

## Steering Committee

### Minutes

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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), Patricia Stapleton (PS), Monique Whitaker (MW)

Plenary

Executive Committee

Absent: Eero Laine (EL)

Steering Committee

SJ called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

### I. Approval of Agenda

Health Issues

Motion to approve: JS, NW seconds. Motion adopted unanimously.

Media Board

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

Outreach

Motion to approve: JS. MW Seconds, Motion adopted unanimously.

Student Services

### III. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)

Tim Fujioka and PS met with Elaine Montilla to look at the scanning facilities. Reported that Polly Thistlethwaite suggested repurposing the pay-copiers into scanners. PS is working on updating tech blog. The Tech Fee committee sent out two calls for proposals and will meet on 2/28/2012. They received two proposals from outside the Student Tech Fee committee for qualitative data software and for workshops for software programming that are run by students. They are also considering a proposal for language learning software. Language learning software would be online licenses for online log-in. 15 log-ins for 1 year. Licenses would be passed on to other students. Software would support languages not taught at GC. Discussion ensued about Rosetta Stone and issues. Concern expressed by prioritization of students and languages. Concern expressed by limited number of

licenses and need for bids from other vendors. PS mentioned need to divert tech fee funds so that CUNY doesn't use surplus. PS skype-meeting with Bob of 2/28/2012. PS organizing joint Political science and Sociology student alumni networking meeting with Alana Valdez (FAC). MW and JS suggest Student Tech Fee could fund workshops related to pedagogy. JS expressed frustration with Library scaling back workshops.

#### **IV. Executive Committee Reports**

##### **a) Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)**

Emailed report read by JS.

##### **b) Co-Chair for Communications (Jared Simard)**

Upcoming community meeting with President Kelly on 2/23/2012 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. JS reports that invitations to President Kelly to speak at Plenary have been ignored JS read email sent by Polly Thistlethwaite. Provost has approved previous scanner proposal. JS reports that library is pushing the issue of quotas because of reported paper waste in spite of release stations. PS gives more information about issues about paper use. JS reports on upcoming survey from Administration. The Services committee of the Graduate Council will send out a survey. A joint survey by Student Affairs and the Provost office which will target alumni, what students want out of alumni and others. Alana Valdez and JS went to alumni taskforce committee. In mid-April, panels with alumni and alumni speaking events for first Humanities and then Social Sciences. JS updates on Digital Displays. Electrical and AV hook-ups are in place. Using DSC display cabinets on each floor and unclear if DSC will get to control content for display in DSC cabinet.

##### **c) Co-Chair for Business (Annie Dell'Aria)**

Legal services are going well. ADA researched offering tax advice and reports that there is nothing out there better than googling. Suggest that DSC shouldn't offer tax advice. ADA will put page on website explaining this due to number of inquiries about tax services. Movie tickets selling are going well. DSC getting coupons from AMC for volume purchased. ADA advises steering

committee to be more diligent in checking mail during office hours, both pick-up and taking mail down. Advises steering committee to double check room reservations to avoid conflicts. MW asks for website to be redone for better process. CM ask for clarification on room reservation policy regarding whether exemption for booking far in advance is only good for the same academic year. ADA mentioned shared GoogleDoc with exemption list. NW asks that when website is redone, that there be a section in the worktab for reservations on hold because they are too far away. CA suggests listing exemption policy on page for conference grants. AD suggests website telling requesters about chartered organization's exemption. EL will send email. Email needed to requesters when sending request to Matt Schoengood. JS solicits feedback about website for upcoming change. ADA reports on WebHosting. The DSC was paying double for webhosting and migrated some of the pages and the affiliated organizations to Liquid Web. We were paying for Bitnami (cancelled), Liquid Web and Amazon Hosting. Costs approximately \$1300. DSC will have approximately \$700 to spend on web development. ADA recommends thinking about using an external development. MW supports this strongly. ADA proposes making line in next year budget for this. Will need to propose budget change to plenary. DSC saved approximately \$5000 on audit. ADA proposes redirecting approximately \$2000 to grants and will bring up at February or March plenary.

Motion enter executive session: ADA. AD Seconds, Motion adopted unanimously.

Enter executive session at 7:15pm

Exit executive session at 7:55pm

Motion to exit executive session: ADA. MW Seconds, Motion adopted unanimously.

The following were reappointed during the Executive Session:

Gregory Donovan (OpenCUNY)

Maggie Galvan (Open CUNY)

Stefanie A. Jones (Co-ordinator for Organization and Planning,  
Adjunct Project)

Conor Tomás Reed (Co-ordinator for Advocacy and Education,  
Adjunct Project)

Alanna Valdez (Fundraising and Alumni Co-ordinator)

PS left meeting at 7:56pm

**d) USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)**

CN reported on USS meetings. CN abstained/voted no on USS budget. 4 emergency meetings since December plenary. No budget line for LGBT taskforce, paying events out of \$40,000 unspecified budget line. Discretionary account. CN expresses concern with the paternalistic nature of the USS. AD appointed to scholarship committee. Jamie Robinson, runs LGBT taskforce, proposed blood drives not be allowed on-campus due to discriminatory policy. CN supported but resolution failed. CN reports that some in USS felt resolution hurt lesbians. USS resolution against tuition hikes passed. USS resolution on stipend limits. Undergraduate stipends suppose to go up with consumer index every two years. Stipends have not been re-evaluated. USS motion against Board of Trustees passed. USS given presentation on e-books. Use student fees for license and book gotten directly from publisher. CUNY-First being tested at Queensborough. CUNY not paying for pilot. Has 'shopping cart' on website which is very much like student-consumer. USS is unlikely to do student bill of rights. CN reports on work on fellowships. CN reports that group letter about negative environment. CN proposes database to build awareness and network with previous fellows about issues. Needs to be private. CN reports that changes are only made when students band together within co-hort and across years. MW asks about 6-7-8 year tuition remission. CN said that this has not been discussed. AD says that tuition remission up to Chancellor Goldstein or if there was a scholarship that targeted 6-7-8 years. CN reports that nothing more is known about new Grad D.

**e) UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)**

ADA reports that the USS scholarship committee knows that it is not perceived well. Scholarship package sent out following old approved changes. Committee has approximately \$90000 from previous years and \$40000 from this year. Unclear how scholarships will be parceled out. Normally four scholarships per campus. Proposal for special scholarships/projects. Committee is taking recommendations for selection procedure which remains to be worked out. AD reports on UFS which hasn't met but will meet on 2/28/2012. AD reports that UFS still embroiled over Pathways. AD reports that Bronx Community College Pathway committee rejected the common core. AD reports that the English Discipline Council, The Chronicle, SUNY and Science all criticize Pathways. AD reports that President Kelly is in-charge of the major requirements. UFS requests that the American Association of University Professors evaluate if bylaws were violated by the administration with pathways. The administration has been notified. The Collegiate Learning Assessment is underway in Bronx Community College, Laguardia Community College and Brooklyn College. Office of Academic Affairs put out "best teaching practices" resource guide. AD reports news on CUNY, the State and Federal policies. SUNY faculty union dropped affiliation with American Association of University Professors.

JS reports that the Pathways motion did not pass nor did the chartering of the Palestinian studies organization pass. At the time the plenary did not have quorum. JS will send out info in advance about Pathways resolution to be rediscussed. JS mentions need to limit discussion during the plenary.

ADA reports that General assembly has made sure that their meeting times not scheduled to overlap with plenary.

## **V. New Business**

### **a) Dechartering of Organizations**

JS on behalf of EL presented list of chartered organizations to be dechartered.

Motion to initiate dechartering process: JS. MW seconds. Motion adopted unanimously.

## **VI. Steering Officer Reports**

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

CA reported on most recent Grants committee meeting. Applicants for grants doubled (16). Committee wasn't able to give money to all applicants as requested. Will seek more funds. Grants committee had spend \$9000 after the most recent meeting. \$4000 remaining in the budget. Committee mentioned to applicants that they will give more money if CA is able to secure more funds. CA brought up expedited review process for program-/chartered organization-run conferences again. Discussion ensues. Issues raised with expedited process. Concern that the meetings are too long. CA solicits feedback before sending proposal to Constitution and Bylaws committee. Discussion ensued.

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

Presented changes to Bylaws (8.3.a and 4.1.d.iii) passed by constitution and bylaws committee. CA/MW among others have issue with changes to bylaw regarding Program Associations (8.3.a). JS, ADA, CM explain rationale for change. Discussion ensues. CM reports changes in membership: six people have been removed due to non-attendance, two people resigned and four people were newly appointed to DSC. and recommends that steering start to think about possible people to appoint to at-large when list is exhausted.

### **c. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)**

MW reports on development of NYSHIP issues database with checklist instead of comments. Reported on Health and Wellness blog. MW solicits for information and content for the posts. MW is not affiliated with wellness center fair.

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

NW reports preliminary results of Outreach Survey. Solicit feedback on ways to do analysis in addition to NW process. NW intends to target newly dead

seats for outreach. Also planning an outreach event at Brooklyn and a PSA workshop. NW reports that Antonia Santangelo resigned from Outreach committee.

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

Will start a survey using Opinio. OpenCUNY suggestion box. Open to Student Life and Services. Working on securing space and instructor for self-dense and dance classes.

**VII. Announcements**

JS advises steering committee to put all DSC related files on the shared drive.

NW mentions new SUNY policy that requires individuals with previous criminal justice history to supply additional information in order to enroll in school.

CM advises steering committee to make sure that their committee membership is in compliance with bylaws.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: JS, CA seconds. Motion adopted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27pm.

Submitted by Christen N. Serrano Madsen II, Officer for Governance and Membership.