

CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Steering Committee Minutes – DRAFT

October 5, 2007

Attendees: Greg Donovan, Rob Faunce, Adele Kudish, Anton Masterovoy, Nancy Medina, Denise Torres, Danielle Wu
Absent: Alissa Ackerman, Brenda Vollman

Chair: Denise Torres (DT)
Minutes: Anton Masterovoy (AM)

Meeting commenced at 6:12pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Rob Faunce (RF) makes addition of the topic of Master Plan under part IV. New Business, section (a).

Motion to approve agenda: RF, 2nd by Greg Donovan (GD), approved by unanimous consent

II. Approval of Old Minutes

RF will make change to the erroneous title of the August 31, 2007 minutes (From Steering Committee Agenda to Steering Committee Minutes).

Brenda Vollman (BV) made changes to the erroneously written numbers in old minutes

Motion to approve: RF, GD seconds. Approved by unanimous consent.

III. Old Business

a. Eligibility of Reps:

RF indicates that we have 67 confirmed reps, including one from Liberal Studies who just got approved. One of the reps is too early in the program to be confirmed, but was invited to join the DSC as a non-voting member and will have full certification next year. Five people were told by Student Affairs that they were not certified. There is no process of appeal and the lack of certification seems to be based in misunderstandings of incompletes on the Reps' records.

Danielle Wu (DW) says that as one of the people who were not certified she was called by Ellise Perram of Student Affairs to point out her ineligibility to serve due to an incomplete. This has since been resolved but the problem of a lack of clarity in the certification process and a lack of a grace period to resolve the issue remains.

Present members suggest that we need to ask for this situation to be corrected, and the certification rules, as they were just implemented, clarified.

RF says that we need to establish a position that students who appealed their lack of certification will keep their positions and rights within the DSC. We will contact Student Affairs in two weeks.

DT points out that as more people will be elected this winter we need a clear policy.

b. Nurse Practitioner Update

DT reports that substantial progress on the issue has been made. By next week some indication might come from Student Affairs on when the Health Center will be fully operational.

The Chair (DT) says that at 6:25pm the Committee went into the Executive Session to discuss the Nurse Practitioner situation.

Executive session ended at 6:33pm

c. Approval of gifts to outgoing Executive Committee members.

RF makes motion to table the issue, GD seconds, approved by unanimous consent

IV. New Business

a. Master Plan

RF reports that the Master Plan was not discussed in May. It makes barely any mention of graduate life. RF suggests that the DSC needs to make a general response to the Plan. At the Plenary student reps will be asked to tell their constituents to read and submit bullet point comments on the Master Plan. Responses to be sent to RF.

RF asks if there are any questions. Adele Kudish (AK) suggests that RF in an introduction to the Master Plan proposal needs to make clear what the Plan is and what the students are being asked to do.

All present discuss the Master Plan and possible response.

DT (Chair) moves to (b)

b. Eligibility of Reps

BV will be leaving the Executive Committee for personal reasons by November 1st. DT will take over as the runner-up for the position. BV may move as an at large Steering Committee member. However, these decisions must be decided at the Plenary meeting,

where an election for the position will have to be called. To facilitate the transition, BV will help train DT.

RF moves to untable III (c) Approval of Gifts to outgoing Executive Committee Members, GD seconds the motion

Nancy Medina (NM) leaves at 6:50pm

RF motions for the approval of gifts for Dave Golland, Chung Wojtkowsky, Ericka Calton, Brenda Vollman for the total price of \$329.95. GD seconds the motion, approved by unanimous consent.

c. Fall Party

RF has a list of tasks for Committee members to sign up for. DT asks if there is anything to discuss on this issue. BV will inform the Committee on the exact amount budgeted for the party. GD asks and DT explains the need to get security clearance, especially for those staying late and cleaning up after the event. Cleaning and decorating duties are discussed. DT points out that the Facilities would set up the chairs for the Plenary and the party. GD asks about the source of music (DJ). RF replies that we will use pre-loaded Ipods for the purpose.

d. Approve bereavement donations

RF motions to approve a \$100 donation to NM's charity of choice in honor of her late father and a donation to the American cancer Society in honor of RF's mother. AK seconds the motion, approved by unanimous consent.

e. Discussion of possible speaker for the 11/16 Plenary

We were asked to have someone from the Earth/Environmental Sciences speak to introduce the program, which Committee members agree to. Also a representative of the Day Care center will come to speak to the Plenary as well.

The Chair (DT) moves on to the next item.

V. Student Affairs Report (GD)

a. Outreach Strategies

GD reports that he had created a TextMob account and a Facebook account for easier communication within the DSC. Committee members are urged to sign up for both so they can be tested. Both accounts are for communication, outreach purposes and would not be used often.

b. Elections Process

GD reports that as the current system of voting in GC is not very efficient he has a list of all the e-voting systems that other CUNY colleges use. He will contact them all, but at the moment sees votenet.com as the better choice. The issue will be raised with Student Affairs.

c. Chartered Organizations

GD reports that he has received petitions for either new organizations or renewals of those already existing. He will create a general web page to clarify the process.

VI. Communications Report (RF)

a. Media Board Report

RF reports that we have let go our Webmaster. GD created a website that will allow us to update it easily. The new site is hosted by Research Computing.

b. Website update

GD reports that he has made the site. It has new initiatives on it, it explains, in brief, the goals of our committees. The Steering Committee members need to proofread the DSC initiatives on the website.

c. Meetings with Administrators report

RF reports on the meetings and communication with school Administration. The Steering Committee is informed that most of our technology requests have been fulfilled.

AK leaves at 7:33pm

VII. Business Report

BV is absent.

a. Wellness Center

Report made earlier (see III (b))

VIII. USS Report (Alissa)

Alissa is absent.

IX. Committee reports

DW asks how would she and the Outreach committee start the campus visits. DT and BV will discuss the budgeting issues for this committee. GD suggests that by involving students at other CUNY campuses in the planning of the Outreach committee visit a better turnout will be achieved. DT suggests that a coffee hour is a good format for these events.

DT reports on the Health Issues committee. The Wellness center wants the committee to help with its projects. There will be tabling events to inform the student body about these projects and the committee itself. Potential events for the commemoration of AIDS Day are discussed. Screening of the film Sicko is discussed, with the necessity of getting a properly licensed copy.

AM reports on the emails sent by his Library Committee to its members and their concerns. These include computer technology, the quality and quantity of the library collections, printer output control, the possibility of getting recycled paper, and the transparency of the sources and uses of the library budget.

The Steering Committee members discuss the need to make the Constitution and the Bylaws Committee active.

X. Announcements

None

XI. Adjournment

Motion to approve GD, DW seconds, approved by unanimous consent.

Chair (DT) adjourns the meeting at 7:50pm

Submitted by Anton Masterovoy at-large member of the Steering Committee on October 12, 2007