

**Steering
 MINUTES
 September 2nd, 2016**

Present: Cecilia Salvi, Liza Shapiro, Hamad Sindhi, Tellisia Williams, Teresa Ober, Alison Parks, Javier Otero Peña, Warner Sabio, Janet Werther, Carlos Camacho, Jeremy Randall

Plenary

Hamad Sindhi (HS) calls the meeting to order at 4:55pm.

Executive Committee

I. Approval of Agenda

Steering Committee

HS moves to approve agenda with emendations: adding NB items 4, 5, 6, 7 - Changes to 2016/2017 DSC Budget; De-chartering Greek Community Group; Steering Goals 2016/17; Plenary logistics; moving NB 4 Steering retreat to NB 8, changing NB 5 Student activity fees referendum to NB 9.

Constitution and Bylaws

Carlos Camacho (CC) seconds.

Grants

Approved unanimously.

Health & Wellness

II. Approval of Minutes of May 6 2016

CS moves to approve; JR seconds; Motion passes.

Outreach

III. Executive Committee Reports

Student Services

1. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Cecilia Salvi)

USS Advisory Committee

a) Chartered Organizations

Advocate Advisory Board

i. I will follow up w/inactive groups to see if we can work with them; 10 orgs were inactive last semester; 36 were active

OpenCUNY Board

ii. New Student Orientation went well- 7-8 Chartered Orgs and outside groups participated.

Governance Task Force

iii. I have sent out a greeting and reminder about deadlines to Chartered Org leaders.

EDLAB

iv. I am holding a meet and greet event for Chartered Org leaders on Sept 23. The goal is to elicit feedback, improve communication and increase activities.

Student Tech Fee

v. I've updated statuses and rosters for this semester.

vi. I've received one application from the Collective of Critical Transport Scholars. I will put it on the agenda for next plenary, because I must verify registration of applicants (and they sent it in 8/30).

vii. I am working with another GC student to start an Ecocriticism group.

b) Dechartering Organizations

i. I must start the process to decharter **Greek Community**. It's for inactivity over 3 consecutive semesters. Greek Community has already given up its space.

c) Program Student Associations

i. I am working on an email to send to PSA leaders over the weekend.

ii. I will hold an informal gathering for them as well on Sept 23.

d) Room Reservations

- i. Weekend room reservations are no longer possible for GC rooms. Events must end at 9:30pm.
- ii. Please hold off on approving any "out of the ordinary" room reservations, such as 2+ rooms and/or 2+ day and/or seemingly outside group reservations. I would like to work on them this month, so that I have data to present to Student Affairs about the need for students to have better access to GC rooms.
- e) Internal DSC
 - i. Alison, Teresa and I met with AP to discuss their goals on 8/25.
 - ii. I owe office hours; would like to be responsible for a project instead (proposed to HS)
- f) Questions: Teresa Ober (TO) asked about putting odd room requests on HOLD, CS says she'd prefer that we'd just not touch them; she'll be checking daily.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi)

- a) Co-Chair meetings:
 - i. Met with Matt Schoengood (Student Affairs) and John Flaherty (Public Safety) about the introduction of security cameras and CCTV in the building over the summer; JF explained that the impetus to add surveillance cameras began in 2008 right after the Virginia Tech shooting, at that time JF recommended that security cameras be installed on every floor and Bill Kelly approved the plan, he also recommended a host of other preventive measures like emphasis on mental health services; due to budgetary constraints and slow movement of capital investment funds, JF did not get the money or equipment to fully implement the plan for the security cameras, until now, but scaled back the plan to only add cameras at elevator banks (including one near the freight elevator), some in the dining hall, some in the recital hall, some in the auditoriums, and some in the library; there are no cameras in the hallways or any that look into offices or classrooms, the cameras in the library, we were assured, will not be used to collect information on what books students borrow or websites they visit, JF also assured us that he would do his best to legally fight any subpoenas that ask for such information about students, Polly Thistlewaite was made aware of these cameras; JF said that he has policies in place that state how and for what purpose his staff will use the camera footage, and that these policies are very much informed by individual rights and standards of non-discrimination, he said he will publish these policies on the GC website and also invited us to comment on them; JF also acquiesced to our request that a community email be sent to the entire GC community about the placement of these cameras, where they are located, why they were placed there and include the policies of use and what rights community members have about being recorded by the cameras; we are coordinating with the GC PSC Chapter leadership about this issue as well, and will follow up with JF about recommendations in the policies about these security cameras
- b) EC meetings:
 - i. EC met on July 19th: discussed nominations for the UFS Liaison position and approved Teresa Ober for the vacancy (welcome Teresa!), however, Plenary will vote on a new UFS Liaison again on Sep 16th; discussed logistics and plans for New Student Orientation; and discussed who to invite as guest speakers for Plenaries - on the docket so far is President Robinson, Provost Connolly, Marianna Azar (IRB), Edith Gonzalez (ORSP), director of the International Students Office, Chancellor Milliken

- c) Other meetings:
 - i. College Association met on June 28; Jennifer Prince went over the 2015-16 DSC budget and the 2016-17 projected DSC budget; discussed issues from the Business Office like the purchase of alcohol via student fee dollars, the use of electronic signatures, and paying honoraria as reimbursement to students, JP said she would follow with these specific issues and make the new CCB (LS) aware of these issues as well; HS questioned if Public Health students will be paying student fees to the GC, MS clarified that they will not
- d) Housekeeping:
 - i. DSC-Announcements listserv has been discontinued; please advise all students to only sign up for the DSC-L listserv
 - ii. Please start contacting your committee members and start scheduling meetings; (go over demo of how to schedule committee meetings on the DSC calendar); will create and send around a guide to chairing committee meetings document soon; agendas should always be sent at least a week in advance to all committee members and posted on the calendar; minutes should be finalized and posted on the calendar as well as in your respective folders on the S drive; HS does live tutorial on reserving rooms for committee meetings
 - iii. Remember to get your keys to 5497 from Diane - tickets and checks should remain in 5497, even if you are doing office hours elsewhere
- e) Questions:
 - i. Allison Parks (AP): chartered orgs have asked for a memo re: no alcohol w/DSC funds; HS will coordinate with CS & Liza Shapiro (LS)
 - ii. Javier Otero Pena (JOP) - why aren't Public Health students paying fees? HS clarifies b/c they are no longer part of the Grad Center, but may be part of "the conglomerate" GSUC like the School of Journalism

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

- a) Legal consultations - case by case basis rather than assigning a schedule through Works. We free up more student space by not having it booked for consultations. It allows LS to keep track of funds and how they're being spent. Lawyers will alternate weeks. They've sent a schedule so LS can refer students for consultation. New person stepping in - Erin (yay woman!) - may encourage more students. Direct legal inquiries to Liza.
- b) Movie tix: AMC is discontinuing green, issuing black. \$10.25, but unrestricted. Hopefully jump in price is a good trade-off for lack of restriction. Will buy small batch of blacks when we run out of green. Greens will still be honored. Will also buy a batch of Regal.
- c) Lockers: lottery is happening with deadlines of September 11th. Students must reserve via Works.
- d) Website: New version of Drupal taking over. Jen Prince circulated a document last year. We should finish filling it out by next week so they can start doing their work. Asking that previous members of Steering & Co-chairs take initiative b/c you are familiar, but if you've noticed something that you want to contribute, happy to have your thoughts. We need as many of us on board as possible. Will re-share.
- e) Budget (and segue into new business): New contract. Budget has to accommodate increase of over \$9,000. This is gonna be difficult. Projected enrollment numbers are low. Add-drop hasn't ended. Be prepared. Steering can buy for the office. Unless it's on deep, hard sale and very necessary, don't buy anything. We'll see the numbers shortly.
- f) Questions:

- i. Janet Werther (JW) asked about shortfall of budget; when do change of monies go into effect, projected for January from Chancellor, why we would get increases before CUNY; second question: what can we do to fight for increased budget given contractual obligations; LS: We're paid by student activity fees not by GC; due to that we pay ourselves because we receive that immediately; same answer to contract question. Bylaws state that it's based on grad B salary; we can change our bylaws but b/c we're only paid with what we have no one else will do that; HS adds that we're responsible for paying those who work for us; LS adds you will be paid faster here than for your back pay elsewhere
- ii. JOP: new website - will this change functionality?; LS: it's an upgrade. We've been avoiding it. GC it has said that if we don't upgrade, we won't have a website. This doc is supposed to help us retain what is important; HS adds: we are run through WordPress and Drupal. Not a lot of people know how to code Drupal. These updates are for Drupal.
- iii. Tellisia Williams (TW): what will decrease in order to accommodate the \$11,000?; LS: will discuss in new business. Will be soliciting help. Cuts are not approved automatically. Still have to find \$5,000. We will work together. There are a couple of options. Reserve fund (borrowing), but that has to be returned. We also need to check in about donations.
- iv. Teresa: Our primary source of budget is student activity fees? Is there another source?; LS: operating and non-operating budgets. Operating budget is made of student activity fees and a small percentage of the medical fees, movie ticket fees (but that stays pretty neutral), and then any grants or gifts; CC: referendum is a question, but because of time, we will get back to that issue.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

TW reports: The USS Delegate and USF Liaison will work closely this year to strategically face issues before they come to the board of trustees and balloon into policies that hurt students. This will involve collaborating to combat issues such as tuition increases, and the expected return of the Expressive Policy. The plan is to inform students in advance about proposed changes so we can protest effectively: attend board meetings, make flyers, inform programs, and be vocal. Attended a joint mtg w/CS & TO, no official USS mtg yet. Strategizing for opposition & issues - tuition, expressive policy, etc. Dates for future mtgs - will let us know as they come. Will keep us up to date on the issues as they develop.

Questions:

CC: Tom DeGloma, Soc prof (also @ Hunter) plans to reach out regarding expressive policy and actions they're working on there at Hunter

TW: Wanting to catch students early on, reach out to mobilize, multiple campuses - push back!

5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober, interim)

TO reports: Over the course of the academic year, the UFS Liaison will work together with the USS Delegate to collaborate on certain issues that are raised by the Board of Trustees that could impact students. Some of these issues include:

- i. The debate surrounding the Policy on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct. This may also be referred to broadly speaking as the "Policy on Academic Freedom" or the "Freedom of Expression policy."
- ii. Representation of the students in Public Health who will no longer have direct representation on the DSC. If possible, we would like to ensure that they are able to set up student governance and have continued access to GC resources.

- iii. Another issue is that of tuition increases and encouraging students to take a stance against these.

In addition, the UFS Liaison would like to work with the coordinators of the Adjunct Project to find ways to productively communicate with the Faculty Senate about issues affecting adjunct instructors, with the hopes of one day gaining representation on Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate Plenary meeting dates have been announced and will occur on the third Tuesday of every month during the months of September, October, November, February, March, and May of this academic year. During the first plenary meeting on September 20th, VC Schaffer will be speaking and will be there to address questions about the amendments to the proposed policy on 'Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct'.

IV. New Business

1. Room reservation requests

- a) Public History Collective (PHC): CC and CS explain that they requested and exemption, but since they took 2 months to respond, it was no longer in the exemption period; it was approved, and they did not use their exemption
- b) Ariosto after 500 years: CS explains that they are asking for 4 full days in 1 week. It was accidentally approved. Since it's approved, Cecilia asks us to approve in our vote. There may be a conflict on the 18th, and there are other groups that requested in the evening one day, we can approve *until* the other group starts. Cecilia is also willing to work with them on other GC rooms; JOP adds that they also asked for \$750 from the Grants Committee; TO asked the conflicting group if they would move into the other room, and they have agreed, so the only issue is with Yoga. Asks for clarification on the policy; HS clarifies that the *intent* of the exemptions is beyond *one* room. The exemptions are for *two* days, and our policy implies that this is *beyond* the exceptions, and we would typically not approve; JW brings up question of addendum that is made to discuss larger requests than 2 days to clarify how we might move forward on things that are "beyond" exceptions. (Suggests a policy of needing Steering Committee approval.); CS: we have only explicitly stated the policy & normal exceptions. We have no explicit policy on further exceptions. The website has vague language about typicality; JOP: we could encourage collaboration with other orgs for multiplying exceptions; Jeremy Randall (JR): "all approvals are at the discretion of the Steering Committee" for creating space for approval & non-approval, rather than having more and more explicit addendums; HS likes the collaborative element, and likes the "at the discretion of Steering"; TW notes that organizations teaming up to monopolize rooms still has problems - rooms are still monopolized; TO: Generally in favor of steering being given the permission to override the 2-day policy on a case-by-case basis. Requires that people with extraordinary requests have enough time and foresight for Steering approval. Also notes the possible issues of collaboration and the temporal issues of getting approval from a Steering meeting; AP: chartered orgs & program reps - is the exception also about booking outside the 6-8wk window? Can you also book larger times longer in advance (HS nods). Orgs giving each other their exceptions - it is a thing that can happen, but we might not necessarily want to advertise that. We also have to make sure that other student groups that are not chartered orgs or programs, if they're unaffiliated more or less, no exception; JW points out that people could make more or less "fake" chartered orgs, as well as less active groups "giving away" their exceptions. So while of course we should support collaboration across orgs, having *some* kind of mechanism for a group to pursue more extraordinary

exceptions without collaboration might actually be *more* beneficial than simply advertising collaborative opportunities so that we make a mechanism to pursue desired activities without abusing the policies; JOP: Continuing to support *real* collaboration. How can we make sure that the collaboration is effective? Across programs & interests? Can we encourage truly effective collaboration and address abuse as it happens? Also, we want to make sure that the GC DOES support big events - this is a collaboration across institutions for the benefit of GC students by having it at the GC; HS recaps - this is a bigger issue, that obviously needs to be dealt with more, but we also want to deal with the pertinent issue of this one event; CS: this is precisely why she wants to deal with all the exemptions for one month. Also there is the issue of not only telling people *that* they have an exception, but also *how* to get it; TW: question regarding whether or not it is truly the case that GC students will not have the access if the event is on another campus; JOP clarifies that it is an issue of ease of access; LS: Was sent a program for the conference, showing how the rooms would be utilized. From what she sees, they are putting together a visual art exhibition w/print copies of the book. One of the things that is taking up a lot of space and why they want to request the rooms. The schedule itself has various parts of the conference in various places - something at the Morgan Library, another day, something at the Segal Center. Coffee breaks in 5414. It seems like they're coordinating a lot (using the whole building). The program might be helpful.

- c) CS moves to approve 3 days for the event, with 4th day in the purview of CCSA, her communications with them, and further availability; Warner Sabio (WS) seconds; Discussion: LS: Would be helpful to look at that program before deciding how many days. While it is an oversight for them to have assumed approval, we should take a look and really consider what they will lose. There may be major impediments to what is being planned, so we should look at the plan; there is further clarification of what rooms they want for what days; TO: Emphasizes that the 2-day policy needs to be clearer not only for Steering but also for those making the reservations. Can we respect the policy while being flexible? Encourage us to be open to the idea that some events might necessitate and be deserving of the extra days if it seems fruitful. And we should have the flexibility; JOP: Mostly agrees, but it's a lot of time. Doesn't make sense to approve without knowing what they intend. Worry - having to check up on every event rather than having good policies, but maybe if we have these kinds of events infrequently; JW: Points out the cultural capital and the desire to be able to have major local conferences in our building! I would want to be able to imagine that if I organized a major local event, I could get the building's resources as well. I encourage us to approve all four days, or to make sure that we can get other rooms for them if we can't give them 5414. And this is why I think we should have a policy around Steering approval for "beyond" exceptions; HS: asks for some more clarification - all students at the GC will be able to attend (JOP - yes; there is more info available from Funding committee). I want to support student work for students. Would like to *give* the space if we can, but we need to strongly communicate that there is a need to check in!! It is not something to just assume, there needs to be an opportunity to actually check in and *ask*; JR: agrees that it's exciting, cultural capital, etc. Hesitation around having a *gallery* space in 5414 - inherently exclusive? Wouldn't one of the other institutions be better equipped?; JOP: What if the room *is* open to students with the art?; CC: currently Tuesday (gallery day) is the only day that it's not on the calendar. Is it possible to negotiate Yoga if we did want to give them all the days? Based on the schedule, they seem to only need the room for *part* of the day, so can we give them the whole day Tues & Weds, can we then break it up Thurs/Fri based on what is needed, and only give them the actual times they need?; LS: Seconding Carlos - good idea to give them 2 full days and break up the other 2 days. We can also ask the organizer regarding the

actual use of the space, and if they're unwilling to have it as a shared space when they don't actually need it we should reconsider; AP: similar - can they set up the art, and then people can do yoga/have a meeting, whatever, while the art is up, maybe they don't even need the reservation?; JW suggests docent for if the art needs protection, and can be a shared space; CS suggests amending motion to approving 3 days; there is more discussion about the use of 5414 as a gallery space, and some discussion about communicating with the group; HS: restates the motion: motion to approve 3 days for the event, with 4th day in the purview of CCSA, her communications with them, and further availability; calls motion to vote; JOP abstains; Motion passes.

2. Appointment of 3 new EDLAB members

- a) HS explains role of EDLAB, time-limits, and who current members are; opens call for nominations:
 - i. HS nominates Stefanie A. Jones (SAJ)
 - ii. AP nominates Jennifer Prince (JP)
 - iii. CS nominates Amy Martin (AM)
 - iv. HS nominates Eero Lane (EL)
 - v. CC nominates Ashna Ali (AA)
 - vi. CS nominates Kyla Bender-Baird (KBB)
 - vii. HS nominates Chris Allen Sula (CAS)
- b) Nominations are discussed and ranked in the following order:
 - i. SAJ
 - ii. JP
 - iii. CAS
 - iv. AM
 - v. EL
 - vi. KBB
 - vii. AA
- c) HS clarifies that we will ask the first three (SAJ, JP, CAS), and if any of them say no, we will move on to the rest of the list.
- d) HS moves to ratify ranked list; WS seconds; Motion passes unanimously.

HS calls for a break at 7:14pm.

HS calls meeting back to order at 7:31pm.

3. Review of Affiliate goals

- a) Goals for OpenCUNY are discussed, and feedback provided to LS to share with OpenCUNY Coordinators.
- b) Goals of the Adjunct Project are discussed, and feedback provided to LS to share with Adjunct Project Coordinators.
- c) Goals of the Advocate are discussed, and feedback provided to LS to share with Dadland Maye.

4. Changes to 2016-7 DSC Budget

- a) LS explains the budget shortfall due to the renewed PSC-CUNY contract; need to accommodate about \$11,000 in raises into this year's budget; asks for suggestions for changes to accommodate this; explains further that since the stipends for Adjunct Project Coordinators increased by more than 10%, Steering will at least need to vote on that change.

- b) HS moves to increase Adjunct Project stipend budget from \$13,010 to \$15,057; WS seconds; discussion: JOP: do we have the breakdown btwn stipends & consulting? LS: it's just the title; HS: why is the AP increase more than 10%, compared to the other stipend budget lines? LS: AP has the lowest stipend per pay period.
- c) Motion passes unanimously.
- d) General discussion on rest of the budget: HS: is the whole \$11,000 accounted for? LS: no - we still have to cut \$5,000 more; JW: how would defunding the Nurse Practitioner affect this, and would it be timely enough? Can we fundraise? LS: fundraising question is a good one for EDLAB. PSAs donating back \$ to DSC? Other fundraising? Donations? Nurse practitioner is more complicated. This was determined through a past referendum. Doing a new referendum to defund will take time, and the Board of Trustees would have to ratify, and so it may be a strong long term solution, but cannot be a short term solution; JR: USS funding to fill the gap? Is it possible? TW: if we could get them to respond, maybe? LS: there's nothing to prohibit us using those funds if we can get them. HS: we should not depend on outside funds. We have an *operating* budget. We need to *operate* on it. So we need to act as if we are not going to get donations, and if we do get donations, we can happily add to budget items that we would prefer to add to; CC: do we have enough info to justify gutting the budget for fitness classes & that budget? CS: enrollment is low but ongoing. We don't know at this time; TO: would like to know what USS Fees under "Oversight & Special Expenditures" are being used towards? TW: asks Cecilia to provide clarity from her past experience. CS: they fund themselves from our student fees on a per-student basis; AP: This is about our own stipends. We'll have to go through this again in April when the contract is signed. If we could de-link our stipends from GAB, we could have a less volatile budget. HS: this is a larger question for EDLAB and the EC; JOP: could we not spend money on movie tix until we need to? Would that save \$? LS: that's a zero sum game in total; JW: could we add to the price of tix (fifty cents or something?), something to add finances beyond soliciting donations? LS: questioning those ethics & purpose of the tix? HS: and we can't really sell things, we can't monetize our room reservations, etc.; WS: this is a tough decision - what is our deadline? HS: what is our deadline? Can we move forward for tonight? Set up a digital feedback system? LS: want a solid budget for Plenary. Can we meet in person before plenary to discuss? HS: we may not need to meet in person. Let's check the bylaws; LS: the choices are basically down to Advocate freelance writers, OpenCUNY web hosting, and legal consultations; JOP: since we're not going to make these choices now, can we table it? TO: can we consider working with program allocations at all? LS: it's per student, but also we get that \$ back if they don't use it. We can also move to change the bylaws if we need.
- e) HS closes discussion and promises to set up a shared Google doc for further recommendations.

5. De-chartering Greek Community Group

- a) CS explains the de-chartering process
- b) CS moves to de-charter the Greek Community Group; CC seconds; motion approved unanimously.

6. Steering Goals 2016-17

HS explains that Co-Chairs have been thinking of 2 categories of goals:

- a) DSC in-house goals:
 - i. Student Activities Fees referendum

- ii. Explain what we do & what we're good for through outreach and social media; we've lost some folks who were doing great social media stuff. We've lost the budget. So we have to do this. Burden can't go on any one person, so we really need to think as a whole about what we can do.
- b) Advocacy Goals:
 - i. Tuition Remission
 - ii. Gender Neutral Bathroom - work toward conversion of all bathrooms into gender neutral
 - iii. Office of Disability Services
 - iv. Increasing Diversity - faculty, students, staff
 - v. JW adds: Reduced rate infant care through GC following NP model

EC will take on advocacy goals. Steering can get involved, as well. Committees, ad hoc committees, etc. Ad hoc committees have to be formed in Plenary. Take the initiative! Asking us to deal with the in-house goals - referendum & social media.

Discussion:

JW: Social media - actionable steps please!!! Gender Neutral Bathrooms - there are some issues with having the existing bathrooms converted. But the ad-hoc committee, which hopes to continue, can also speak to what seems most feasible, which would be single occupancy on each floor (some floors are more ready than others). Also requests addition of reduced rate infant care through GC following NP model to advocacy goals.

HS: Officers should think about individual goals and how to incorporate those goals at the Steering retreat. Can be in addition to EC or Steering Goals and your committee goals.

7. Plenary logistics

HS: need to discuss best practices re: people not staying for the whole meeting, not having quorum for votes, etc.

Best Practices for reports:

1. Have slides
2. Keep them short - what do you need to know, what must you take back to your constituents?

HS asks for other helpful things:

AP: Why can't we get summaries or reports in advance? HS: we want them to come to the meeting.

TW: don't we send out minutes? How is that different from summaries?

CS: have other people do the Robert's Rules stuff (motioning, seconding, etc.)

CC: handouts and/or goodies are useful

TO: people who attend can be encouraged to bring their own content, including information about program events, etc. to announce at the end of plenary

JW: maybe having other folks on the committee saying parts of our reports so that it's not just us and that there's more inclusivity in terms of talking

TO: Encourage people to prepare questions for guest speakers; we should be careful about how we're approaching people about them, but it could make the council appear prepared and incite an intelligent and informed discussion with the guest speakers

TW: Prepared *responses* get difficult, especially when we're trying to pass resolutions. Encouraging people to speechify can be a difficult habit to break

HS: We should strategize about time limits for when there are contentious debates. We should also think about playing around with the structure of meetings, maybe?

AP: people will stay for some votes but not others

LS: would it be possible to swap around the agendas based on the needs of the plenary? HS: probably only in extreme cases. Could be confusing.

LS: rep engagement, you don't get to decide when you'll be in the room and then peace out. We can't get business done.

HS: other groups operate differently in terms of business and reports; suggests doing Steering reports before New Business items

JW: perhaps we could have foods and speakers at different times to play with the room

WS: Hamad's ideas about timing can work, but we really need to tighten up ship. We should think about setting time limits for Steering and maybe even EC reports.

HS: Good idea. We should think about it.

JW: volunteers to run a timer.

HS: Let's try to practice 2 min reports for the first meeting

LS: great idea! The gap between EC & Steering makes it seem like we're really different. This makes us more of a solidified entity!

8. Steering retreat

HS: Every year we have a Steering Retreat - most of a day. It is fun, and bonding, and great activities. We are asking for a whole day. It is hard for us all. HS will start a Google doc for recs and a Doodle poll. Co-chairs will plan morning & early afternoon. We can as steering work to plan later day activities.

9. Student Activity Fees and Wellness Center Funding

HS moves to table item to next Steering meeting; JW seconds; Motion passes unanimously.

V. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña)

- a) Last Grants Committee meeting held on Thursday, 28 of July 2016. We went over the by-laws and procedures of the Grants Committee.
- b) The total amount of funds for grants was set at \$17,550, so the maximum grant allocations were set to \$650 for regular grants, and \$200 for start-up grants.
- c) We set the meetings for the Fall semester, although two of these dates are going to be reviewed and likely rescheduled. The next meeting will be held in the first week of October, as per the by-laws. We already have three applications for the upcoming September 16th deadline.
- d) One member of the grants committee stepped down, so we have a vacancy that we are looking to fill. If Teresa Ober is elected as UFS in Plenary, then we'll have 2 vacancies.
- e) Questions: TO - has the maximum been posted? Last yr it was \$750? JOP: website was just updated this week. The website should contain info, all except meeting dates.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

- a) Membership
 - i. An at-large representative resigned, we are waiting to resolve a tie between the next two runner-ups.
 - ii. CS and I will be conducting special elections for Biochemistry and Anthropology due to the resignation of their program reps

- iii. We have 67 live seats and 64 active reps in good standing.
 - b) Governance
 - i. Constitution and Bylaws Committee met today and discussed: Clarifying the language regarding the revocation of an organization's charter for constitutional violation as opposed to inactivity [Bylaw 5.6]; The language regarding officer stipends given that it's tied to the rate of pay for GABs which is changing and which may change again when the new contract is signed; The logic of some co-chairs being required to sit on some committees and not others (specifically, CCC doesn't sit on any committees, but CCSA, for example, sits on the Student Services committee); Potentially adding language regarding clearer expectations (e.g., attendance requirements) for steering officers.
 - ii. At the September plenary, we still have to present: At the Sept plenary I'll be presenting the changes made to the language of Article III.2.1 and III.2.2 and bylaw 6.1.c at the September plenary to be voted on in October.
- 3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Warner Sabio)
 - a) Meeting with Wellness Center Nurse practitioner Adrienne Bowe on Tuesday Sept. 13.
 - b) Condoms and Safe-sex supplies
 - i. Gone through our stash of supplies and disposed of expired goods. All are up to date and ready for distribution.
 - ii. Updated and refilled bows where I could. Will seek reps to assist with upkeep and refreshment of bows throughout the GC.
 - c) Looking to setup first committee meeting
 - d) Questions: CC: can we get flavored condoms? WS: yes; HS: there is a box of plant seeds. People can take them. We should figure out how to distribute them.
- 4. Officer for Outreach (Janet Werther)
 - a) Clarifies that her committee has only one member, and confirms that she plans to solicit new members at the Plenary meeting.
 - b) Planning an event: "What you know now that you wish you knew then" for international students. Starting with Theatre dept, then using what works as a model for DSC.
 - c) Asks about off-site campuses; response: "there is a folder" - where can I get that?? S drive.
 - d) Planning an event: linking offsite students, GTFs, and student adjuncts at their campuses
 - e) Possible event for spouses & partners??
 - f) TO: was in this committee last year, and says can find and forward survey from last year
- 5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho)
 - a) Met with OpenCUNY committee about goals
 - b) Planning with Edward to bring back meditation sessions
 - c) Gonna meet with Chrissy Nadler to plan SLS website; Thanks to Jen Tang will have a housing component
 - d) Planning committee meeting
 - e) Ordered soy milk
 - f) JW: let's talk housing (JOP: me too)
- 6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall)
 - a) Wireless printing is delayed, hopefully implemented by next semester
 - b) STF meetings are in the offing
 - i. Virtual Desktop will be discussed

- c) IT/DSC - October 17 and Nov 30
- d) No news about the library as of yet
- e) Questions: JW: beginning of semester printing support - we are TEACHERS! How can the DSC do advocacy; HS: this is not new - every semester this happens. We have to bring it up when we meet them; JR: Maybe we can negotiate something with weekend librarians, at least at the beginning of the semester; TW: can IT fix broken computers so we can rent them? JR: perhaps, if it's a GC computer especially.

VI. Announcements

- a) HS: please help clean up!

VII. Adjournment

HS moves to adjourn. CC seconds. Motion passes.

Meeting ends at 9:13pm.

Minutes submitted by Janet Werther.