

DSC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 2009 October 16

Present: Jill Belli (JB); Kyle Ferguson (KF); Ally Foster (AF); Kim Libman (KL); Chirstine Pinnock (CP) (absent until 6:23pm); Shawn Rice (SR); Chris Alen Sula (CS); Suzanne Tamang (ST)

Absent: Anick Boyd (AB); Jared Simard (JS)

Chair: CS; Minutes: KF

Plenary

Meeting called to order at 6:14pm

Steering Committee

I. Approval of Agenda

Constitution and Bylaws

CS asked for any additions to the agenda. JB added item (d) 'Status of Writing Fellowships' to IX. New Business. ST motioned to approve the agenda; KL seconded; agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Media Board

II. Approval of Old Minutes

Health Issues

CS asked for any corrections to the draft minutes of the 18 September 2009 Steering Committee meeting. There was none. KL motioned to approve the old minutes; SR seconds; Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

III. Student Affairs Report

Cultural Affairs

a. ST reported that Chartered Organization electronic rosters are now active. These can be accessed by direct link or by the Chartered Organization menu.

Professional Development

- b. ST reported that voting continues until 20 December 2009.
- c. ST reported that three (3) new organizations were requesting to be chartered:
 - i. The Jewish Club
 - ii. the Campus Coalition for Sexual Literacy (CCSL)
- iii. The Prison Studies Group. The drafted constitutions for each group were attached to the minutes. ST requests comments from Steering Committee members to be sent by email.
- d. ST reminded the Committee that the DSC Fall Party is coming up.

IV. Communications Report

- a. SR reported that Chase Robinson, the Provost, would be present at the next DSC Plenary Meeting to address issues regarding funding, writing fellowships, payroll, etc.
- b. SR reported that the Graduate Council would be meeting on Thursday, 22 October. He reminded the Committee that many programs are under - seated, and that in order to maximize student representation, DSC Representatives should, if needed, attend as alternates for their respective programs' Graduate Council Representatives. CS requested that a list of sitting Graduate Council Representatives be distributed to Committee members for discussion at the next Plenary.
- c. SR reported that eight (8) new DSC Representatives needed to be confirmed. ST motioned to confirm the Representatives; CP seconded; confirmation approved by unanimous consent. Confirmed Representatives are: Leigh McCallen (Educational Psychology); Roz Wall (Music DMA); Jordan Stokes (Music PhD); Naomi Perley (Music PhD); Heather Griffith (Physical Therapy); Steven Noel (Psychology: Cognition, Brain, Behavior); Tami Farber (Social Welfare); Andy Bossie (Economics).

V. Business Report

- a. CS reported that expenditures were within budgeted levels.

VI. USS Report

- a. AF reported that the USS held a lengthy elections meeting two weeks prior, and that an emergency meeting to elect a chair would be held on Sunday, 18 October 2009.
- b. CS added that he had not yet received a 2009 - 10 budget from USS.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Technology Fee Committee. JB reported that there had been no recent Committee meetings.

- b. Constitution and Bylaws Committee. SR reported that the Committee had met recently and would recommend to Plenary that it strike item 4.4 from the DSC Constitution. SR also recommended that DSC call a Constitutional Convention to remedy a host of problems with the DSC Constitution. CS reported that these problems included being out of compliance with New York State law, issues with quorum, and other issues due to recent structural changes at the Graduate School and University Center.
- c. Health Issues Committee. KL reported
 - i. that the Committee's event held on 8 October was well - attended and would be covered in a future issue of The Advocate;
 - ii. that the Committee would be meeting again in the next few weeks;
 - iii. that the Committee had compiled a list of problems that students had encountered regarding their NYSHIP coverage;
 - iv. that the upcoming NYSHIP survey had a number of problems;
 - v. that the Committee was considering holding a workshop to inform students of their health care rights. KL recommended that DSC begin an official correspondence with the GSUC Administration regarding flaws in NYSHIP coverage and how coverage could be improved. KL leaves the meeting at 7:23pm.

VIII. Old Business

- a. CS reported that Bylaw 4 would be voted on at the next DSC Plenary.

IX. New Business

- a. SPS Financial Support for Doctoral Students. The Committee discussed a confidential memo requesting that the school of Professional Studies (SPS) provide funds to doctoral students. According to the governing documents of the SPS, its revenues are to be used to support doctoral students (see Governance Plan of the University Center, §II.F.20). The Committee discussed a Resolution that would formally request these funds from the SPS. SR motioned to vote on the Resolution requesting the amount of \$689,000; KF seconded. The Resolution passed with five (5) yeas, zero (0) nays, and one (1) abstention.
- b. UFS Representation. SR motioned to vote on the Resolution requesting that the DSC send a senator pro tempore to future UFS meetings; ST seconded; the Resolution passed by unanimous consent. SR motioned to establish an ad hoc Elections Review Committee comprising JB, AF, CP, SR, CS (and KL and JS pending their status); ST seconds; motion approved by unanimous consent.
- c. Bylaw 20 "Free and Open Source Medium". SR reported that Bylaw 20 would be discussed at the forthcoming Plenary meeting.
- d. Writing Fellowships. JB reported that rumors were circulating to the effect that Writing Fellowships would soon disappear. She requested that DSC investigate the situation, bring up the issue before the Provost at the next Plenary, and possibly develop a plan of action.

X. Announcements

Nothing announced.

XI. Adjournment

SR motioned to adjourn the meeting; CP seconded; passed by unanimous consent.
Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kyle Ferguson.