

Steering Committee Minutes March 1st, 2013

Present: Colin P. Ashley (CPA), Anne Donlon (AD), Nicole Hanson (NH), Stefanie A. Jones (SAJ), Eero Laine (EL), Benjamin Miller (BM), Kristin Moriah (KM), Dominique Nisperos (DN), Jen Tang (JT), Monique Whitaker (MW)

Plenary	Not in attendance: Christina Nadler (CN)
Executive Committee	SJ calls the meeting to order at 6:23pm
Steering Committee	I. Approval of Agenda MW motions. NH Seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
Constitution and Bylaws	II. Approval of Minutes of February 1st, 2013 CPA motions. AD seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
Grants	III. Approval of Minutes of February 13th, 2013
Health Issues	DN motions to enter into executive session in order to discuss the minutes of February 13th, 2013. BM seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
Media Board	DN motions to approve the minutes. NH seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
Outreach	CPA motions to exit executive Session. BM seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
Student Services	IV. Executive Committee Reports 1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Eero Laine) a. Nominations have closed for DSC elections. EL is working on making ballots for SERC approval. Elections will open April 1st. b. Interested students are working to re-activate the Middle Eastern Studies Organization. 2. Co-Chair for Communications (Anne Donlon) c. The EC will be meeting with Provost Robinson, Polly Thistlewaithe, Mike Byers, and Ray Ring next Thursday a. The APS DSC mediation meeting is next Friday. Former CO-Chair Chris Sula and former AP coordinator Jesse Goldstein have agreed to facilitate the meeting b. The Parental Leave working group will be meeting with Matt Schoengood and Louise Lennihan. The Administration has proposed a plan that limits parental leave to biological mothers. AD has been in touch with a lawyer who will look into the issue further. c. The Ad-Hoc Space Committee has met. AD has forwarded the resolution on space to Provost Robinson. d. AD has contacted the appointees to the Emeritus DSC Leadership Advisory Board (EDLAB). Chris Alen Sula, Anick Boyd, Jared Simard, Suzanne Tamang, and Gregory Donovan have all accepted a position on the board. e. AD is tracking her time related to digital signage. It is currently manageable, but she will continue to monitor.

- f. DH asks about the nature of the mediation meeting between the DSC and the AP. SAJ suggests that discussion be limited due to time constraints. Discussion ensues related to the format of the mediation meeting.
- 3. Co-Chair for Business (Colin Patrick Ashley)
 - a. Depending on what happens with the funding packages, the DSC may need to reconsider how stipends are calculated.
 - b. CPA will solicit ideas for small gifts for DSC reps.
 - c. CPA has filed 20 empty lockers.
 - d. There may be another bid for the website. CPA continues to look into options and companies.
 - e. CPA reminds officers to prioritize answering emails during office hours.
 - f. CPA reports on the blood drive: A number of signatures were added to the petition against the FDA ban on MSM blood. Many people added red straws to indicate they were ineligible to donate blood due to the discriminatory FDA ban
 - g. The Angelica (an independent movie theater) sells group discount tickets. CPA will order an initial bundle as a test run.
 - h. The Ad-Hoc Health Issues Committee will meet next week to discuss the relationship between the DSC and the Wellness Center.
- 4. USS Delegate (Christina Nadler)
 - a. See attached.
- 5. UFS Liaison (Stefanie A. Jones)
 - a. SAJ has spoken with CPA and BM regarding forming a UFS committee. SAJ is hesitant to form another standing committee at this point.
 - b. SAJ attended the Ad-Hoc Committee on Space. Anick Boyd was elected as chair of the committee. JT asks that future requests to representatives to join committees include a brief description of the committee and offer reasons for joining.
 - c. SAJ reports that Chancellor Goldstein will be attending the UFS meeting. The Kroll report regarding the Baruch incident will be discussed. SAJ suggests that anyone interested in hearing what Chancellor Goldstein has to say should attend. UFS will also be discussing new software at CUNY called inyourclass.com.
 - d. SAJ reports that Chancellor Goldstein has laid out his plan for the future. It is available on CUNY website
 - e. BM asks for a definition of neoliberalism. MW responds. SAJ offers to send BM a link with information.

CPA asks for feedback regarding the goals submitted by Steering Officers. NH emphasizes the importance of goals. JT requests that goals be added to the website. BM suggests that each member of the Steering Committee add their goals to the bios on the website.

V. New Business

- 1. DSC Budget 2013-2014 Doctoral Students' Council
 - a. CPA presents a proposed budget for 2013-2014.
 - b. Discussion ensues.
- 2. Committee Membership
 - . DN motions to remove Kristin Moriah from the membership of the Student Life and Services Committee. KM seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
 - a. BM motions to approve Amy Martin as a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. CPA seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
 - b. NH motions to approve Katherine Dawson to the Outreach Committee. BM seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

- c. KM motions to remove herself from the Funding Committee. AD seconds. The motion passes. JT abstains.

DN motions to amend the agenda to include item V.5: petition to add a seat/rep. BM seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

- 3. Beginning of year planning meeting
 - a. JT suggests that the DSC have a meeting at the beginning and end of every year. Discussion ensues.
- 4. Discretionary spending
 - 0. CPA explains that CN will be picking up materials from here recent FOIL request. EL motions to allocate up to \$1000 from Steering Discretionary to be spent on necessary photocopying costs related to CN USS FOIL request. MW seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
 - 1. CPA explains that he will not be able to change the current budget line for the movie tickets. CPA motions to spends up to \$3000 from Steering Discretionary to purchase movie tickets with the understanding that those funds will be replaced based on a positive vote at plenary. EL seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
 - 5. Petition to create a seat for the Master's Program in Middle Eastern Studies.
 - 0. BM motions to create the seat for the MA Program in Middle Eastern Studies to be filled by Nicholas DeAntonis as requested by the formal petition submitted. JT seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Steering Officer Reports

- 1. Officer for Funding (Jen Tang)
 - a. JT reports that the grants committee has about \$10,000 left in its budget for the year.
 - b. JT will be creating a list of caterers to suggest to grant writers for their events based on suggestions from students.
- 2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ben Miller)
 - . BM reports that there are new reps in Ed Psych, Mathematics, and Sociology.
 - a. There are two special elections that are currently open in Comp lit and Earth and Environmental Science.
 - b. Nominations are currently open for special elections in Biology and English.
- 3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Monique Whitaker)
 - . MW reports that she will follow up on the blog post regarding the Affordable Care Act.
 - a. MW will seek volunteers for tasks related the Health and Wellness blog.
 - b. The Health and Wellness posters will be available soon.
 - c. MW reports that Student Affairs has not been available to meet about condom dispensers in bathrooms. The Health and Wellness Committee will approach EOs regarding distributing condoms in program lounges.
 - d. The Wellness Festival is coming up. There will be smoothie demonstrations. MW will follow up with the masseuse.
 - e. The Health and Wellness Committee will be spreading information via flyers related to health insurance options
 - f. MW is investigating if GC students are eligible to receive medical care at Wellness Centers at other CUNY campuses.
 - g. MW has updated the Health and Wellness website.
- 4. Officer for Outreach (Nicole Hanson)
 - . NH reports that the Outreach Committee is meeting on Tuesday. The Committee will be holding an event at Queens College. The event will be social and informational. The other event of the semester will be at Baruch.
 - a. There will be an international Students Town Hall meeting during the semester.
 - b. NH continues to work with potential PSAs.
 - c. NH continues to work on the DSC/CUNY flow chart.

- d. NH is following up on Open Meetings Law and its applicability to Program Standing Committees. NH is drafting a letter asking for clarification.
- e. The AD-Hoc Committee on New GC Fellowships met on Tuesday. NH explains that the idea behind the ad-hoc committee was to liaise with other groups and organizations. The committee discussed possibly creating a tumblr or other online presence. NH is exploring ways to better coordinate with other GC groups
- f. NH reports that the Criminal Justice Doctoral Students Association has rewritten the program governance for the Criminal Justice Program. This will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Program. NH will provide updates as they are available.

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

- a. DN reports that her committee has lost some members, but will be requesting DSC members to attend.
 - b. The next Student Life & Services meeting will be next Tuesday at 7pm. DN seeks any ideas and feedback prior to the meeting.
 - c. DN asks for volunteers to table outside the library in the weeks prior to spring break.
 - d. DN is planning comfort stations for the end of the spring semester.
 - e. DN is working on more explicit instructions for steering members during office hours.
6. Officer for Technology & Library (Kristin Moriah)
- 0. KM reports that the Tech Fee Survey is still running and she is working to analyze the data.
 - 1. KM has received feedback from the Music Program regarding a tech fee expenditure.
 - 2. KM met with Polly Thistlewaite who is interested in getting more students into the library to use tech skill workshops and utilizing the C-level.
 - 3. KM reports that the ad-hoc Committee on the Library Catalog will meet before the next plenary meeting.

VII. Announcements

- 1. BM announces that he will be at a conference during the upcoming Plenary meeting.
- 2. SAJ announces that she noticed that a number of Steering Officer Duties were not completed last week and encourages all Steering Officers to complete the duties.
- 3. AD Announces that Don Robotham has been in contact to notify the DSC that the grants he had announced at the last plenary meeting do not actually exist and that money is being made available for dissertation fellowships.
- 4. NH asks if the next Advocate issue will be devoted to the restructuring.

VIII. Adjournment

DN motions to adjourn. MW seconds. The motion passes unanimously

The meeting is adjourned at 9:25pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eero Laine