Doctoral Students' Council

Steering Committee
Minutes
May 4th, 2012

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

Plenary

JS called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Executive Committee

I. Approval of the Minutes
MW motioned to move her report (IV.C) up to after approval of minutes.

Steering Committee

PS motioned to approve; EL seconded.
Motion passes unanimously. (NH out of room for vote).

Constitution and Bylaws

II. Approval of the Agenda

Grants

EL motioned to approve agenda; SJ seconded.
Motion passes unanimously. (NH out of room for vote).

Health Issues

NH returns.

Media Board

(reflects emendation)

Outreach

IV.C. Steering Officer for Health and Wellness (Monique Whitaker)
Thanks to SJ for helping with processing the data from the survey on the Wellness Center.

Student Services

III. Executive Committee Reports

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine)
EL reported back on a meeting about reserving classroom space for students.
Executive Committee met with President Kelly regarding the future changes in the makeup of the student body, meaning more MA students and fewer PhD students.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Jared Simard)
Elections successfully completed; highest turnout in recent memory. JS expresses some concerns about the alarming number of declines. Materials will be sent out on Monday for the May 11, 2012 Plenary meeting. JS also working on a Power Point presentation to explain the DSC to the new representatives for the 6pm meeting. In conjunction and collaboration with NH with the new member orientation packet. JS asks for one final push with the NYT letter and asks Steering to review the letter in the next few days.
MW mentions feedback from a student from tabling that there was a request for more information about the students who are on the slate for elections.
CSM suggests that JS send out information about the possible positions on the DSC to be sent out to representatives before the meeting.

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

ADA many check requests are coming in as it is the end of the semester. ADA suggests that Steering discuss what to do with the remaining discretionary funds and surplus. Conservative estimate of what to spend is around $7,500. Prior suggestion was for improvement of the website. ADA has been looking into the legal and financial requirements for how to spend the funds appropriately. Discussion about what percentage of discretionary and surplus funds should be used toward website improvement.

CSM motions to set aside up to $6,000 in discretionary funds for the website approval.

MW seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

Discussion continues on suggestions to bring to Plenary for the use of funds.

EL motions that the Steering present the suggestion that the DSC use some of the surplus for website development.

MW seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

ADA also reported back that she will follow up with President Kelly regarding the benefits and situation of the Grad D fellowships, and the possibility of expanding the Grad Ds to make them eligible for health insurance.

4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

Follow up report on the FOIL discussion. CN did receive the FOIL response by post. CN reported on ongoing discussion regarding her requests for scanned documentation. Last USS is coming up. CN reported back on her concerns about the creation of the Vice Chair for Civic Affairs.

5. UFS Liaison (Anne Donlon)

AD reported back on the UFS meeting and the John Jay faculty has passed a series of anti-Pathways resolutions.

BoT meeting report: contentious discussion of Pathways. Report on Barbara Bowen's actions, including the presentation of a petition of 6,000 signatures against Pathways.

AD raised the issue of the change of title to "adjunct doctoral students" and the possible implications that this might have.

AD also raised the possibility of whether this new change could mean that adjuncts have representation on UFS.

(MW left the meeting at 7pm)

NH added to AD's report that the Criminal Justice PSA has voted to endorse the DSC resolution on Pathways.

Discussion continues on possible impacts of changes to adjunct workforce vis-à-vis the role of doctoral students. ADA raises the point that we should inquire about the limitations on teaching with new fellowships and the reduction in teaching.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

a. Officer for Funding (Colin Ashley)

CA no new reports in terms of grants since last minute. CA is following up the IRB protocols and student issues. CA will continue to consolidate his materials for the Grants Officer for next Academic Year.

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

CSM reports that the DSC has lost 4 members since the last meeting. CSM raises concerns about holding new elections for one last meeting in order to ensure that Plenary has quorum. Discussion about best course of action. Steering comes to

consensus that we should work to have enough proxies for potential absences. Brief report on bylaw questions in reference to grants. The governance and membership committee will clarify that issue in its last meeting.

d. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)
NH reports on the meeting of the committee on the CUNY Blood Drive Resolution. NH asks that the Resolution be placed on the agenda for next Plenary. NH reports on the research done by the committee to present to Plenary regarding concerns about moving blood drives off-campus. NH will send out an amended resolution on May 5, 2012 to the CCC to be shared with plenary. The resolution will not be heavily edited with text removed, but language will be added to clarify the points included. NH discusses how she will present the resolution to plenary.

NH reports on the length of time for the officer reports during last plenary. Average presentation time was 6:48.

NH also presents the orientation packet for new members. Steering reviews the packets. Discussion over the "CUNY power map" and whether we have a digital version of the file. ADA offers to write the check request, allocation, and room reservation information. JS raises issues about how much content needs to be included in the packet when the content is already online. JS also raises concerns about the use of paper when the electronic content is available. CN suggest that we include a cover page that makes it clear that this will be a "manual" and it should be saved.

e. Officer for Student Life & Services (Sarah Jordan)
SJ reports that she will be sharing information about the survey data in the future. JS requests that the data be put on the website.

f. Officer for Technology & Library (Patricia Stapleton)
PS reports on the NYPL changes and recent contact with faculty about the issues, in particular about the creation of a Readers' Council. AD added some feedback about student support for the issue. PS reports that she will be creating a survey in collaboration with the NYPL librarians to determine MaRLI usage and needs for GC students. ADA makes a suggestion for the inclusion of questions on space issues, with possible use for negotiating longer library hours at the GC.

V. Announcements
CSM and EL note the expected structure of the next Plenary meeting. EL explains how business will be run during the meeting. EL requests all information and major report items in advance. JS provides an outline of how the food will be set up.

VI. Adjournment
NH motions to adjourn; ADA seconds.
Motion passes unanimously.

JS closes meeting at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Patricia Stapleton (Officer for Technology & Library)