



The Doctoral Students' Council
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Steering Committee Meeting

December 3, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Jill Belli (JB), Boris Daussà-Pastor (BD), Kyle Ferguson (KF), Eero Laine (EL), Leigh McCallen (LM), Shawn Rice (SR), Chris Sula (CS), Suzanne Tamang (ST). Jared Simard (JS) joins the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Plenary

Absent: Anick Boyd (AB), Kim Libman (KL)

Executive Committee

JB, chair, calls the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

constitution and byland

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

I. Approval of Agenda

LM motions to approve the agenda, BD seconds. The motion is approved with unanimous consent.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2010

ST motions to approve the agenda with amendments, SR seconds. The motion is approved with unanimous consent.

III. Executive Committee Reports

a. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (EL)

The Adjunct Project hiring team has met. There were 11 applications. Interviews will be conducted next week. Expected date for filling the position is Friday next week.

EL has sent an urgent email to Chartered Organizations regarding deadline to complete their fall rosters in order to achieve or maintain active status. About half of the Chartered Organizations are still not active. EL lists the inactive organizations.

b. Co-Chair for Communications (KL)

No report.

c. Co-Chair for Business (CS)

The DSC chartered organization Korean Student Association is still in violation of the DSC bylaws. Although the bank account has reportedly been closed, CS has not received proof of that from the Korean Students Association.



CS presents a document prepared by the Adjunct Project coordinators: Adjunct Project Goals Update.

CS is planning to generate a survey to show the level of satisfaction of the DSC constituency about the role of the DSC. CS explains that he will be requesting all members of the Steering Committee to provide input about what aspect of their respective areas should be considered for assessment.

d. University Student Senate Delegate (JB)

The next USS Plenary will be on December 12th, 2010. Minutes and Agenda have been distributed. The USS is looking to build relationships with Student Government Association (SGA) presidents.

JB sent the USS and Adjunct Project the DSC resolution against tuition hikes. Discussion ensues about possible actions to follow up on the DSC opposition to tuition hikes.

e. University Faculty Senate Liaison (AB)

No report.

IV. New Business

a. Steering Discretionary Funds

CS motions to allocate up to \$600 for purchase of DSC promotional bags. ST seconds. Motion carries: 7 in favor, 1 against (KF).

The free yoga and pilates classes offered to students for the first time this fall were a great success among GC students. Two additional yoga and pilates classes have been added for next semester to address issues of space and allow for reductions in individual class size. KF raises the question of availability of space for other purposes in case that the number of classes increases occupying DSC rooms for more time. Discussion ensues about how the program has run this first semester, particularly regarding limited availability. CS motions to allocate \$1,600 for Spring Fitness Classes. SR seconds. Motion carries: 7 in favor, 1 against (KF).

b. Plenary Voting Record

CS presents a proposal for again modifying how voting records are captured in the Plenary. Discussion ensues about the illusion of anonymity of the current clicker-based voting system. BD asks if voting cannot be included in the minutes; it is explained that minutes can be amendable but vote should be recorded without later revision, so should not be recorded in the minutes. KF asks if votes can be ever revised and discussion ensues about the proposed system, which adds a double layer with voiced and recorded votes. BD comments that DSO members may be unaware of ROR and voting procedures, and would be good to have orientation sessions about meeting procedures and votes.

CS motions to approve the following procedure:



- (1) All votes at meetings (with the exception of elections) be conducted viva voce AND recorded electronically, and
- (2) a website-based voting record retention system will be created, making voting records of Steering and Plenary meetings (with the exception of elections, appointments, recall motions, personnel decisions, and, at the discretion of the Steering Committee, any sensitive Plenary decisions) public to at least all registered website users but restricting them from search engines.

LM seconds the motion. Motion carries: 7 in favor, 1 abstained (JB)

At 7:40 pm JS joins the meeting.

CS discusses the current system of paperless DSC meetings. There is a poll to assess support for a range of possible options. Considering the result of the polls, CS motions that for all plenary meetings, CCC shall provide paper copies of all materials for at least half of the representatives/proxies (for sharing), SR seconds. The motion is approved with unanimous consent.

V. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Funding (KF)

The Grants Committee has a meeting Wednesday, December 8th to review the current proposals (about fifteen new proposals).

KF explains he will resign from his position as Officer for Funding. He will hand it today a letter of resignation with effect on January 1st.

b. Officer for Governance & Membership (JS)

2 DSC representatives were automatically removed for lack of attendance at the November Plenary meeting. Both these seats have been filled. There is still some backlog on filling previous vacancies.

There will be a Governance Meeting on Wednesday, Dec 8th.

c. Officer for Health and Wellness (LM)

The Student Wellness survey has been online and open for responses for two weeks. Already there are more than four hundred respondents.

LM reports on the possibility of hosting an educational forum on NYSHIP.

d. Officer for Outreach (BD)



The next Outreach Committee event will be at Queens College. A workshop for off-campus DSC reps is being prepared for first week of February. The launching of the International Students' Website is delayed, but underway.

e. Officer for Student Life & Services (SR)

SR proposes that we explore the possibility that students pay for their movie tickets with a PayPal account that would allow them to use their credit cards rather than only checks and money orders. CS will work with SR to scope the potential for such a system.

f. Officer for Technology & Library (ST)

An update on the new GC website will be coming soon.

VI. Announcements

BD raises the issue of complaints about the fridge located in the pantry between the DSC rooms 5409 and 5414. CS will contact facilities requesting that the fridge be repaired or replaced.

VII. Adjournment

SR moves to adjourn meeting, CS seconds. Motion is adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Boris Daussà-Pastor.

