

Steering Committee *Minutes* October 6, 2017

Plenary Present: Andrew Alger (AA), Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB), Nicholas Glastonbury (NG), Raj Korpan (RK), Teresa Ober (TO), Alison Parks (AP), Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR), Liza Shapiro (LS), , Anais Wong (AW), Tellisia Williams (TW)

Executive Committee

Steering Committee Absent: Charlotte Thurston (CT)

Constitution and Bylaws

SB Calls the meeting to order at 4:53 PM

Grants

Health & Wellness

I. Approval of Agenda

TO moves to approve the agenda with emendation of adding the New Business item of "Social Media Correspondent." AP seconds.

Outreach

Student Services

No Discussion.

USS Advisory Committee

Motion with emendations passes unanimously.

Advocate Advisory Board

II. Approval of Minutes of September 1, 2017

OpenCUNY Board

AP moves to approve the minutes from October 6, 2017. NG seconds.

Governance Task Force

No Discussion.

EDLAB

Motion passes unanimously.

Student Tech Fee

III. Executive Committee Reports

1.Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Charlotte Thurston)

First, some housekeeping: when doing room reservations, look at the monthly calendar to ascertain the following:

- 1) A group isn't regularly using DSC rooms more than once a week
- 2) There are no accidental "double bookings"--in other words, glance over the calendar for the month to make sure there's not a case where two groups both are supposed to be in one room at the same time.

Also check the rooms on hold.

The usual room reservation reminders apply as well: double-check with room requests on hold list when looking at new reservations; check to see if the event seems legitimately student organized; make sure you are doing room reservations on office hours; mark down when any group uses their more-than-8-wks-ahead exception. Any q's, email me.

Housekeeping re: committees. Do CC co-chairs when you are meeting with your committee. The reason for this is because we are ex-officio members of your committee. We can also be there at your meetings to provide any institutional knowledge if you want.

My main goal for the year, from the Steering retreat, was to increase student involvement in chartered orgs, PSA, and governance generally through things like Grad Council. On that front: 13 active chartered org groups, including SPTSA, of which Alison and Anais are leaders; 20 groups with reports.

Title IX reminder email for chartered org leaders to take Haven training will be coming soon--once I finish it myself, so I can make a better case for why it's worth doing! (Title IX training is req'd for student leaders, whether the Haven training, or the in-person training, which I've inquired into OSA about setting up. Student leaders includes us all, as steering, so consider whether you prefer the online training or the in-person training).

Chartered org active status email reminder no. 3 will be coming mid-November
New angle for getting more people active sooner: contacting orgs who have enough signatures, but no report, to encourage them to send their report in and achieve active status (Postcolonial Studies Group wins the most signatures prize with 50 signatures--great work!)

Working on getting Students of the State an office.

Speaking of space: I have not heard people upset about space sharing and space use in chartered org offices, but wondering if there are any issues passing under my radar. Considering creating a survey, or asking in my next chartered org email if some groups would be willing to meet with me to share about their needs & concerns regarding space and event activities/promotion

Please do send any chartered org leaders who have questions my way, if you see them during office hours.

Sign rosters plz! &, consider working with or reaching out to chartered orgs to partner with you for events. As some good current examples, Anais might be partnering with chartered orgs to do non-violent direct action training, and Shoumik met with a proposed chartered org to see how they could work together on an outreach event. Leaders are on DSCWorks website.

Emailed feedback to proposed new chartered orgs (CUNY Material Research Society, CUNY STEM Outreach, Puerto Rican Studies Group) based on plenary

questions, and connected one, Material Research Society, to an existing chartered org--3Text.

Of 3 orgs about to be de-chartered, one person, Jason Nielson, has come forth to take over American Studies Group; no news on Crypto-Math and Nature, Ecology, Society front in terms of anyone volunteering leadership.

PSA Info Session 11/20. So mark your calendars for that.

Will be sending out advertisements this upcoming week, in hopes of getting students interested in organizing/strategizing around their programs.

Anyone interested in helping me plan or host it? Contact me!

Met with Kristen Hackett of OpenCUNY about chartered org site created by Cecilia

She helped me figure out how chartered orgs can use the site to post events, and clicked a magic box that made several parts of the site that had been previously hidden appear.

Because no one has submitted an event to the site recently, I plan to reach out to a few chartered org leaders who are hosting events, or who used the site in the past, to do a "test run" of posting upcoming events; then, I will ask for feedback about the event creation function's usability. I'll also take the opportunity to advertise the site more once events are up, because right now the site, with no events advertised, looks sad and lonely.

Steering who run chartered orgs--interested in being part of this test run?

If you have ideas for how to make a chartered org site useful for orgs and students--please let me know.

When I asked whether any other steering had met with her about their websites, she said they had not. Steering folks with websites made by previous officers: consider talking to her about your website, even if you're not sure what to do with it. She's very helpful and will give you plenty of ideas.

Room 5396: While it is open, I have yet to widely advertise it because I wanted to see how people using the room early on felt about it. I haven't received feedback about specific problems, so I may take that as the go-ahead to advertise more widely. Nonetheless, I emailed a few people who have used the room in recent weeks to ask them how they felt about the space and what improvements/additions they'd want to see. Some thoughts right now on what to add:

Garbage can from facilities (emailed them about it)

Possible over-the-door coatrack

Cover for the as-of-yet still bright white couch

I can also email facilities about any extra artwork we can get.

Additionally on this front, I am reaching out to 3Text to potentially plan a “room decorating” event, to get some student crafting work to decorate and liven up the space.

Other ideas?

Grad Council and Governance:

I’ve floated the idea before of contacting Grad Council reps and committee members about strategizing together to represent student concerns more cogently and coherently. While I have Grad Council rep names, I haven’t gotten a full set of student committee member names yet from Patti Myatt, so I will be sending her a follow-up. In the meantime, in the spirit of the successful and awesome recent Town Hall, and its impact on the community meeting with Chase, I thought that a meeting before the December Grad Council meeting where reps can strategize and organize around their concerns would allow us to represent student concerns in committees and meetings more forcefully. My thought is that this meeting would occur a) right after Exec Committee, so we know what’s on the agenda that we could speak to/suggest to add under New Business or b) right before Exec Committee, so students could suggest to Exec Committee reps what they’d like to see them ask about the proposed agenda. I’m open to what seems more effective.

Some ideas for how students can more actively participate would be: bringing up some already-passed DSC resolutions to faculty, to see if we can get their vote in supporting these resolutions. It may be a way, for example, to advocate for a hardship fund, by getting faculty to support our DACA/TPS resolutions.

Strategic planning implementation meeting with Raj on 10/23:

We got an agenda beforehand, but did not receive more materials until the meeting itself, so did not have much time to consider materials.

That said, some concerns were: 1) no concrete plan from interim dean of masters students about how to integrate new masters students with existing programs without taking away resources from doctoral/masters students already here; Dean presented it as figuring out these needs on a “case by case basis” rather than a plan in advance. VP for Communication and Marketing brought up recruiters for these students coming to us with masters’ students need, but as of yet, no plan laid out by the dean. 2) Unclear where and how students are involved in various facets of the strategic plan 3) Much fanfare for Christen as the leader of the Quantitative Research Center, but as Dean of Sciences noted, plans are fuzzy as to when and who they will get to help him in this endeavor and 4) While the Assessment Task force reported on some assessment measures they will look for (such as counting the numbers of students from under-represented minorities), Raj astutely noted that there weren’t as yet clear, empirical ways of measuring whether the GC is reaching the pillars of the plan, like measurable goals. Joy

brought up the general reluctance to dictate to programs what their goals should be because these goals might look different program-to-program.

Plan to follow-up with Joy as student reps on Strat Plan about getting materials in advance, and asking where and how students are involved in strat plan implementation beyond our presence on this committee (we do know there is a student on Assessment Task Force, who we want to get the name of from Joy). Raj might have more to say about this in his report!

Upcoming meeting: Governance Task Force, November 13th.

Any governance issues you think we should address, esp. Ones within your own program? Do let us know.

Questions:

Email CCSA

2.Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

- a. Meetings with Administrators
 - i. Meeting planned next Monday, November 6 with Keith Wilson, Director for the Center of the Humanities. The meeting will take place at 2:30 PM. All steering officers are welcome to attend but should let me know in advance so we can ensure there is enough meeting room space.
 - ii. Upcoming
 1. Meeting planned with the Office of Student Affairs on November 15.
 2. Meeting planned on November 29 with Library staff to discuss NYPL Advisory Committee.
- b. Graduate Council took place on October 25. During the meeting, several issues were discussed, though many of the items were non-voting items. One of the pressing and disappointing issues relates to the proposed Excellency Fee of \$100 per course credit for master's students. This was announced to Council and no one verbally spoke in opposition to it. Will brainstorm with former DSC co-chairs about what can be done about this.
- c. In other news
 - i. The Director of Institutional Research has recently resigned. This also means we no longer have an April plenary speaker.
 - ii. If you would like to recommend a possible speaker for either the April or May plenary, please let me know.
 - iii. If you have any other suggestions please let me

- iv. IRB stands for institutional review board
- d. EDLAB membership
 - i. We are pleased to welcome three new members to EDLAB, including one of whom is returning. Each will be serving a three year term starting fall 2017 and ending fall 2020. The members include
 - 1. Colin P. Ashley
 - 2. Amy Martin
 - 3. Hamad Sindhi
 - ii. These members joining an elite group, of whom the following are already members
 - 1. EDLAB Members continuing their final year
 - a. Anick Boyd
 - b. Christina Nadler
 - c. Dominique Nisperos
 - 2. EDLAB Members continuing for their second year
 - a. Stefanie A. Jones
 - b. Jennifer Prince
 - c. Chris Alen Sula
- e. Participatory Budgeting
 - i. We are in good stead with the PB plan so far. Please be sure to help by advertising widely in your programs! More information can be found through the application link: <http://tinyurl.com/DSCPB17>. Application deadline is December 20, so don't delay! Right now, we do not have any applications submitted. If the quality and variety of applications is insufficient, we may need to reallocate the funds.
 - ii. We currently have 5 individuals who have agreed to serve on the review committee, including Kyla Bender-Baird, Sean Kennedy, Isaac Jabola-Carolus, William Novella (DSO), and Teresa Ober (CCC). Additional members are still welcome. Once applications are in, we will be meeting sometime during the first week of December to review.
 - iii. During the November plenary meeting, this ad-hoc committee will (hopefully) be officially constituted.
- f. Housekeeping, PLEASE
 - i. Turn off the coffee pot when you leave. Unless your intention is to burn the Grad Center down.

- ii. Make sure all doors are locked and closed when you leave. If you are not the only person on office hours, check with the other person before leaving the space.
 - iii. As a reminder, it is extremely discourteous not to inform other members of steering that you are unable to attend a meeting, even if it is not a strictly business-related gathering.
 - iv. For December, please be prepared to have goals and goal-updates ready to discuss during our steering meeting.
- g. Fall Party
- i. As of now, more people have signed up for party prep for the tentative November party. This does not bode well for attendance. If people are not interested in coming or busy, please let us know. If you want to have a party for the student body, then we must assume some responsibility for it. Otherwise, we don't deserve to have one. Instead of November, there is a possibility that we can hold one in December. Everyone, please, look at your calendars now to figure out whether or not you are available. If not, speak now or forever be known as the person who **RUINED** the fall 2017 DSC party by unexpectedly not showing up. :(

Questions:

AW honestly I completely forgot about that.

TO Who is actually going to be there?

-shares flyer

-hands are raised

AA: These are both Fridays?

RK: Yes right after plenary.

AA: Okay well I can't come anyway

SB: Umm..like I honestly don't think changing the date to December would be that bad

NG: Departments will have their own parties and also students may have papers to submit.

TO: Ok so November 17 seems to work better for folks.

AW: I like the colorful birthday party theme.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

Fall student activity fees transferred to DSC account-we have money!

College Association meeting will be set up shortly where approved DSC budget will be presented for CA's review and approval

Will be requesting document from the Business Office of the audit of the school to see whether we have to be aware of anything in the audit pertaining to DSC spending

Legal consultations pretty slow: please spread the word and if anyone asks, they are for GC students only b/c they're financed with GC student activity fees

Questions:

No questions

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

No new business

I shared our resolution on the Student Activity Fee Policy Revision with the University Student Senate. JJay student government thanked us and passed a similar resolution. No word if USS will increase student representation on the Student Activity Fee Task Force

Next USS Plenary scheduled for Sunday, November 19th at Guttman Community College

Questions:

TO: Who is the new chair of USS?

TW: His name is John Aderounmu, a USS Delegate from Hunter College.

TO: What is the twitter handle for USS?

TW: Yes you can check the twitter handle on the USS website. The twitter handle is [@USSCUNY](https://twitter.com/USSCUNY)

5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)

The last UFS plenary took place on Tuesday, October 24. The invited guests were Loretta Martinez, General Counsel and Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs, and Matthew Sapienza, Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer.

Loretta Martinez (who is new to the job) talked about the inspector general report, which is still pending. She also talked about the student activity fee audit as well as title IX training. She said that she wants to completely redo the Board of Trustees bylaws, the committee structure, and the governance structure.

Matthew Sapienza came to speak about CUNY's new economic model. He said that there were four primary pillars of the new economic model:

1. Administrative excellence initiative: to cut administrative overhead costs by \$75 million over the next four years, and \$75 million every year thereafter
2. Philanthropy/private fundraising/alternative revenues: opening up a new senior administrative position, "Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement," and seeking out revenues from advertising.
3. Maximizing facilities: selling air rights on CUNY buildings, instrumentalizing CUNY's status as "landlord" of prime real estate
4. Tuition and fee model: the possibility of differential tuition was raised, but this will require legislative change

Getting money from the state does not appear. He received criticism for that.

The next UFS plenary is on December 5.

Questions:

RK: Ok, did Loretta Martinez mentioned if all purchased contracts would go through legal review? This came up for IT. Huge bottleneck for all of CUNY.

NG: No she didn't. Said she was new.

TO: Concerned about the tuition fee model. Surprised USS isn't concerned about this. I know SUNY has differential tuition but I think it's tough to justify this at CUNY. Complicated when students are trying to transfer. Would like to know more about this. Why not lobby for money from the state?

NG: He gave a bullshit answer and was very standoffish to this issue.

RK: Just want to point they are hiring a new administrator when the first point is to cut administrative cost.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)

- a. 2 revised and 1 new grant request will be reviewed at the grants committee meeting on November 7th for a total request of \$2100
- b. 2 start-up grants approved for \$200 each; total grants approved so far this year is \$2350; \$17650 remains
- c. The next grants deadline is November 17 and the meeting to review submissions will be December 4 at 4 pm.
- d. We sent out a survey to students - have received 69 responses thus far.

Some highlights:

- i. 80% aware of DSC grants, 48% unaware of start-up grants
- ii. 96% find out about events from emails from their department (contact APO to get information out about things), second highest is 45% from the DSC Listserv

- iii. Do you have any other feedback about DSC grants?
 - 1. The administration and process to apply to your grants is an ego-power trip like most of things you have control over your fellow students. I try to find other fund sources for our activities.
 - 2. The requirement that grants support broad interdisciplinary events limits the use and overly favors the humanities.
 - 3. You could consider providing student travel grants.
 - 4. The process could be simpler, maybe done digitally instead of having to attend meetings.
 - 5. Raj Korpan is one handsome fellow!
- e. 97% would use a DSC created database of grants/fellowships/scholarships. So we will definitely do it then because people want it
- f. 83% need research funding and 81% need travel funding
- g. Let me go back and report on the Strategic Planning Meeting (reads over Charlotte's report)
 - i. no meeting materials provided in advance
 - ii. no transparency ...shares Quantitative Research Center as an example, no advertising
 - iii. lack of information of how they are planning, nothing is measurable. Joy doesn't want to put hard numbers because it's not in our academic culture

Questions:

TO: About the Quantitative Research Center. It's a doctoral student in the linguistics program. I heard about it from other students, not from the Ed Psych program. I don't have a good solution to this but just wanted to share.

RK: They also talked about all of the new master's programs they are creating. I asked where they would go and I got no answer.

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership: We are at 65 Live Seats and 59 Active Reps (16 At-Large Reps, 43 Program Reps). Two representatives lost their seats after the October Plenary and I've begun the process to replace them. Regarding the four empty seats from before: The runner up from Psychology accepted the position. I haven't heard back from the the sole Urban Ed runner up and the deadline for accepting has passed so Charlotte and I will be opening nominations to fill that seat. Computer Science received two nominations. Charlotte and I have verified their eligibility

which means a special election will be opening ASAP. Finally, nominations are open to refill the physics seat.

Governance: Will be scheduling a C&B meeting at the beginning of December because November is a terribly busy month for everyone.

Questions:

TW: Who is the new psychology rep? I'd like to let the other reps know as we discuss spending program allocations.

AP: It is Sugandha Gupta

TO: She is in Health Psych

AP: I will update the website

RK: Is the spreadsheet working?

AP: Yes it is working. I'm figuring out how to use Excel.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)

The opioid overdose prevention training was a success. 15 GC students attended, including two with prior training as paramedics. Kailin See, of the Washington Heights-based Corner Project, instructed us in how to administer the overdose-reversing medication, naloxone, and distributed free naloxone kits. The event was jointly sponsored by the Health & Wellness Committee and the Adjunct Project, each of which contributed \$100 from their respective budgets to the Corner Project in gratitude for the service rendered to the GC community.

The H&W Committee will be having a massage therapist visit the GC again this semester during finals week. As in previous semesters, students will be able to sign up for free, ten-minute massages on two days during finals week. More details to come.

The GC Health Services poll has now been closed. It received 112 respondents. I will now prepare a brief report for the Wellness Center and Student Affairs based on its findings.

There might be vouchers. Will look into that

We have messages for the Finals relief stations. Maybe Monday and Wednesday, let me know what dates are best.

Questions:

AW: Book me for the massage planning. My committee is willing to help.

AA: Wonderful I will do that.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

The first outreach committee meeting was held at 3pm on the 3rd of November. We voted to host an outreach party on the 8th of December. Our second meeting

has been scheduled for 330pm on the 17th to further plan the details of the party. The party will also be a space where multiple STEM organizations will be present to promote themselves.

We also voted to work with CUNY Law to organize a 'Know Your Rights' campaign before the end of semester. Most probably in the first week of December. More updates by plenary time.

Questions:

AP: Where is the party?

SB: We just finalized the date, the 8th of December, I will figure out the rest soon.

5. Officer for Student Life & Services (Anais Wong)

Our first (Halloween-themed) board game night on Thursday 10/26 had 4 non-DSC participants, and 6 non-SLS committee members. We had a great time! We'll be scheduling new board game nights, maybe trying a Friday night next time as it seemed a few people thought it was on Friday.

The town hall on 10/27 drew a group of dynamic and concerned students eager to organize actions to hold President Robinson accountable and communicate student demands. We agreed on formulating a proposal to demand budget transparency and democratization at the GC, asking the President for an itemized fiscal report from previous years & the creation of a GC budgeting committee composed of faculty, students and staff. The goal is to try moving towards a participatory budgeting system. A strong argument for this is that we have a number of PB experts at CUNY, notably GC Professors Celina Su and Michael Menser, who can easily provide the necessary knowledge to put this in place. We prepared a list of related questions to bring to the community meeting with Chase Robinson on 11/2.

*Shares handout with Steering members

Several people who came to the town hall were able to make it to the community meeting yesterday, and 2 additional students joined (I couldn't go myself because of teaching). It seems the Q&A went well, students were able to ask all or most of the questions that had been prepared, and the President was reportedly having a very difficult time answering them. We will be having a de-brief meeting next week, and probably a group going to the President's office hour on 11/15. We are hoping to keep that group active to put regular pressure on the administration. 3Text is planning to hold origami workshops (or workshops about working with paper generally), co-sponsored by the SLS (we will be providing the leftover

origami paper). No date has been set yet, as Gwen wants to do some research on the historical background of origami.

We are looking for more sponsoring partners to fund non-violent direct action training workshops with Beautiful Trouble, but have not yet heard back from the organization.

No news from self-defense or meditation workshop partners either (our contact from the meditation center wrote back saying he needs to inquire with the centers that have sent their teachers in the past).

Andrew and I contacted Joseph Diphillipo from the Restaurant Associates in order to set up a meeting to discuss food labelling and the demand for kosher and halal options. Waiting to hear back.

Questions:

TO: Quick note about self defense. On the listserv some students took offense to the workshops because of political views. I attended one that was under attended. It was good.

AW: We decided to contact Krav Maga and the other next semester.

LS arrives at 5:45 PM

6. Officer for Technology & Library (Marlene Nava Ramos)

Preparation for Library design and planning:

I started to look into the process of putting together a Library Working Group, received great suggestions from our co-chairs. I also started to reach out to students who might be interested in joining and have experience in public input during city planning and design.

In preparation for Monday's meeting with Keith Wilson, I put together a list of ideas for student/public input, most intriguing examples are 1) charrette planning workshops conducted by the EPA, which is a common form of collecting public input and visualizing a design with a large group of people. They can take quite a long time, but are an interesting process. <https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide-charrettes>; 2) children's input during playground design facilitated by the Trust for Public Land in Hells Kitchen and other neighborhoods <https://www.tpl.org/media-room/state-art-playground-unveiled-hells-kitchen>.

For ongoing goals, I will be contacting the Environmental Psychology program because they put together a thorough proposal for the original design of the building (but not incorporated). I am also contacting the Hester Street Collaborative for already made and ready to use resources

Immigration Series Resolutions: I will be reaching out to Giovani Sejio, a student who has led relief efforts and part of the Puerto Rican Studies group, as well as Saira Rafiee, who was personally affected by Trump's travel ban.

Preparation for our holiday party: I am responsible for buying party supplies (utensils, cups, plates, etc) and decorations with a budget of \$200. I would like suggestions for themes. I did some research and found some really good deals online, wholesale prices. Current themes: Happy Birthday, Black & White, Gold and white, Red & White. The website decoration items are very cheap and our budget of \$200 is enough for decorations and supplies.

Questions:

LS: Let's do an inventory and use what we have. The party's budget is \$4,000. We can allocate some money from steering discretionary if we vote on it tonight. I think we need to inventory first and then...

MNR: Yes I need to do that.

TO: I think we had a spy theme last year and people put random things on the wall. It looked fine.

AW: I would say prioritize. Make sure we have food and drinks then decorations.

MNR: \$200 is sufficient for supplies. I'm not asking for more money just input. Select some decorations using color themes, paper....all \$200. LOL I spent a good 45 minutes of my life researching this.

LS: I'm more than happy to help. We have supplies in 5497 (and also under couches). Bulk orders of plates.

RK: Since it's my birthday I think it should be a Lion King theme.

AA: Yes and then we can do face painting.

V. New Business

1. Affiliate Review

LS calls for a 2 minute break at 5:58 PM.

LS calls the meeting back to order at 6:01 PM.

a. The Adjunct Project

TO: format is easier to read and nice, very active, posters appreciated, potential collaboration on tuition remission. Collaboration w/ DSC

Catchy 7,000 pumpkins are great

Really liked haunting, photos

SB: Outreach committee going to be discussing this on 17th

NG: Very present this semester at GC doing good things,

1c: building coalitions: Rafael and Lynne's roles in the organizing referred to, would want more details

AA: 1b: continue to gather stories and capture data, glad outreach is happening

b. The Advocate

RK: really interesting to have week-long strategy because there was a response and increase in readership, can we do this again and more often w/ social media correspondents

-p5: Community of writers: specific strategies on getting new science writers, more outreach to the sciences as well. If courting people from the sciences, should be explicit about writing

NG: Good idea to tap into social media correspondent to improve web presence, week long strategy more detail? Live tweeted Decolonize This Place event at AMNH

Facebook page focuses on *Advocate* articles, could one part of expanding digital strategy would be posting things that are of interest to the GC community to make the *Advocate* a voice for things going on at the GC, campaigns

SB: See the point they're making in week long: long format release of edition, generating hype and then coming back to the article is labor intensive, week long release of articles is a nice strategy

reach out to other student publications (SUNY?) to amplify student concerns
very clear that 3 person team can't handle the workload

What would it mean to publish research because the focus of newspaper is more topical, while certain research interests are too narrow for scope of newspaper and *Advocate* privileges topics/and ideas that can radiate out

TW: very thoughtful

MNR: re: people in the sciences is to put together issue on climate change, NYC has community of scientists looking at climate change

Appreciate addressing of insularity and get need for core group of writers, choosing broad topics is a great thing,

Question of process: we choose the theme, we reached out to writers, calls for contribution are only in paper issue or on *Advocate* website

so putting out a specific call for contributions is a great idea (should go to APOs) suggest sending to APOs anyone can use it (apo@gc.cuny.edu)

Update the advisory board!

Is there a possibility of posting tentative deadlines for future issue submission

c. OpenCUNY

Looks good

Attending meeting in August and discussion of Sandstorm,

“Developing OpenCUNY” -open source alternative, a real appeal because of Google's slogan not holding up,

looking for use cases for Sandstorm, have they considered assessing whether Sandstorm can meet the needs of the old G drives? Could this be a faster alternative to Google docs

Potential future where IT puts links on everyone's desktop to make up for use of G drive

RK: Fall event of OpenCUNY spotlight--what was feedback/how many participants? aka-how did it go/ In-progress goals could have more update, understand that they're in progress but it would help

SB: what does "retheme" mean? with regard to main page

TO: For future reports: if there's an online gallery featuring sites (could there be a link in the report to the database)

Tips on data privacy and ownership/or workshop, joint security workshop/w/officer for library and tech?

2. DSC Website Hosting

Avenue Web Media

Going to Matt Shoengood with how much this would cost. Get something in writing about how much they would cover. Basically....IT has followed up with us about finding a service. I looked up the server Jessica suggested with Jose's help but it's not enough for our needs. The question is do we move off site? This would probably cost \$6,000 - \$7,000. It will keep prodding us. They claim they do work on our website but they don't.

Questions:

TO: So Avenue Web Media cost \$20,000. How much are we paying them? I am suspicious with this lack of transparency. What are the services that they provide? I don't see what they are doing.

LS: You don't see the new website because it's not up yet. The GC server is down and they had to manually enter all of the new fields into the website. The WordPress part is all to go. The \$20,000 came from the special services project that Jen Prince organized. I'm working with them because a call went out and they were selected.

TO: I think we need to explore our options and can push back on Bob Campbell. That's all I have to say about that. Nothing has been done.

LS: I don't think it's fair to say that because I sit in on these weekly meetings and review the new developments.

AA: Asks for clarification. Do we want them to host it as well? Why does IT want to kick it off of their server?

LS: IT is cutting cost. They claim this cost them man hours.

AA: Do you think student affairs will cover some of our expenses?

LS: I'm not sure if they would. Bob Campbell mentioned he could direct some funds our way...

AA: The Grad Center needs to be consistent with what they are saying. When deciding who host we need to see the market and find out who else offers hosting services. The initial bidding was for maintenance and support and this is another request for hosting so we need to make an informed decision by looking around.

RK: Asks for clarification on what we are being billed for. Do we get some sort of benefit for hosting with them? They should give us more hours of support.

LS: I can forward the drawn up proposal.

SB: My question has been answered.

MNR: I think questioning about hosting is good for the future. It makes good sense to do a little research and a bid process. The first step is to strategize about this. I'll be happy to sit with you to strategize and tell CUNY no. Doing this bundling deal seems like a good way to move forward. This seems reasonable.

LS: Yes we can talk.

AW: I also think we should fight back and not get kicked out. And see if we can get people angry that we are getting kicked out of the server by IT because this server is for all students.

TO: Looking now at our website we have 18 actions for plug ins. Are they doing anything? Let's start a google doc and prepare a statement for when we meet with the office of student affairs so we can have a compelling argument. I'm pushing back on this because I don't see what has been done.

LS: about the plugins, the ones that are not critical are not updated. They do update security issues. You guys will see that progress when you are testing the website.

TO: If you want some other people on the call I am interested. I can be there to inquire about how the cost of services is justified.

LS: No I have weekly calls. The lag is that the content did not transfer over and has to be entered manually. I can't imagine how much work that is with all of the nodes.

MNR: Point of clarification. What are you arguing? What is the incentive?

LS: If they kick us off then our website is not there.

MNR: I think this is perfect information to use against Bob who is trying to get us kicked off the server.

LS: If we start new bidding this will lengthen the process. Who wants to help me look at more developers: AA, NG...and others

NG: Can OpenCUNY help?

LS: The question of web hosting came up and the consensus is that we have to stay on.

NG: Let's go to Joy Connolly and bring the ruckus to her. 🙄🙄🙄

MNR: I can help coordinate that as well. Let's also ask OpenCUNY for IT reason why we should stay on the server.

AW: Let's also start a petition for student signatures.

RK: Who is commanding Bob to do this?

LS: In the meeting it was framed as a cost cutting measure.

AW: Wasn't it also an argument to get non GC central groups removed? We are clearly GC central. If that is their mindset then it is ridiculous.

MNR: Yea how are students extra?

LS: Thanks everyone!

3. Steering Discretionary

LS: I was going to allocate money to the new server but I can hold off on that since we do not have a consensus.

AW: I have a question about the hardship fund.

LS: It's on my list. I have to check the student handbook.

AW: Just wondering if we are still setting money aside for that.

LS: Yes the budget was approved and it is.

RK: I can help look through the student handbook.

AP: I will also volunteer to help.

LS: The student activity fee handbook will also be reviewed.

TO: What do you mean? What will be reviewed?

LS: Remember Tellisia's report? This will be changed eventually and needs to be reviewed.

AW: I also volunteer.

TO: Soap and coffee. You've handled that because bulk items are in your office.

LS: We've spent half of that budget and may need add more.

RK: What about a keurig? I spoke with Tellisia about this.

AP: I spoke to Teresa about this and maybe we can get a coffee maker that automatically shut off.

LS: Maybe we can go in off office hours and just make sure it's shut off. All of the affiliates have keys to the office. Just pop in to check and help.

II. Announcements

1. PSC Bargaining Agenda¹

TO: I put that on there to let you know it's out. The link is at the bottom footnote.

LS: This is another example of how a lot of the things we do gets absorbed by other entities.

2. Participatory Budgeting Application Deadline

¹ <http://psc-cuny.org/contract/2017-psc-bargaining-agenda>

TO: The deadline is December 20th. So far there are no submissions. I'd like to connect with the faculty that have experience.

AW: Yes there is Celina Su, she has expert and does research on this.

3. Social Media Correspondent

TO: reads the announcement. Do we appoint the social media correspondent?

LS: No a call goes out.

NG: Point of clarification. What is the rate of pay?

TO: \$15 for three hours of work so \$45 per week. Work can be done remotely.

LS: Do we have a plan for putting out this announcement?

TO: Very soon. We can put this on the plenary agenda.

SB: When do we need this person by?

TO: Soon. Very soon. Let's set a deadline of November 30th. I'll add a one page CV and statement of intent to the call.

LS: Do we want the call ready by next Friday? Yea then we can extend the deadline. December 1st is our next steering meeting.

TO: That's a bit tight.

LS: What about the 27th?

TO: I think three days is sufficient.

LS: So November 10th?

TO: Let's do November 8th.

MNR: Can we go back to the pay rate?

LS: I need to calculate this. It's a flat rate that is depending on the amount of support we need.

AA: How many weeks is this open for?

TO: The announcement is vague.

- discussion about confusion over math calculations, pay rate, and incentives ensues.

RK: I have a question about conference funding for 8th year students.

LS: Yes we get this question all of the time.

AW: Is there a new student government correspondent? What will they do? We do that?

LS: I didn't read the call.

RK: Basically they will get paid to collaborate with us.

III. Adjournment

LS moved to adjourn by unanimous consent at 7:38 PM. No Objections.