

Minutes for the meeting of the Steering Committee

September 18th, 2009

Present: Anick Boyd (AB), Kyle Ferguson (KF), Allyson Foster (AF), Kim Libman (KL), Christine Pinnock (CP), Shawn Rice (SR), Chris Alen Sula (CS), Jared Simard (JS), Suzanne Tamang (ST).

Absent: Jill Belli

CP calls meeting to order at 6:17.

Plenary

I. Approval of Agenda

CS motions to approve agenda. AB seconds. Unanimously approved.

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

II Approval of Minutes

CS suggests surface changes. SR motions to approve CS's changes, JS seconds. Unanimously approved.

Media Board

Health Issues

III. Old Business

Cultural Affairs

a. Bylaw 1.6

CS presents and explains rationale of the proposed changes. CS points out formatting problems, SR says he copied an older version of the document. ST motions to approve, KL seconds. Passed by unanimous consent.

Professional Development

b. Bylaw 4

Correction of ten business days. Debate of whether to write "ten," "10," or "ten (10)." ST declares "ten (10)" to be redundant. SR says the number must be written out to follow accepted rules of style. AB agrees vehemently with SR. CS motions to approve bylaw with "7" changed to "ten" KL seconds. Passed by unanimous consent.

c. Bylaw 16

ST motions to approve, CS seconds. Passed by unanimous consent.

IV. New Business

a. Adjunct payroll

CS: The problems for paychecks are due to lack of staffing in payroll office and "personnel issues" in payroll. He is told that all students asking for advances have been processed and that they are in the last phase of finishing the payroll for the Oct 8th pay date. The PSC also asked for the numbers from Yosette Jones-Johnson. CS: there seems to be a disturbing variety of communications coming from payroll, so the complaints or 'advice' that they've gotten from the students would go to the Adjunct Project or the DSC to compile a grievance list.

KL motions that SR drafts a letter requesting an explanation and long-term plan of action to

Persico to present at Plenary. JS seconds. Vote unanimously in favor.

b. Updating Representative Rosters

SR informs the committee that Claudia Pisano (At-Large) has resigned and that Larry Iannotti (Social Welfare) has also stepped aside. SR points out that Krystyna Michael (KM) (Comparative Literature) ran as an at-large representative, and, although she lost, there is an empty seat in Comparative Literature that she should fill and that she should have already been appointed for that seat. SR also informs the committee that Ashley Foster (AshF) is next in line for the at-large seat. SR motions to confirm KM as the second Comparative Literature representative and AshF as a new at-large representative. JS seconds. Vote: eight in favor with AB abstaining.

SR states that several students have nominated themselves for vacant positions and that he has been following the unapproved bylaw as guidance of how to appoint new representatives. SR motions to confirm the following representatives provided that no other nominees come forward for those positions before the Plenary meeting:

- Audiology: Rachel Marcus
- Engineering, Biomedical: Zeynep Dereli Korkut
- Psychology, Industrial and Organizational: Paul Agnello
- Psychology, Social and Personality: Puleng Segalo
- Public Health: Amber Ahmad-Baker

ST seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Student Affairs Report

a. ST presents proposed chartered organizations. The first one is the Language Documentation and Analysis Group. CS asks for clarification and suggests the proposal say nominations or self-nominations. CS suggests changing anonymous voting to secret ballot. SR: Show how it is more interdisciplinary to the plenary otherwise they might have it. Re: Sexual Literacy Organization: CS: our bylaws take precedence over other bylaws, and so since it is a chapter of a larger national organization, they have to understand that they have to follow ours first, and we might want to run it by Elise Perram. KL: The interest is focused on community not research or scholarship, yet the events section show that they only work on reading and not engaging the larger GSUC community. AB suggests that we should run it past Sharon Lerner for compliance with sexual harassment. CP suggests that we look attentively at the language as well. CS suggests that they should have a mechanism to remove board members.

AELLA: CS: they have a bank account. This is against BOT. Sent a letter on Sept 4th, asking for 30 days. SR recommends immediate de-chartering for violation of DSC, GSUC, and BOT. ST recommends another two weeks. KL says we talk to them again and if nothing else Oct 4th. Possible to de-charter perhaps. SR says this isn't a normal case of de-chartering but should be de-chartered immediately. CP suggests constitution and bylaws reviews this bylaw. KL motions to refer to CB to amend bylaw 2.5 that chartered organizations that violate applicable regulations (BOT, etc...) may be de-chartered at the discretion of the steering committee, and we should create a mechanism. SR seconds. Unanimous consent. SR goes on the record that the steering committee already has this power but recognizes that we

should codify it in a bylaw.

VI. Communication Report:

SR discusses that more 20 more Macs have been ordered for the second floor of the library. He recaps the meeting with VP Soldavin, explaining the status of the new Graduate Center website and also the impending breaking of ground on the new housing project in Spanish Harlem. BOT minutes reflects a Baruch-led initiative for a new project in Long Island City, and the Baruch Student Newspaper reported that the GC was part of it. Re: meeting with Student Affairs: The explanation of the short-comings of the Health Center in regards to a lack of hours and student complaints and an announcement that Human Resources has approved a new position for a dedicated person to deal with NYSHIP.

VII. Budget Report:

a. CS reports the new budget, revised, and historical budget.

VII. USS: There was a long meeting with nominations.

VIII. Announcements

Health Issues: Event about Healthcare reform. Health Issue blog have been used. Success and horror stories about NYSHIP. The Blog has been updated. Creating some sort of online survey for experiences with NYSHIP. Bill Kelly's Oct 5th townhall meeting is announced. AB: People got kicked out of their programs because the bursar couldn't answer their phones. We should do something.

SR moves to adjourn. CS seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shawn Rice.