

Steering Committee Minutes

February 4, 2011

Plenary

Present: Jared Simard (JS), Eero Laine (EL), Kimberly Libman (KL), Chris Sula (CS), Leigh McCallen (LM), Kyle Ferguson (KF), Shawn Rice (SR), Boris Daussa-Pastor (BD), Anick Boyd (AB), Suzanne Tamang (ST)

Executive Committee

Absent: Jill Belli (JB)

Steering Committee

CS calls the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

Constitution and Bylaws

I. Approval of Agenda

Grants

BD Motion to approve the agenda with slight amendments to the order of business, ST seconds, motion carries.

Health Issues

Media Board

II. Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2010

Outreach

ST Motion to approve minutes, BD seconds, motion carries

Student Services

We move ahead to agenda item IV.b. Review of Senior Adjunct Project Employees

Stephanie Jones from Adjunct Project (AP) presents a report on the AP's activities and goals. EL asks for more information about the one and five year plans for the AP. Stephanie says that this is a new goal for the organization that should make it more proactive in its work and clarify the roles of three co-coordinators. BD raises a question about the possibility of the name change for the organization. SJ says that the current name has a strong following and would not likely change. BD asks if there are any AP plans to respond to changes in the handling of the writing fellowship and Enhanced Chancellor Fellowships (ECFs). AB seconds the concern about the ways that the ECF has been changed. ST asks if the Steering Committee can recommend that the advocacy and education coordinators take up the issue of the ECFs. ST also asks for an update on the ongoing web development project in light of the fact that the AP no longer has a web developer on staff. SJ notes that the previous web developer was paid in a lump sum and will continue to work with AP to finish the project. Multiple Steering Committee members raise concerns about the Coordinator for Advocacy and Education's report because it lacks specificity, implies that summer work is still not complete, and lacks specific goals for the spring.

At 6:42 pm SR motions to go into executive session, ST seconds, motion carries.

JS motion to close executive session at 6:58 pm, ST seconds, motion carries.

BD motions to vote no confidence in Calvin John Smiley as Coordinator for Advocacy and Education and to open a search for that position for next year, LM Seconds, KF abstains, motion carries.

EL motions enthusiastically to reappoint Alyson Spurgas as Coordinator for Labor Relations for 2011-12, CS seconds, motion carries.

ST motions to reappoint Stephanie Jones as Coordinator for Organization and Planning, BD seconds, motion carries.

III. Executive Committee Reports

a. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)

EL proposes a DSC open house event for this semester that will also serve as pilot for next year's orientation. The event would be modeled on the tabling we do at orientation. The event would be a test run for next year and an outreach activity for this semester. EL suggests February 17th as the date of the event.

EL shares the constitution and statement of purpose from the proposed Udaan-Indian Students and Researchers Association.

EL also reports on recent office moves to accommodate Chartered Organizations newly eligible for space.

b. Co-Chair for Communications (Kim Libman)

KL reports on the DSC's involvement in the advocacy to reappoint Kristopher Peterson-Overton to the Political Science Department at Brooklyn College. She discusses some of the issues with the AP listserv structure that have come up in the process of organizing around the reappointment Kristopher Peterson-Overton and shares some of the actions proposed by the herself and the AP coordinators to make these communication outlets function better.

KL reports that she has been in communication with students from the Doctoral program in Clinical Psychology and that they are petitioning to seat a DSC Representative.

KL also reports on a letter she is writing to Les Williams about the health insurance coverage consequences of his office's delays in processing graduate student hiring and termination paperwork.

c. Co-Chair for Business (Chris Alen Sula)

More room changes will be coming in the future as more Chartered Organizations become eligible for office space. The Co-Chairs are reconsidering the overall use of DSC space on the 5th floor. The budget for next year will be presented at the next SC meeting for review and vote to bring to Plenary.

The medical subsidy fees have increased significantly this year. The Co-Chairs expressed concern about this to Bob Hatcher and the Office of Student Affairs at the end of the fall semester. A new process for billing students who receive the subsidy has been put in place and we have received back payment on a number of outstanding bills.

d. USS Delegate (Jill Belli)

The Sunday, 12/12/10 USS Plenary did not achieve quorum. While no official business could be conducted, important matters (such as the proposed USS budget - which had a number of problems) were discussed at length.

There was another USS Plenary on Sunday 1/16/11. The new CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (Frank D. Sanchez) was in attendance and addressed the Plenary. The discussion of the USS Budget dominated the meeting (and so most other Agenda items were not addressed, as quorum wavered after a few hours). After much debate, the USS Budget (as circulated, with no amendments) passed. The Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Clement James (graduate student, John Jay), promised another Budget Hearing to address the still-present concerns of the Plenary. However, as of yet, no hearing has been scheduled. In addition, despite repeated requests by many USS Delegates/Alternates to do so, the Search committee (for USS Staff positions), the Scholarship Committee (for the USS scholarship awards that USS is supposed to administer - but hasn't for the past few years - and that all CUNY students contribute to as part of their Student Activities Fee), the Ethics Committee, and the Audit Committee have yet to be formed. The Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs, Dmitriy Bykovskiy (College of Staten Island) has also not yet formed his committee to address graduate student concerns. I approached him and indicated my interest in helping him with his work whenever the committee is ready to be formed.

The website (<http://www.uss.cuny.edu/>) remains outdated and mostly under construction; the next USS Plenary date has yet to be announced.

At the invitation of USS Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs Steven Rodriguez (Kingsborough Community College), the DSC has endorsed two USS efforts: 1) a letter to Speaker Silver praising his support for public higher education; 2) endorsing the Annual Lobby Day on 3/15/11 Albany (this event is a collaboration of USS, PSC, and NYPIRG and other organizations).

USS is also putting for a Transfer Resolution in collaboration with Executive Vice Chancellor Logue to address the transfer process within CUNY; the DSC has been invited to endorse the resolution but has not yet done so.

The 2011 Emerging Leaders Conference will take place on Friday, 2/18/11 at City College.

e. UFS Liaison (Anick Boyd)

First meeting is February 15th. The UFS is looking for someone to transcribe minutes and is offering \$13 an hour.

IV. New Business

a. Discretionary allocations

El motions to allocate \$250 for refreshments for the open house, ST seconds, motion carries.

BD motions to allocate \$600 for an AP for workshop series, JS seconds, motion carries unanimously

ST motions to allocate up to \$1000 for a temporary fund overseen by the Executive Committee to be made available for the production of promotional apparel for organized events in connection with, and under the supervision of the AP to expire on March 31st 2011. CS seconds, motion carries with one abstention.

V. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Funding (Kyle Ferguson)

The next Grants Committee meeting is next week. Thirteen full proposals and one startup grant will be reviewed. So far \$8294 have been awarded. March 30th is the next deadline for grant application submissions.

b. Officer for Governance & Membership (Jared Simard)

There were 11 people absent at the last Plenary. New Representatives for MALS and a new at-large Representative will be seated this month. A special election will take place for the seat in Education Psychology. The next C&B meeting will be Feb 11th.

c. Officer for Health Issues (Leigh McCallen)

The health issues survey closes March 7th. The Wellness festival will be May 10th and planning for the event is underway.

d. Officer for Outreach (Boris Daussà-Pastor)

Today was the DSC Boot Camp. It seems to be a format worthy of repetition. Students were interested in knowing more about the DSC and how it functions. BD recommends that in the future there are two Boot Camps a year, one around the time of elections in the spring and a second near the start of the school year. There are two more outreach events planned for this spring, one at Hunter College and one at City College. The Outreach committee is planning to do a survey of students.

e. Officer for Student Life & Services (Shawn Rice)

CS reports on behalf of SR. They are working together to implement a Paypal system for movie tickets. SR has been working to resolve some of the DSC's webhosting issues.

f. Officer for Technology & Library (Suzanne Tamang)

The Advocate, OpenCUNY, and the DSC have met to discuss issues related to webhosting services and these are being addressed.

There is a Citrix Zenx meeting in 5489 at 2:30pm on February 10th.

The Student Technology Survey closed on Feb 1st. We have over 950 respondents. Preliminary results indicate that people are unhappy with Citrix, the Windows Explorer file manager is not user friendly especially for people who use Macs, there is demand for a book scanner, and for portable data collection tools, and requests for software. A Student Technology Fee Committee meeting will likely be scheduled for late February.

VI. Announcements

JS announces that the DSC has a portable vacuum.

VII. Adjournment

KF motions to adjourn. EL seconds. Motion carries at 8:51.