

Members Present: Jill Belli (JB); Anick Boyd (AB); Kyle Ferguson (KF); Allyson Foster (AF); Eero Laine (EL); Leigh McCallen (LM); Shawn Rice (SR); Jared Simard (JS); Chris Alen Sula (CS); Suzanne Tamang (ST)

Members Absent: Kimberly Libman

Chair: JS

JS calls meeting to order 6:05 pm

I. Approval of Agenda

JS adds VIII.d "Appointment of Adjunct Project Coordinator Hiring Team."

SR motions to approve agenda with emendations; CS seconds; motion passes unanimously.

II. Approval of Old Minutes

SR motions to approve minutes of March 12, 2010; AF seconds; motion passes unanimously.

III. Student Affairs Report (Suzanne Tamang)

ST presents Greek Community Group mission statement and constitution for discussion; typos and presentational elements are discussed.

JB presents Graduate Center Composition and Rhetoric Community proposal. CS recommends changing "hidden-ballot elections" to "secret ballot elections." SR raises issues of interdisciplinary; JB will recommend that the committee clarify its interdisciplinary in the proposal. Other language changes are discussed.

JB presents GC Utopian Studies Group proposal. ST proposes eliminating 'GC' in title, which garners wide support.

ST reports that approximately 30 students participated in housing focus groups through the Office for Finance and Administration.

ST reports that Student Affairs reports there is no new news regarding bike storage in the GC. ST discusses the possibility of forming an OpenCUNY group to encourage action and signal the high priority of this issue to the administration. CS suggests writing a letter to Senior Vice-President Persico.

IV. Communications Report (Shawn Rice)

SR reports that the Media Board search for next year's OpenCUNY Coordinator has received one application, which the Board will consider at its next meeting.

SR announces that the Ad-Hoc Writing Center Planning Group will meet on Monday, April 19, 2010 at noon. SR hopes to

produce a proposal for discussion with President Kelly on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.

SR requests that the Steering Committee remind students to attend the next Graduate Council meeting on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 3 p.m.

SR reports on a meeting with SPS Dean John Mogulescu last Wednesday, where discussion included (a) hiring graduate students in adjunct positions and new PhDs in full-time lines, especially those with information technology and pedagogy skills such as ITP students, IT Fellows, etc.; (b) assurance that there are no current plans to create extensive number of non-online degree programs and, at present, the only non-online degree being planned is an MA in Labor Studies; (c) SPS's becoming a separate unit, contingent on a sufficient base budget.

CS adds that discussion included the appointed nature of some faculty members on the SPS Council and the low number of student representations. CS plans to prepare a CUNY governance white paper showing these anomalies within the system, which will be sent to Dean Mogulescu.

JB asks for clarification at the next Plenary meeting on the current DSC stance toward SPS.

V. Business Report (Chris Alen Sula)

CS presents a current financial statement with projected revenue and expenditures for 2009/10 fiscal year. It is possible the DSC will run out of cash to cover all expenditures because assets are being held in a 6-month CD, but it's more likely that the DSC will have an \$8-15K surplus. In this case, the DSC will need to approve a plan for surplus funds at the April or May Plenary meeting. CS asks for new ideas.

SR recommends allocating funds for new student services in conjunction with the formation of the Student Services Committee. LM asks about the nature of these expenditures. CS notes that Student Services Committee does not come into existence until July 1, 2010 and funds must be spend this fiscal year. JB recommends using registration for all services to enable follow-up evaluation and estimates of attendance in advance.

CS presents report from Linda Perrota, Director of Child Learning and Development Center (attached). CS adds that three years ago, issues of accreditation were discussed at a Plenary meeting, with funding cited as a major constraint. CS reports he will present a \$2K increase in CLDC's 2010/11 budget allocation for consideration at the next Plenary. SR

recommends forwarding surplus funds to CLDC this year as a downpayment for next year, pending a meeting with Director Perrota. AB raises informational issues, including the long waitlist for CLDC, the minimum age for children, and the awareness of students about the CLDC. LM requests more information about research lab adjacent to CLDC. EL suggests that large-scale funding should include programs who utilize the lab for research, including potential financial support from them.

VI. USS Report (Allyson Foster)

AF reports that JB will attend next meeting on Sunday, April 25 as her alternate.

VII. UFS Report (Anick Boyd)

AB attended the UFS meeting on Tuesday without voice or vote at which changes in the executive officers for next year were discussed. AB notes the need to amend minutes of the last meeting to reflect accurate information about **support—not except 1 yr, in 2 yrs**, but adds that this will be difficult because she does not have voice. CS notes that guests can hold up signs under Open Meetings Law.

VIII. New Business

a. Appoint of New At-Large Representatives

SR announces that At-Large Representatives Denise Torres (Social Welfare) and Kayla Yuh (Theatre) and Program Representative Shana Henry (Urban Education) have been automatically removed for non-attendance. At-Large Representative Stephanie Domenici Cabonargi (Environmental Psychology) is no longer eligible to serve.

SR has contacted Program Representative nominees for next year who are the only nominees in their program and will likely be elected. SR motions to appoint Arthur Starr (MA-Middle Eastern Studies), Susan Brillhart (Nursing), and Kristin Margelot (Art History) as At-Large Representatives; CS seconds; motion passes unanimously.

SR announces that Tatiana Schnieder (Psychology: Biopsychology) and Mark Kanner (Physics) have filed petitions to create program representative seats. CS notes that the seats have been created and Plenary must ratify them as representatives. CS explains that Psychology: Biopsychology was given the option to petition to create a seat for Spring 2010, Fall 2010, and Spring 2011, but that each distinct DSC should ratify the representative: the 2009/10 DSC in April and the DSCE in May for the following year.

b. New Services

i. Yoga

SR reports Health Issues Committee has interest in offering yoga classes for the remainder of this year. CS reports that HIC budget has \$225 remaining this year. SR suggests allocating up to \$75 from Steering Discretionary and allowing HIC to negotiate rate for number of sessions. JB urges that the DSC provide yoga mats for pilot program. CS notes public health risks and suggests that mats be given to students or marked with students' names and stored in a common locker. KF motions to refer this issue to HIC; AB seconds; the motion is approved with 3 abstentions (____).

ii. Financial Planning

SR reports that the consultant from tax prep workshops offered to hold estate planning and other financial workshops for graduate students. SR reports on a conversation with the CLRN representative, who felt confident in providing a session.

c. Travel and Research

CS reports that the Travel and Research is \$16K over budget and applications will not be accepted after Tuesday, April 20. CS conveys request from Vice-President Schoengood for additional funding from the DSC.

SR argues to not provide additional funding this year, given the original \$90K allocation. SR references unclaimed allocations, which have in the past led to \$30K+ rollover in past years, making it likely that all existing applicants will be funded.

SR motions not to award more funds for Travel & Research from Steering Discretionary; KF seconds; motion passes with 1 abstention (CS).

d. Appointment of Adjunct Project Coordinator Hiring Team

CS reviews Bylaw 1.4.a , which requires the formation of a hiring team for next year's Adjunct Project Coordinators consisting of ST as Co-Chair for Student Affairs, *ex-officio*, one At-Large Steering Officer, two DSC Representatives, and one DSO member. All current students who are not applicants for the position and have held the position in the past have *ex-officio* advisory positions on the team, with voice but without vote. CS adds that he understands the description of these seats to be exclusive, meaning that the DSC Representatives should not be DSC officers, and the DSO member should not be a DSC Representative.

CS suggests EL for the At-Large Steering Officer position; EL accepts.

A preferential poll is held for the DSC Representatives and DSO member with the following outcomes: Patricia Stapleton (Political Science), Katie Gill (EES), Anne Donlon (English), Anne Dell'Aria (Art History), and Ashley Foster (English) as the DSC Representatives, and Marcos Wasem (HLBLL), Tracy Riley (English), and a three-way tie between Paul Cummins (Philosophy), Kate Wilson (Theatre), and Michael Lubing (Comparative Literature) as the DSO member.

CS motions to appoint ST, EL, Patricia Stapleton, Katie Gill, and Marcos Wasem to the hiring team, with the understanding that if Patricia Stapleton or Katie Gill decline the position, then Anne Donlon, then Anne Dell'Aria and then Ashley Foster will be contacted and if Marcos Wasem declines, then Tracey Riley will be contacted, followed by Paul Cummins, Kate Wilson, and Michael Lubing in an order determined by chance lottery; SR seconds; motion passes unanimously.

IX. Committee Reports

CS announces that Cultural Affairs applications are closed due to lack of remaining funds; the Professional Development Committee is still accepting applications.

X. Announcements

SR will send a reminder email about elections on Monday. CS suggest tabling in the lobby and Dining Commons during office hours with netbooks from the laptop loan program.

KF motions to purchase an iPad for voting to attract voters, with the iPad to raffled off to all voters, exclusive of Steering Committee, by random draw; SR seconds; motion fails (5 approved, 2 opposed, 3 abstentions).

XI. Adjournment

CS motions to adjourn; AF seconds; motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Alen Sula