

## Steering Meeting Minutes December 7, 2012

### Present:

Colin P. Ashley (CPA)  
 Anne Donlon (AD)  
 Nicole Hanson (NH)  
 Stefanie A. Jones (SAJ)  
 Eero Laine (EL)  
 Evan Misshula (EM)  
 Christina Nadler (CN)  
 Dominique Nisperos (DN)  
 Monique Whitaker (MW)

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

### Absent:

Maria Christina Garcia Lynch (MCGL)  
 Jen Tang (JT)

At 6:10pm SAJ calls the meeting to order

- I. Approval of Agenda  
 EL motions to approve, MW seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

DN enters meeting at 6:12

DN motions to amend agenda to include Item 4.3 Proposal for Student Life and Services Committee Funds. DN Moves EM seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- II. Approval of Minutes of November 9th, 2012  
 Correct Spelling: Stefanie, Kafui, CPA not CAP Megan Paslawski in new business  
 MW motions CPA Motion passes unanimously.

- III. Executive Committee Reports

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

We can now table in the cafeteria. To do so be in contact with a co-chair who will forward that information to the appropriate person.

Student Career Services Office Hiring Committee made offer that has been accepted by Jennifer Furlong who has lots of experience. The start date is in February, and the GC is still looking for space for the actual office.

We are hearing a lot of governance concerns, and a lot of confusion about meanings of certain bylaws. We should look for ways to address this, maybe more ways like what Jared Simard presented at the last plenary meeting (a lecture tour?). The Provost and President think the governance is clear in terms of student rights, but we need to figure out how to get the word out about this. NH suggests we look for ways to have the administration sign off on this because EOs

are looking for direct word from them, not Jared Simard or the DSC.

EL continues to work and maintain chartered organizations, regarding membership and rosters etc. Remember to join the chartered organizations.

## 2. Co-Chair for Communications (Anne Donlon)

In light of discussions of how to use Twitter and Facebook etc, AD has put together a social media policy, and will share as google doc for us to comment.

The Executive Committee (EC) and Co-Chairs have had many meetings with administrators. AD will highlight more of these at next week's Plenary meeting. Early today the EC met with IT's Bob Campbell who described the format for TV screens and we will initially have to work within their template (with a CNN newsfeed) but will throughout time build in flexibility for us. DN suggests we have a world news feed but AD says they seem pretty sure of CNN but we can still suggest changes. We also discussed the email domain change. Our new emails will be @gradcenter.cuny.edu, and CN suggested during the IT meeting that they give us until the end of the year to transition, rather than from the time period they suggested which is May 2013-August 2013. With this shift, they are also looking for us to brainstorm new ideas for listservs and finding emails for other students. We can bring other ideas to Bob Campbell.

In meeting with Student Affairs, the Co-Chairs were informed that there will be an increase to NYSHIP up \$14 for family rates and \$2 for individual per month. Scott Vorhees is trying to find out why this is such a large increase and AD will follow up.

Students should also be informed that there is a student affairs support network to help students related to the Hurricane.

## 3. Co-Chair for Business (Colin Ashley)

CPA reminds Steering Officers to keep space clean do office hours and maybe over break we can decorate via Ikea, etc

CPA adds an idea for DSC listserv and we could advertise working groups and ad-hoc committees so that people could join.

CPA is also looking into getting more lockers.

CPA presents the Affiliate Goals:

### a. The GC Advocate: Michael Busch

Michael Busch (MB) really cleaned up goals, and has been doing a great job, he is considering color print. He is supposed to meet with advisory committee but has not done so yet, so CPA will suggest meeting with them once this semester and three times next semester. MB wants to build in blogging. This may require funds and CPA will be in discussion about a specific plan/proposal for this.

MB wants to include more diversity but has not been as successful yet as he would like to be. DN strongly suggests he have a specific plan for how to include diversity and also includes more metrics for what improvement will look like, generally. SAJ says diversity coverage should not be pushed to the back burner.

MW would like the Advocate to focus on GC issues more frequently.

NH says the Advocate is still not distributed at JJay or other campuses. Perhaps representatives could do this, but MB should be advocating this.

b. Fundraising and Alumni Commission: Joe Heissan (JH)

CPA thinks JH is doing a good job meeting with individual students and creating plans for them, but could be doing more on a more macro level. CPA wants him to pursue student reps on Committee on Alumni Relations, but JH doesn't feel comfortable advocating for structural changes in that way. EL thinks it could be better as a representative and DSC should do the advocating. AD we need to make it more clear that student raised money goes directly to students and a relation with EOs should not trump or complicate this. AD maybe we/he should brainstorm who it is exactly that he should be in contact with. He had been relying on DSC representatives, which isn't explicitly part of the DSC reps duties. He should think of how to reach out to students outside of the DSC or by other mechanisms. We could create group of students to be in contact with him.

NH notes already has a standard set of questions and follow up. He has done enormous amount of work, and his blueprint is very helpful. He could formalize the info from the one on one meetings and have that be less targeted to the DSC.

c. OpenCUNY: Gregory Donovan and Maggie Galvan

CPA says that he asked for a lot more detail and to integrate the third position into their goals. There is some change from their original goals. CPA says they should continue to flush out the idea of the third OpenCUNY position and he wants them to work more with JustPublics365 and the Advanced Research Collaborative. CN says that she thinks they should have a third coordinator and their justification seems valid, having had discussions with them as a member of the OpenCUNY board.

DN thinks that they could have multiple OpenCUNY workshops this semester and next.

d. Adjunct Project: Alyson Spurgas (AS), Conor Tomas Reed, Zoltan Gluck

They did not submit goals. AS asked for an extension, no one else replied. CPA has several concerns already that were already discussed in September but there have been more as the semester continued. CPA is seeking specific feedback to relay to them.

DN they should continuously involve GC students, and they need to outline how they will be part of the GC and have a presence. SAJ says they need to advocate with the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), for example they should be connected to the Parental Leave Working Group. DN says they need to renew commitment to office hours. MW says she has not heard much about concrete CUNY Adjunct issues and engaging with the contract and the PSC. AD could we ask them to give a summary of their actions so far and request that their future activities include events at the Graduate Center. AD notes that the new fellowship issues are related to labor and pay and this is something they could be addressing. EL comments that the lack of formal communication with the DSC is particularly disturbing and betrays a sense of trust, and if this were a chartered org they would be defunded especially since student activity fees are limited. CN voiced her full agreement with EL's comments. AD and MW comment on website not being updated in a year. DN they should pursue an official union body/Grad center PSC chapter. CPA will say we really want to discuss these goals, so it is upsetting that we have not gotten them.

4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)

#USSFAIL campaign needs tweets, it's not really going anywhere unless people start tweeting their ideas for student activity fee spending.

CN has updated UUSS website ([opencuny.org/UUSS](http://opencuny.org/UUSS)) with member information and minutes. There is now an updated USS website at a new web address [cunyuss.org](http://cunyuss.org) yet the site is still largely incomplete with dead links, and even information cut and pasted from the UUSS site. The budget passed at November meeting with no real changes except increase to large co-sponsorship fund.

USS members passed resolution on Hurricane and did some volunteering post-hurricane. They will be discussing bylaw changes at December meeting but have not sent out the proposed changes yet.

CN FOIL requested expenditure updates, and related information but has not heard back yet. After almost a year of putting pressure on the Budget office, the USS Audit will commence in January by the Toski firm.

5. UFS Liaison (Stefanie A Jones)

The UFS met Tuesday 12/4, Goldstein was the guest. Talked about Hurricane, but also brought up Pathways. There was a lawsuit against BMI, but now BMI is compliant. The NCC has achieved five year accreditation. The UFS raised concern that the GC's restructuring and the CUNY faculty concerns and they see that as an attempt for the GC to split for other campuses and faculty won't be able to teach here, and Goldstein said he didn't hear anything about this. MW notes this could be a legal concern, but SAJ says the concern is more about future hires. UFS concerns were raised that there will be non-contact hours

"If strengthening our programs means restricting the number of students so we only get the best students i have no problem with that" -Goldstein

There was a resolution that was passed with full-time faculty centric language but SAJ does not recommend we also pass it because of its conciliatory language

Kelly gave us update on gender neutral bathrooms and contact information on who to contact EL says Matt told them today that the fifth floor one is not out of capital projects and may move faster than the first floor bathroom

Bob Hatcher contacted SAJ about racism workshop.

IV. New Business

1. Student Services Committee Membership

DN motions to remove Chris Eng and Priya Chandrasekaran from Student Services Committee MW seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Report from Ad Hoc Committee on DSC Parties

CPA presents ideas: Will make game room with no food and drink. Food will be in 5489 with snacks in other rooms and will try to create a flowing space by positions of kegs etc. Potentially cutting back liquor. In the Spring we may consider a concert instead of party. They are still thinking about potential theme for the party. AD adds that they have added more responsibilities to our list of regular party duties and perhaps we should sign up now. NH says do not table to promote the party because the parties are too crowded already. SAJ says one responsibility could be a person who works the halls telling people where to go. AD says signs or maps could be good too. CPA says we should advertise a new climate, potentially with safe party terminology we might use. NH says that this is good, and let's get this on the flyer. MW says also good idea. DN volunteers to do the flyer. SAJ says that there is a labor issue with the party and we all commit it will be manageable. CN says that she will not be able to attend the party because of concerns raised at the last steering but also because of revised Hurricane teaching schedules and having to teach that evening. NH will be point person for day-of set up.

3. Proposal for Student Life and Services Committee Funds

Student Services Committee has been organizing an event for finals with an information table. They are requesting \$510 for amenities for the station such as chair massage, earplugs, cough drops, etc. This station will be active from December 12<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

DN Motion to approve the allocation of up to \$510 to Student Life and Service Committee for Finals Comfort Stations from the Steering Discretionary Fund. EM seconds. EL thanks DN for her work. Motion passes unanimously.

DN Motion to approve the allocation of up to \$100 to Student Life and Service Committee for Survey Incentives from the Steering Discretionary Fund. MW Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

V. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Student Life & Services (Dominique Nisperos)

The committee met on Nov 30th with quorum. DN is hoping that one day we will have a request function on our website where people could reserve tabling space, particularly now that we can table in the cafeteria. DN is working on survey to find out housing needs. She is trying to find out new potential DSC services and to make Student Life questions more open ended in the form of a postcard, e.g., what does an energized GC student need? These postcards will advertise the longer online survey. She is looking for volunteers for Finals comfort stations. The new committee is really awesome *and* they are great!  
NH suggests reviewing the outreach survey from last year for ideas for the new survey.

2. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)

Mondays with Monique Coffee Hours have been going well and people are showing up having heard about from Facebook, posters, and emails. She is meeting with restaurant associates next week. MW will also be launching new posters next year related to health. SAJ asks what kind of posters and MW explains they will be about how backpacks are good for your health and why eating colorful foods is healthy, not like the NYC anti-obesity campaigns. She is also going to starting a petition to repaint the building and Student Affairs has supported this. AD says paint could be a formal question on student services survey.

3. Officer for Technology & Library (Evan Misshula)

Student Tech Fee Committee met and voted on \$12,000 for dell printers, \$30,000 for new computers (25 dell, 10 macs). MW asks what will the new machines will replace and EM explains they will be brought out as the new machines die.

They approved replacement of wireless radios to expand better service for wifi. EM had questions of whether or not we should be spending student money on these things, but did vote to approve this, but something to keep thinking about as perhaps these should not be bought with student fees, but be part of the GC budget.

Students requested access to Provalis software, but has only been used once since it was purchased. EM says that perhaps it is that people do not know how to access this since people did request this. IT will do outreach.

Information that IT collected on student printing has been shared. Not too many students have been printing a lot, but some have been printing over 1000, and one over 5000 per month. We should try to understand why some students have such a higher need for printing, not necessarily to do anything about this or to limit printing, but just to understand. EL indicates that it seems we do not need a quota based on IT's data. SAJ seconds this and says we need to really take a stance on this in terms of removing the anti-quota language. EM says the students on Tech fee will not agree to a quota. DN says that there are many students who are having trouble printing and are getting locked out and so people may be printing less because of issues with the new log in system.

The committee had a proposal for students to teach courses on technical skills. EM will be teaching a course on free software for data analysis.

The Internet Research Team are interested in becoming a chartered org and EM has been working with EL and has drafted a statement of purpose for them and a constitution.

MW says that composers in the Music program need the ability to print on legal sized papers and wants EM to look into the recent loss of that ability for Music students.

EL requested copy of the tech budget and revenue and expenses so that we can visualize how much money there is and get some new ideas as well as doing a student tech fee survey.

4. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)

The Biology PSA workshop has been moved to January 25th because they already have a meeting scheduled at the time NH had scheduled it. The City College event was successful with about a dozen people who showed up, many of the science, physics, and sociologists who teach there. The Student organizing workshop was also pretty well attended with people popping in and out over the 2 hours, with some overlap from people from the town halls. Students were

interested in coming together to respond to the new fellowships and admissions restructuring. A google doc was started to compile student responses to new fellowship packages and how this might negatively affect programs. This may result in an open letter. NH will motion to create an ad-hoc committee at plenary to address this issue.

NM wants to do a town hall meeting for international students. There are many students that are not receiving appropriate support from the GC offices. EM adds that this is particularly acute for first years.

NM wants to create a 'spirit team' which is a group of people who want to help out but don't want to be a DSC rep, but may want to put up flyers, protest. AD goes on record suggesting commonweal committee but NH says that was discussed and vetoed at the Outreach meeting. SAJ suggests MW idea 'hands across CUNY'

DN proposes that we suggest the GC restructuring as a project to the Adjunct Project. NH fear is that this is not something we may not trust to handle this although we can bring them in to the discussions.

5. Officer for Governance & Membership (Maria Cristina Garcia)  
MCGL is not present and did not send a report.

6. Officer for Funding (Jen Tang)  
JT is absent. CPA reads her report. The Grants committee will be doing some more promotion to solicit more grant proposals. The committee will be going ahead with suggesting bylaw changes in regard to the dates of the meetings. The quality of grant proposals has been the same as previous years. JT has been suggesting many interdisciplinary grant requestors form chartered organizations to continue and facilitate their work

VI. Announcements

MW wants to know what happened with the Nurse Practitioner and the committee to address this budget issue. CPA says there will be meeting next week.

DN says there are arrangements for nap stations and making that a year round thing, DN notes that the GCGA can receive some (financial) support from the DSC to facilitate a critical activist space on campus.

CPA would like us to compile over break our own goals for what we would like to accomplish as steering officers

DN announces we will put the room reservation guidelines developed by DN and the Student Life and Services Committee on the website

EL Film Studies Association is sponsoring a Freaks and Geeks Marathon

MW last Coffee hour will be Monday and the T3 chartered org will be making articulated dolls on Tuesday all afternoon/evening

EM is looking to teach student for student tech courses and if people know anyone who wants to teach one

VII. Adjournment

CPA motions to adjourn. DN seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christina Nadler