

## Steering Committee Minutes December 2, 2011

Plenary

Present: Jared Simard (JS), Annie Dell'Aria (ADA), Sarah Jordan (SJ), Colin Ashley (CA), Nicole Hanson (NH), Christen N. Serrano Madsen II (CM), Christina Nadler (CN), Anne Donlon (AD), Stefanie Jones (SJ2), Patricia Stapleton (PS), Eero Laine (EL)

Executive Committee

Absent: Monique Whitaker (MW)

Steering Committee

CM called the meeting to order at 6:17pm.

Constitution and Bylaws

### I. Approval of the Agenda

Grants

Motion to approve: CN, CA seconds. Motion adopted unanimously.

Health Issues

### II. Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2011

Media Board

Sarah fixes typo in minutes.

Outreach

JS Motions to approve with changes. SJ Seconds, Unanimous

Student Services

### III. Executive Committee Reports

#### 1. Co-chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)

Concern has been expressed over today's sample sale in the basement, especially in light of our recent issues and conversations with space. We need to think about how space is being allocated and try to get an official response in the form of a policy statement from the administrator. ADA suggests this become part of a resolution on space to go past plenary. The group agrees that SOME kind of policy needs to happen and be clear. CA voices some extended concern over the commercial nature of this event (rather than some other revenue-generating event) as well as the notion that the event let pretty much anyone into the building, which is strange in light of recent security beef-ups. EL agrees that a resolution would be good, esp considering all the efforts EC has already taken.

EL reports on recent FOIL request filed by EC for CUNY budget materials and other public records documents.

EL reports that Chemistry is ready to go with a new PSA.

## 2. Co-chair for Communications (Jared Simard)

Student Affairs will be speaker at next plenary, JS stresses that this would be a good time to invite other members of the DSC to attend.

Archive project update: agreement on the form the archive will look like on the front end, so that is in the pipeline.

Reminder: all minutes of committee meetings need to be sent to Jared. Please don't forget! You should also post your minutes on the website (once approved)

Party planning! The SC divides up duties.

## 3. Co-chair for Business (Annie Dell'Aria)

Annie reports on meeting with Kelly re: open letter; CLRN is going well, and the slots are filling up.

Should we entertain any kind of tax preparation services for our students? AD suggests that Harvard's website has some info for grad students. Many members voice concern that this did not go so well last time. However, the demand is still there, so perhaps we should look into it. ADA will see what other similar institutions provide for their students.

All of SC generally comments on how the open letter re: increased security was met with positive support across their departments. PS reports on the increase in security at Poli Sci.

## 4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

Grad reps were charged with 3 most pressing issues for our campus. CN and CA came up with: funding, adjunct issues/healthcare, job prospects after degree. EL suggests adding "relationship with undergrads" to the list. CN discusses need to raise understanding of the nature of PhD student work at USS.

Last USS meeting: not very productive. CA is thinking about writing some resolutions beforehand.

New (outside USS) issues: problems with Writing or other Fellowships or issues with coordinators; people can't get certificates once they are Level III - this should change. There are mixed stories about whether or not you can pay to take them at Level III or not.

CN has been invited to have dinner with the Chancellor on Monday. List of 5 things to potentially bring up there, but CN is having a hard time getting other invited students on board. Issues: tuition remission, CUNY+ catalog cleanup, dropping charges for protesters, resignation, abolish BoT. CN suggests that many of the students on her side will not be going. SJ suggests that at least SOME dissenting voice should be present. CM suggests that CN give some national averages on stats

potentially divisive to undergrads (like tuition remission). AD suggests this could be linked to the tuition increases as a way to get the undergrads on board. EL suggests she asks for BIG stuff first, let go of the demands for services (as they've been asked for many times before). JL seconds that this is a great idea and that it could open a new avenue for doctoral concerns being heard by the Chancellor. Committee discusses potential strategies CN might take at meeting.

#### **5. UFS Delegate (Anne Donlon)**

Only some list-serve activity since the last meeting. Pathways reports came out: Sandi Cooper had sent a letter to Goldstein to read UFS's responses to Pathways, but it seems as though he did not heed to her those ideas. Discussion of BoT hearing buzzed a lot, some faculty agreed to marshall at next protest or create network to cover for jailed instructors. There will be an IT policy that will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **IV. New Business**

No new business.

#### **V. Steering Officer Reports**

##### **a. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)**

Grants Committee met today, total is \$9051 for the year so far (51%). Looking back over the past three years, CA has compiled statistics to think about precedents for funding or not funding. One finding: program conferences get the majority of funding, esp the regular (annual or biennial) ones. Perhaps we should introduce an incentive for these (such as expedited review). AD wants to make sure there is still come mechanism for thorough review. CM thinks maybe this isn't needed, but CA suggests that these are pretty interdisciplinary. EL voices concern that some group will see funding as "guaranteed". Group brings up concern over expedited review with start-up grants, but many say actually this is of concern for larger amounts of money. JS reminds that this is a preliminary idea and any change in policy would have to go through C&B. NH suggests that maybe there is some other way of dealing with these types of grants rather than the existing format of expedited review.

##### **b. Officer for Governance and Membership (Christen N. Serrano Madsen II)**

There are some major issues with voting website for Physics and MALS.

CM motions to allow him to use some other mechanism (Opinio) if this website isn't up and running still for these two elections. ADA seconds. Unanimously passes.

CM motions to use Opinio (if necessary) also for Nursing and Biomedical Engineering. 9 yays, 1 nay. Motion passes.

After last plenary 5 people were removed (after missing too many meetings). Open calls have been issued for nominations. Math is now officially represented.

**c. Officer for Health and Wellness (Monique Whitaker)**

Email sent in her absence: she has followed up with head chef and is building up more content on the blog re: Restaurant Associates. Student Survey is main ongoing project.

**d. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)**

PSA workshop possibly coming up on Friday December 16th. This will have a number of people in attendance who have experience putting together PSAs.

Hunter Social Work event has been subsumed into the all-student meeting at that campus, and CG Outreach has been given 30 minutes at this hour-long event. This is a good opportunity, but seemingly is no longer officially an "Outreach Event". CM points out that Bylaws state "Outreach Visit", so this can qualify towards the necessary two.

Brooklyn College event was only a mixed success. Committee had reserved the room, and the bar service. Since the event was the Tues before Thanksgiving and it was pouring raining, no one came :( NH still wants to reach out to that campus more in the future, as there are so many GC-affiliated people there.

Survey is closed and data looks to be very useful. 316 responses and 286 completed in total. Most respondents are based at the GC and teach at the senior colleges. Data will be shared with the whole committee. There are some very useful comments that give us insight into what students are interested in seeing and what their key concerns are. Students overall want to feel more connected to the larger GC body, those at different campuses would like to have more resources available to them. Some weird security issues have come up with GC students who are also faculty at John Jay. The varying of the comments suggests that there are a number of issues out there. NH thinks a handout with summaries for plenary would be very helpful.

**e. Officer for Student Life and Services (Sarah Jordan)**

SJ has found some potential instructors for boxing, dancing, and self-defense classes. Thoughts about what kind of spaces we need are on the horizon, should these classes go forward.

**f. Officer for Technology and Library (Patricia Stapleton)**

Will be meeting with Polly in library to discuss online resources. PS is working on a list of potential resources grouped by usability and discipline to raise awareness of what we have available.

There is an opening on Student Tech Fee. PS has one person interested, just needs to go through process of getting him/her on. CM looks up By-Law for how to get a replacement in place. PS will look into getting this going.

#### **VI. Announcements**

CA passes out the stats from his report that he couldn't find earlier.

CM has created document to send to unrepresented programs, and will be circulating a GoogleDoc to find some insight from the rest of Steering for what else to add.

AD feels like DSC should respond to the Pathways initiative, since GC didn't weigh in officially.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

CN motions to adjourn. SJ seconds. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Submitted by Annie Dell'Aria, Co-Chair for Business.

DRAFT