

**Steering  
 MINUTES  
 February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Present:** Cecilia Salvi (CS), Hamad Sindhi (HS), Tellisia Williams (TW), Teresa Ober (TO), Javier Otero Peña (JOP), Alison Parks (AP), David Nagy (DN), Nick Glastonbury (NG), Carlos Camacho (CC), and Jeremy Randall (JR)

**Absent:** Liza Shapiro

Plenary

TW calls the meeting to order at 4:40PM

Executive Committee

**I. Approval of Agenda**

**Steering Committee**

Constitution and Bylaws

CS moves to approve the agenda with emendations, adding New Business: item #5, 'dechartering of 2 chartered organizations', item #6, 'room exceptions policy', item #7, 'appointment of Advocate hiring team members', and item #8, 'demands for students affected by current political climate'. JR seconds. The agenda is approved unanimously with emendations.

Grants

Health & Wellness

**II. Approval of Minutes of Oct 7, 2016**

Minutes are approved by unanimous consent.

Outreach

**III. Executive Committee Reports:**

Student Services

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

USS Advisory Committee

-Room Reservations: please do them because of the urgency. Many are anti-Trump meetings. Don't forget to address the corresponding email.

Advocate Advisory Board

-Fiscal Affairs Committee: fiscal year 2016 audited financial statements

OpenCUNY Board

-Chartered Orgs: all but 10 chartered orgs were active last semester. -I need to begin the dechartering process from Frame (no report filed) and Crypto Math Group (didn't complete roster). Dominique Nisperos is now chairing Prison Studies Group. I received one chartered org proposal for the Anti-Hate Pedagogy Group. Moving is going well, but there is one holdup. Have been working with Facilities.

Governance Task Force

-Voting: the nominations ballot is now open until March 1.

EDLAB

Questions: JOP asks if the chairs of the chartered orgs that are being considered for dechartering had been contacted; CS responds affirmatively.

Student Tech Fee

**2. Co-Chair for Communications (Hamad Sindhi)**

**a) College Association met on Jan 18**

- i. There was discussion about the referendum vote, the services provided by the NP, and what DSC would do with the reallocated funding
- ii. There was a motion to approve \$40,000 of the DSC budget to go toward the Wellness Center for Spring 2017, and \$6000 to be allocated toward the rest of the budget, pending DSC Plenary meeting in March. Motion was approved unanimously

**b) Communication re: Muslim ban**

- i. Sent emails to Chancellor Milliken, Pres Robinson and Provost Connolly; replied from Provost but no reply from Chancellor or Pres directly
- ii. Ramped up social media awareness on effects of ban and DSC and GC resources
- iii. Sent all-student email with DSC and GC resources

- iv. Working with GC PSC chapter to present a set of demands we'll ask CR to consider
  - c) Housekeeping:
    - i. Keep checking and archiving emails on main DSC accounts. Students are especially getting active and organized right now so this is our opp to build goodwill for DSC (and also help with the resistance)
    - ii. Make sure you are keeping all records, minutes, other docs associated w your role in your officer folders (in DSC S drive)
    - iii. Will start committee meetings audit soon, so please make sure your meetings are on calendar and agenda/minutes are attached
  - d) Questions: TO voices her concern about the ACA repeal and solicit opinions from students to better serve their health concerns. HS replies that is why we unearmarked it; this allows us to allocate it when need arises. DN points out that no one knows what is to come, even amongst the Republicans.
3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)
- a) Money in DSC Accounts: Our DSC account has \$8,297 remaining. This is the money we have on hand to make payments for all requests. Less money was transferred this semester than we projected (possibly folks enrolled but did not pay the fees). This amount will not cover the cost of March monthly stipends for our affiliates and all the DSC officers (\$9,582). Additionally, the *Advocate* is putting out a new issue, and the editors' stipends are almost \$1,000 each. Here are the steps I will take:
    - i. Ask Althea to transfer money as soon as it becomes available—even in incremental chunks.
    - ii. The co-chairs have decided not to submit their March stipends.
    - iii. Will e-mail affiliates and tell them that there may be a delay in processing March stipends because funds may not be there. Nobody else has to do this, but if any person on Steering is in the position to delay submitting their March stipend until further funds come in, please let me know.
    - iv. I will continue reimbursing students, but will prioritize requests that are over \$100 (I initially said \$50, but I think \$100 is just as reasonable, feedback welcomed.)
  - b) Budget: We projected to pay \$44,132 to the Wellness Center in the Spring; since plenary voted to fund the Wellness Center up to \$4,000 we may have up to \$4K (possibly less because the \$44K was an estimate and not confirmed via enrollment) to put back in some budget lines for the Spring. I will circulate the budget with my suggestions of how to use this money and would like Steering's feedback over the course of next week before I circulate the budget to reps.
  - c) DSC Website: Some delay in mounting the development site on a public server so that we can see it because their demo services aren't as technologically advanced and need be updated prior to making site public. Projected timeline for completion should be the end of February/beginning of March.
  - d) Legal Consultations: Legal consults: 6 more consultations are currently available (all funded by the Steering discretionary we voted on at the last meeting). Already received five requests in the first week of the semester. Many students are asking about taxes, which our lawyers don't generally handle. Not many questions regarding the current immigration bans; so perhaps the resources we've been putting forward are being used by students.
  - e) Housekeeping:
    - i. Will to re-order paper for the office next week; please refrain from printing personal materials in 5495.
    - ii. Please use tax-exemption form I sent out whenever possible—especially if buying food for plenary or supplies in bulk for office. Please send to your constituents as well if you're a rep. We haven't got any flack about this, but it'll definitely save us money.
4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)
- a) On January 19th I had a conference call with the USS Scholarship Committee
    - i. We discussed the new language for international students applying for this funding. They are now required to have a F1 VISA and tax ID number listed on the application
    - ii. Two letters of recommendation are required to complete the application package

- iii. I signed up for two schools (Guttman and the Graduate Center) to send the scholarship announcement out to Student Affairs and the scholarship office
- iv. The deadline to submit completed applications is March 27th or 31st. I am still waiting for the updated scholarship package to be sent out
- b) The USS Plenary was held on January 22nd at Guttman Community College
  - i. Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs, Hercules Reid offered a critic of Governor Cuomo's 'Free Tuition' Proposal
  - ii. Some troubling findings: This proposal is in fact lip service because the Governor does not include all CUNY students. Full time, according to him is 15 credits but according to CUNY it is 12 credits. The preliminary budget will not cover full tuition, only the balance after Pell grants, TAP, and other funds are already distributed. Governor Cuomo still wants to raise tuition for CUNY and SUNY students by \$250 over the next 5 years. This contradicts his call for free tuition with this scholarship. This free tuition proposal will only benefit students that don't receive financial aid. Out of state, undocumented, part-time, and international students are ineligible for this scholarship so they are still hurt the most by this tuition increase.
- c) The USS will still push for a tuition freeze to protect all students and to make CUNY affordable
- d) Upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Time
<b>February 3rd</b>	Student Leaders Welcome Back Reception	Guttman Community College 6pm-8pm
February 5th	USS Committee Meetings	John Jay College 11am-4pm
February 6th	Board of Trustees Committee Meetings	CUNY Central 5pm-6pm
<b>February 9th</b>	New York City Council Committee on Higher Education Hearing: Child Care Centers	City Hall 1pm-3pm
February 12th	USS Plenary Meeting	Guttman Community College 12pm-2pm
February 12th	USS Legislative Training	Guttman Community College 2:30pm-4:30pm
<b>February 14th</b>	CUNY Board of Trustees Brooklyn Borough Hearing	New York City College of Technology 5pm-8pm
<b>February 17th-20th</b>	NYS 46th Annual Legislative Conference	Albany, NY
February 21st	CUNY Board of Trustees Board Meeting	Baruch College 4:30pm-7pm
<b>February 22nd</b>	Student Election Review Committee (SERC) Training	CUNY Central 3pm-4:30pm

Note: Events in **bold** require advance rsvp, check email for details.

- e) On January 31st I met with The Co-Chair for Student Affairs, Cecilia Salvi to discuss the possibility of requesting USS funds for DSC events
  - i. The Health and Wellness Festival, \$1,000
  - ii. Legal Consultations and workshops, \$1,000
  - iii. Affiliates events, Liza will find out an estimate so I can request it
  - iv. Party
- f) Next USS Plenary is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM at Guttman Community College
- g) Questions: HS asks about the scholarship and visa applications. TW says they require F1 visa and tax id number. HS follows up that this comes from student fees and not tax levies so wouldn't it possible to allow undocumented to apply. TW says she'll follow up. JOP: Wants to know what the scholarship provides students. TW: I will know at the next meeting. HS: Undocumented students pay the same amount of fees as other students. CS: This wasn't a question last year but the issue lay in these being technically public funds, which precludes providing it to undocumented and applying would require identifying as undocumented. HS: It is a larger battle as the DSC has been saying this for years. If the USS can make that argument it will have much

wider reverberations. JOP: I have a question on free tuition about what are the credits for full time. TW: I am relaying what Hercules said based on his reading of governor's text. TO: Are these USS are also applicable for graduate students. TW: The question of credits comes from Cuomo's idea and the scholarships from USS are for everyone.

#### 5. UFS Liaison (Teresa Ober)

- a) The UFS Plenary was held this past Tuesday (November 29). The next plenary meeting of the UFS will be next Tuesday (February 7). The agenda items include:
  - i. A guest visit from Chancellor Milliken
  - ii. A visit from Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Matthew Sapienza
  - iii. And a guest visit from Shirley Raps, Chair of the Faculty Advisor Council to the Research Foundation
- b) During the meeting, there will also be a presentation of the practices of UFS in regards to considering resolutions. In general, it seems that successful resolutions that are passed by the UFS have been brought forth after a UFS sub-committee has already reviewed and recommended the resolution. This new business has likely been added in response to an earlier question by a faculty who had attempted to put forth a resolution from the floor.
- c) There has been no update on the "Policy on Freedom of Expression of Expressive Conduct."
- d) In other news,
  - i. A new interim Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs has recently stepped in to replace predecessor, VC Schaeffer. Jane Sovern is now serving in this capacity for the time being. It seems that the PoFE was very much Schaeffer's idea and with his replacement, it is unclear what will become of it.
  - ii. Perhaps of interest to GC people, the Office of Communication and Marketing has new leadership. Lori Duggan Gold has stepped in as the Vice President for Communications and Public Affairs.
  - iii. At present, the UFS listserv has been largely silent about some of the issues bubbling since the new year and the inauguration. Several faculty members have voiced [concern over the cutting of funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities](#). A [recent post on the UFS blog](#) called it "deeply troubling" and estimated that about 120 students within entities at CUNY have been affected by the executive order barring immigration and non-immigration visitors from select countries.
- e) Questions: JR: asks about the possibility of challenging Milliken. TO: I don't have the privilege to speak but I can talk with faculty members who are more outspoken. HS: When we get to the new business item, Luke Elliot Negri and I have been talking about doing some work on this issue towards Chase and possibly Milliken.

#### IV. Steering Officer Reports

##### 1. Officer for Funding (Javier Otero Peña)

- a) Next meeting will be next Friday 10 February at 11am. 5 new grants were submitted and 1 grant was reviewed, for a total of 6 grants to be considered by the committee next week.
- b) The total amount of money requested in the new grants is \$3400 (2750 new ones + 650 reviewed grant). If all these grants were to be approved, we'd have \$5,116 (8516 – 3400) left for our next and last deadline (March 17).
- c) A few students have actively contributed to the Funding project via e-mail, suggesting sources of funding for students who do not have fellowships.
- d) Website page created (as a draft); once it has good information it will be published under grants (to replace the current Graduate Center Fellowships section; this section will be a subsection within the new page).
- e) Questions: HS asks can you remind me the remaining amount of budget now versus last year. JOP: I am not too sure but I do not foresee making the request like last year for more money.

##### 2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

- a) Governance: I'll likely be convening the C&B committee to meet sometime before the next plenary meeting to discuss a potential change to the language in Article III.2.3 Nomination and Election of Representatives which stipulates that eligibility for representatives is calculated based on enrollment numbers as of March 1. The change would be the addition of a clause that stipulates newly inaugurated programs are eligible for representatives based on fall enrollment numbers. Rationale: As the GC institutes new independent MA programs, there will be an increasing number of programs whose enrollment numbers as of March 1 is zero, making them unable to have representation during their first semester despite the fact that they are already paying student fees. As the students in MA programs tend to already be disenfranchised by the institution, it feels imperative to get them representation and allocation as soon as possible.
  - b) Membership: Shoumik Bhattacharya won the special election for English. In the Philosophy election there was a tie between Julia Kolak and Sarah Gokhale, settled for Julia. Shoumik and Julia will be ratified at the February 17 plenary. Cecilia and I are currently running a special election for MALS who had a representative seat open up after the last plenary meeting. Nominations close on February 5. Currently in the process of settling a tie between the four runner-ups for the open at-large seat so that it is filled by the next plenary meeting. TOTAL AT-LARGE: 20 Live Seats, 19 Active Reps. TOTAL PROGRAM REP: 47 Live Seats, 46 Active Reps. TOTAL: 67 Live Seats, 65 Active Reps
3. Officer for Health & Wellness (David Nagy)
- a) Not much to report but I got the site up and running
  - b) Wellness Center and I will coordinate for upcoming wellness festival in May
  - c) Questions: HS says as FYI that we needed to cut a lot of money so we can't really fund at this current moment the wellness festival, so heck to see if WC is still doing this and has funding for it. DN says thank you and will check with them.
4. Officer for Outreach (Nick Glastonbury)
- a) I emailed the former outreach officer and pick up where she left off but she has not yet responded.
  - b) With the travel ban, I reached out to the office for international students as the office had yet to release any details following the ban. Not heard back from them yet
  - c) CUNY CLEAR and CUNY Law for organizing a know your rights type workshop
  - d) I will be doing a climate survey for international students. It would be good to see how they feel due to the political climate.
  - e) Questions: JOP asks as an international student and was very concerned and surprised that the office for international students has said nothing. I did approach the office why no response and the head of the office was wishy-washy but she said Student Affairs would release a letter, which they have done. TO: Last year, the previous committee on outreach did a survey and I have some results from it. CC mentions that student life and services wants to collaborate on know your rights workshops.
5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carlos Camacho)
- a) Revisiting meditation sessions, considering alternatives
  - b) Scheduling salsa classes and origami workshops
  - c) Got plugins from OpenCUNY for website so should be launching soon
  - d) Meeting will be set up soon, after plenary, hoping to advocate for monies. Looking into self defense classes
6. Officer for Technology & Library (Jeremy Randall)
- a) Upcoming IT meetings and STF meetings in the coming weeks
  - b) Planned privacy workshop
  - c) Looking into getting mac minis replaced
  - d) CUNYFirst is still on track to be implemented

TO calls for a break at 5:36pm. Meeting reconvenes at 5:49pm.



## V. New Business

### 1. Affiliate review

Steering goes over quarterly reports from the Advocate, OpenCUNY and the Adjunct Project and registers feedback with Co-Chair for Business.

HS moves to go into executive session, HS explains it. Unanimous consent for approving executive session. Executive sessions ends at 6:37pm.

### 2. Steering discretionary spending

HS: There is \$950. We can add these to budget lines or add it to new and exciting projects

CC moves to allocate \$300 to legal consultations, LS rationale is that we can request more from USS or use the earmarked money. JR seconds. Motion passes.

DN: How many people used it. CS: responds that 8 people so far.

JOP: Maybe allocate more to Advocate

HS says we don't have that money in discretionary.

CC moves to allocate \$150 more to plenary so we can feed people. NG seconds. Motion passes.

HS moves to allocate \$100 for steering/professional development JR seconds. HS: explains that we can have money to do bonding activities as Steering. CC: Asks if we can have enough money for self-defense lessons. TW: Reminds that we're discussing professional development and that we need to vote on it.

NG: Do we need to earmark this. TO: Asks for clarification. TW: Provides the math. TO: If the funds are available, could we wait or not. I think it is an appropriate use of funds. JOP: I feel what TO feels. We do not need to allocate the money right now. HS: I want to get paid and we can get funds from other ways.

The money we are talking about here is too small for the ideas. JOP: I think we can allocate this to other DSC priorities. HS: This is a small amount and covers things that we have cut in the past. TO: Does the supplying of goods form a separate stream? HS: Yes. JOP and DN abstain. Motion carries.

### 3. Resolution on Governor Cuomo's 'free tuition' proposal

HS: I wanted to write the resolution before the meeting but things came up. I still plan on writing a resolution and I solicit help from anyone willing to do so. I will not be in attendance at February plenary.

JOP, NG, DN, and TO agree to help out. JR: For distribution next week? HS: Yes.

### 4. Spring Steering Retreat

HS: We have new members and not everyone joined last semester. Something low-key like last semester's pajama party. JR: KARAOKE!!!! NG: NO! DN: KARA-O-KE, YES! CC: Beyoncé. JOP: Indoors.

TW: Board games. It's always a risk in Hamad's office.

### 5. Dechartering of 2 chartered organizations

CS moves to begin the dechartering process for Frame. CC seconds. Motion passes.

CS moves to start the dechartering process of Cyrpto Math. Motion passes.

### 6. Room exemptions policy

CS: We have received a request from the Music and they want to add two extra rooms for two days. CS explains the situation and advocates that we grant them the request.

CS moves to grant them the request. HS seconds. Motion passes.

### 7. Appointment of Advocate hiring team members

CS moves to nominate from DSC representatives, as a graduated list, Jennifer Prince, Raj Korpan, Kyla Bender-Baird, and Amy Martin. NG seconds. Motion passes.

CS moves to nominate from DSO members, as a graduated list, Ashna Ali, Cihan Tekay, Dominique Nisperos, and Jennifer Tang, including nominations from the DSC representative list if this list is exhausted. JR seconds. Motion passes.

### 8. Demands for students affected by current political climate

HS: I am working with the PSC leadership on this to make demands of President Robinson and Chancellor Milliken. This started in reaction to the Poly Sci student, Saira Rafiee who is now in exile. This started the day before the Provost stated that her salary/position/etc is protected. We then expanded it to fold in all students, faculty and staff affected by the new regime. Commitments to preemptively continue pay for students, faculty, and staff affected by the ban or similar things. Advocate for substitutions for classes (at PSC payrates) in case of problems created by these policies. Advocate for students affected adversely by discriminatory policies. Call for the institution to defend students affected by the state in various ways. I ask for your permission to work on this and to present this to Chase Robinson and later Milliken. NG: Quick question. I wonder about the language to expand to LGBTQ students and institutionally what the GC can do in case of new policies affecting LGBTQ students. I have a hard time seeing institutionally what they can do for populations affected by these policies. HS: pushed Luke Elliott Negri to keep the language broad enough to protect other groups to be affected in later times. DSC and us as Steering can do things like present to Plenary if need be and advocate. CC: We have made statements in the past.

#### VI. Announcements

CS says read the constitution. My birthday is next month, the whole month.

HS: Come drink with me so we can talk about DSC history

JR: Digital privacy is important

TO: What is going on about our servers and emails

HS: They are not foible because they are on the Gmail system. But, people can make a request for conversations but it is more complicated process.

#### VII. Adjournment

TW moves to adjourn. JOP seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting end time: 7:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Randall