairs grants and professional development grants. BV mentions that Scholarship Development is now the Scholarly Awards Committee. RN asks about reallocating funds from unused department allotments; BV and CW reflect on the impossibility. CW mentions outreach programs. CW mentions theme parties.
- c. *Team Building and Retreat (BV)*: BV mentions that Elise Perram has activities for us to do at this meeting. Swimming, bowling, and rock climbing are suggested as possible excursions. DW asks about important personnel. CW mentions Sharon Lerner, Elise Perram, Matt Schoengood.

XI. Adjournment

**CL motioned to adjourn; RN seconded. Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 7:43.
Respectfully submitted, Rob Faunce**