

Steering Committee

Minutes

December 1, 2017

Plenary

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

Governance Task Force

Present: Nick Glastonbury, Andrew Alger, Shoumik Bhattacharya, Raj Korpan, Teresa Ober, Alison Parks, Marlene Nava Ramos, Liza Shapiro, Charlotte Thurston, Tellisia Williams, Anais Wong,

NG calls the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

1. Approval of Agenda

AA moves to approve the agenda.

AW seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 3, 2017

AA moves to approve the minutes.

TW seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Executive Committee Reports

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

Chartered orgs: 22 active; 26 with reports. Sent out a third reminder email about active status to chartered org leaders. Plan to now send individualized emails to groups who are still sans reports and numbers. On de-chartered orgs: Crypto-math officially dechartered; American Studies Area Group being taken over by Jason Nielson; contacted an existing student group, Ecocritical Studies, that aligns with Nature, Ecology, and Society to see if it makes sense to have them take over this group and perhaps rename it, since I think they essentially do the same thing. But if you as steering don't find that the best move, please tell me.

I contacted some specific chartered orgs about posting their events on the chartered org website, and they did, so I was able to send out the website with those events on them. I haven't heard any feedback about people hearing specifically about events through the website, but I want to contact some specific groups again, ones I know are having December events, to see if they'll post their event.

Title IX: Also informed chartered org leaders about Title IX training and sent out an email to Elise and Matt about setting up some in-person trainings--maybe 1 or 2 this semester with Lynette, and 1 or 2 with Edith. (though online options also available). Speaking of, we as student leaders also need to do it. Let me know if you do prefer in-person, because that might give me a sense of how many sessions are needed overall.

PSA Info session December 11th at 5:30pm-7pm: Hopefully it will also be a chance to talk to people about program governance and organizing as students. Putting out ads for this event today on social media/listserv/through APOs. Please do come if interested; it could be a good space to talk about how PSAs can help with goals you have as steering.

Rooms: Contacted 3Text about planning a room decorating event, and they said they'd be down! Now we have to figure out when, but if you all are interested in joining as well, great. Still good to check, when people make reservations, that they are not making twice a week reservations regularly. An occasional use of a room twice a week is fine, but it shouldn't be too frequent. If you have time on office hours, it helps if you glance over the monthly calendar to see there's no double-booking or groups taking up more than one room. I know Cecilia also, last year, created a "Room Reservation guide" --I have been meaning to see if it needs any updates, but I wanted to check in: is there any information that you would like to see added to that guide? (or general room reservations questions I can clear up? I know you are all pros at this point, but just checking in). Received an email from a student who was looking for DSC rooms because Room Reservations was charging his group of students (philosophy students putting on a conference) to use rooms (\$120/day for 2 days, so \$240 total). I let him know about DSC rooms, which hopefully he will use instead, but this is something to keep on our radar; in this case it sounds like we won't have to ask Student Affairs to help get the fee waived, but I'm concerned that other groups might be being charged that we don't know about. My thought is to, in addition to the usual reminder to reps to have their students contact us, to contact students through DSC communication channels to make sure it's widely known that they should contact us.

Fitness Classes: Reserved rooms for Fitness Classes in Winter in conjunction with Scott Voorhees, and have been getting out the word via DSC social media. Let people know about it, perhaps even people coming in on office hours: under enrollment means the class can't run.

Graduate Council Committee on Student Services: Meeting of Grad Council committee on Student Services, which I am on, is next Monday, Dec. 4th at 10am. On the agenda is

an update from the office of Student Affairs, and room for New Business. If there are questions or NB you think I should bring up at this meeting please let me know.

Graduate Council: in light of resolution against excellency (now called program premium fee) being on the agenda for Grad Council, I will be emailing Grad Council student reps with information/context on the fee and the resolution. Considering whether it also would be good to set up a meeting with these reps, or to invite them to stop by DSC offices, so we can discuss it further.

Social Media Correspondent: And social media coordinator applications are in! We'll talk more about this later in the meeting.

Questions:

Andrew Alger: How can students make a request for a conference if they are not part of a chartered organization.

Charlotte Thurston: Are you referring to the case that they want to reserve a room further in advance than 8 weeks in advance?

AA: No, just if they're not affiliated with any group.

CT: Any student can reserve a room without direct affiliation as long as it's a student-led event. But if they want to use an exception they can partner with a chartered org or a program with a representative.

RK: Re. the PSA open house - it may good to invite representatives from existing PSAs who can help discuss how PSAs are organized in their programs. Re. room reservations, when we have a question about room reservations that are complicated and get forwarded to you (CT) should we follow up with you if we don't see them addressed?

CT: Yes, follow up with me and I will make sure to cc the DSC student email address in the future when I resolve them.

Marlene Nava Ramos: Could you update us on what happened on what happened with the STEM outreach group.

CT: We are still working through what is procedurally possible and will discuss it later in the meeting.

2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

The Co-chairs and Officer for Library and Technology met with Library staff and Duncan Faherty in November 29 to discuss his recent resignation from the NYPL library advisory council. We are interested in having student representation on it. We are planning to reach out.

The DSC EC met with the DSC Advisory Board (EDLAB) on Wednesday, November 29. During the meeting we discussed hardship funds, status of health services, concerned regarding quorum issues, participatory budgeting, among other issues.

College Association will be meeting next Monday.

The Co-Chairs will be meeting with the Office of Student Affairs on December 13.

Participatory Budgeting concluded the submission period. The committee on eligibility will be meeting next week. If you would still like to take part, you may. The submissions will be reviewed for eligibility purposes only.

3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)

College Association: Will be meeting next week to approve the DSC budget.

Student Activity Fees: CCB would like to coordinate emails to USS about importance of consulting graduate students in their overview of SAF use.

Executive Committee of Graduate Council: Excellence fee now “program premium fee”- a resolution has been approved by EC to go to Grad Council. Will need to mobilize students and faculty. JC will be vocally in support.

Movie tickets: When students pay by check, please ask that the student purchasing tickets write their banner id in the memo line. Check that the person’s name is on the check itself-the banner id is esp. important if this is not the case.

Questions:

Tellisia Williams: Regarding USS Spending, I have access to their budgets. I can also detail how our spending as graduate students is unique. There are several people that I know who are willing to support us in this matter.

Anais Wong: The group that is working on the budget transparency and democratization has been discussing a faculty outreach campaign ahead of graduate council in order gain support for the resolution against the fee but I don't know who the members are.

Liza Shapiro: I will circulate the list of voting members of graduate council that we can target outreach too.

Raj Korpan: I will help coordinate whatever we decide upon. Can you please circulate the resolution? Also, we should reach out to the student members of Graduate Council.

Teresa Ober: My concerns have been addressed by the last two comments.

TW: To reiterate, we're gearing up for the fight against the provost, but we also need to remember that the BoT just approved new tuition increases so the costs will be going up for all senior colleges. This premium fee would be hitting our MA students twice.

LS: This was addressed in the resolution, but I agree that it needs to be reiterated. I will also circulate the list of students on Graduate Council.

RK: Do voting members of graduate council include administration or just faculty and students because I don't understand why faculty members wouldn't be in favor of this resolution.

TW: The MA students bring in money. This is why faculty members like it.

AA: I serve on the EC and I know that faculty members are against an MA program in our program because they are already worried about overcrowding.

Shoumik Bhattacharya: This is a program by program thing and depending how programs operate there's increasing incentive to listen to the 8th floor.

LS: Back to Raj's question - admin are not voting members, but they will speak on behalf of the fee.

AW: We shouldn't assume that anyone is going to be sympathetic to the resolution especially since it was already reported that nobody at grad council spoke against the idea when it was introduced. It's possible that we could raise awareness but we shouldn't assume it will be an easy fight.

TO: We could also just start a folder on the S drive that includes the Grad Council members and an archive of agenda.

TW: What is the culture of grad council meetings? Are students often given voice? Are students prepared to go against their professors for instance? We don't want to put them in an awkward position.

RK: Regarding the fee: does it have to be approved by the grad council?

AW: No, the fee is a top-down decision. The graduate council, however, should be aware that as a governing body, they are NOT being given a say in approving this. We want to go through the Grad Council because we figure that if faculty get upset they may listen more.

LS: It has to go to the BoT for approval. But, if we can bring students to the public hearing that the BoT has about the resolution that will be good and if we can also say that if the Grad Council votes against the fee as well that's extra leverage. Students are actually almost exclusively the ones who talk during this meetings, though Chase has a tendency to cut people off so speaking is difficult but having more voices speak on our behalf would be good.

CT: I think that it's also good to reach out to the Grad Council reps so that we can coordinate multiple people on a number of points and reduce the anxiety.

TO: Although it's on the agenda, people may not read the resolution until the day off. We could do an information campaign beforehand including, for instance, handing out flyers the day of the meeting with information about it.

AW: I'm in favor of Teresa's idea and I think that if we follow the model of success of coordination from the community meeting with chase.

RK: And in the hopes of being bolder, we could send the email with the resolution and the information about the excellency fee to the whole student body.

TO: I could do that.

4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)

I. The third USS Plenary was held on November 19th at Guttman Community College from 12:00 – 5:00 pm.

Student Activities Fee Task Force: The Task Force consists of 12 members outlined in the USS Resolution 1718-P03 Student Activity Fee Policy Revision:

“RESOLVED, that the CUNY USS calls on the CUNY Board of Trustees to adopt a resolution, which will establish a CUNY Student Activity Fee Taskforce consisting of 12 members, the University Student Senate Chairperson, as co-chair of the taskforce, 4 students appointed by the USS Chairperson, 2 faculty representative appointed by the University Faculty Senate Chairperson, 1 campus student life director, appointed by the council of student life directors, 1 represented appointed by the General Counsel’s Office, 1 representative appointed by the Central Office of Student Affairs, 1 representative appointed by the Office of Budget and Finance and 1 representative from a CUNY College Association appointed by the chancellor that will work with COSA and OGC to achieve all mandates set by the Board.”

However, upon further elaboration via an email exchange I learned that the USS Chairperson, John Aderounmu is a co-chair of the task force and he appointed 5 students:

1. John Aderounmu, USS Chairperson and Hunter College Delegate
2. Trevor Collins, NYCCT Student
3. Ben Hollander, Brooklyn Class Student Government Deputy Speaker
4. Fernando Araujo, USS Executive Director and Brooklyn Graduate Student Organization Vice President
5. Francesca Royal, USS Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs and Hunter College Delegate
6. Kawthar Abdullah, USS Vice-Chair for Disabilities and BMCC Delegate

This Task Force will review student activity fees. The Board of Trustees will vote on any changes to how student activity fees are spent. Immediately following the plenary, I emailed action steps to Graduate Center Students. These steps included:

- a. Advocacy 101: <http://www.usscuny.org/advocacyguide>
- b. How to find legislatures: <http://www.usscuny.org/who-represents-me>
- c. Sample Scripts:
 - <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/gov-cuomo-cuny-needs-maintenance-of-effort-funding>
 - <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/cuny-needs-maintenance-of-effort-funding>
- d. Links to DSC resolutions on tuition freezes and the MOE Bill endorsement
 - http://cunydisc.org/download/resolutions/2016-2017_resolutions/Resolution-on-Tuition-Freeze-2017-18.pdf
 - http://cunydisc.org/download/resolutions/2017-2018_resolutions/Resolution-Endorsing-a-Tuition-Freeze-for-AY-2018-19.pdf
 - http://cunydisc.org/download/resolutions/2017-2018_resolutions/Resolution-in-Support-of-Adopting-the-MOE-Bill.pdf

- e. Information on how to testify at the November 29 BOT Public Hearing
 - The Calendar of Agenda Items: <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/CAL1117.pdf>
 - Notice of the Public Hearing (11/29/17) and the Board Meeting (12/4/17): <http://www2.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/NOTICE1117-rev.pdf>

CUNY Dreamers

1. They came to USS asking to be chartered and officially recognized so they can use CUNY in their name and fundraise for a conference in December
2. Many delegates were concerned that this was a political move to sway impromptu action
 - a. Never received a constitution to review
 - b. No information was given prior to the plenary
 - c. Members of this group showed up during plenary, got added to the agenda and gave passionate speeches about why they should be chartered by USS
 - d. Concerns were raised regarding protecting members that may out themselves as undocumented
 - e. Delegates were also cautioned not to rule by passion and to follow bylaws and proper procedure
3. After three motions to table this item it was decided that this would go to an ad hoc committee
 - a. Procedure: this will go to the ad hoc committee, then to the USS EC on 12/1, and then to plenary on 12/3
 - b. Point of clarification: The USS cannot fund organizations. It can only sponsor event.

Diversity and Inclusion initiatives at the GC: On November 21 I attended the fall semester meeting for the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (PACDI) from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm. Dr. Ruck gave an update to committee members about the proposed GC study. The IRB was submitted on November 16. We are planning for recruiting underrepresented (URM) undergraduates both within and outside CUNY to develop an informal pipeline to the GC in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences

1. Members were concerned that we are diversifying applicant pool but fewer students will be accepted because the GC is accepting smaller cohorts
2. We should check MALS students because they are a diverse pool and many master's students are interested in applying to doctoral programs
3. Each program should have diversity committees and we need to make sure this happens

4. We need to support minority students. Look at attrition data and find the percentage of students by race/ethnicity that graduate

Question came up about how programs get lines to hire new faculty. EO's write forms and ask for additional resources then the Provost office looks at funds and determines where there is need. Budget cuts also factor into the number of lines being offered. 3-5 years is the response time after a request for a faculty hire is made. The PSC website list faculty of color at CUNY but not at the GC where there is a low number of central line faculty of color. Recent new hires of color at GC. Students need to speak to EO's to voice concerns and request Professors.

USS Ad-Hoc Committee on CUNY Dreamers: We met on November 28 at BMCC from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm. No constitution was provided for review. In order to be registered at USS we need to see governance documents to become chartered. They have 39 members comprised of students from various CUNY campuses. Point of clarification: these mini clubs are not officially chartered at various CUNY campuses. CUNY Dreamers wants to be registered and chartered by USS so they can fundraise. They are seeking 501C3 status by becoming chartered (NY State non-profit status). They need operational funds for fundraising, food for meetings, and transportation, eventually would like to give scholarships. Point of clarification: CUNY would not let a student organization control money. We need to learn the long-term goals, purpose, budgeting, and election process of CUNY Dreamers. The USS is the only CUNY wide organization that exists because of grassroots – there are delegates elected from each campus. Steps to charter an organization: check criteria, petition to USS with a formal request, provide proof of membership and a constitution

Next USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at 12:00 pm at Guttman Community College. Agenda items include:

- Vice Chair Reports
- USS Resolution 1718-P06: CUNY USS Budget Fiscal Year 2018
- Ad-Hoc Committee Report: Recognition of CUNY Dreamers

CUNY Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for December 4 at 4:30 pm at Baruch College

5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)

Nothing to report.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)

Nine new grant requests will be reviewed at grants committee meeting on 12/4 at 4 PM for a total request of \$5944. 1 start-up grant under review for \$200; total grants approved so far this year is \$4,411.33; \$15,588.67 remains. There will be a launch of Cross-disciplinary Working Papers Series for CUNY Graduate Students. The remaining grants deadline are January 19, 2018 (Meeting: TBD) and March 16, 2018 (Meeting: TBD)

Graduate Council Curriculum Committee on 11/21: Approved an enroute MA for Anthropology, changes to bulletin and program requirements for Biochemistry and Classics, and a new course for MALS. They announced a new policy for new program proposals from CUNY central: new proposals must go through the Office of Academic Affairs to be circulated to all the other CUNY schools who can then object if they feel the new proposed program is too similar to a program at their school. I made an announcement about the Excellence Fee and how the DSC passed a resolution opposing it. 3 of the members of the committees oversee Master's programs in their departments and were all sympathetic, especially knowing how burdened their master's students already are. There was some push back from one of the administrators about how the needs of master's students are different from PhD students so the funds from the excellence fee are needed to build up services for master's students. I followed up and said that it is not clear how the funds will be spent, if master's students will have any say in where the money goes, and the general lack of transparency. I also made the case that the master's students will still be paying tuition so shouldn't the funds from that be going to pay for those services anyway. I think we should continue to push the administration on this issue in every meeting we can until they do something about it.

Questions:

MNR: Can you explain the procedure for new program proposals.

RK: It refers to the process by which the campuses start new academic programs, such as an MA program, and this formalizes the process of having to go through an office of student academic affairs.

AW: They've rebranded the "Excellence Free" as the "Program Premium Fee"

2. Officer for Governance & Membership (Alison Parks)

Membership: We have completed special elections for Computer Science, Physics, Nursing, and Urban Education. Physics received no nominations and the seat was killed, giving us a total of 64 active seats (down from 65), although we will hopefully be creating three new ones today.

Constitution and Bylaws: The three co-chairs, Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) committee, EDLAB, and myself will be working on how to address the attendance issue and quorum counting issues.

I'll be reaching out to C&B committee this weekend to schedule our last meeting of the semester within the next two weeks.

Questions:

RK: Bylaw change for funding - is that on the agenda?

Alison Parks: It is on the agenda for December. That being said, we haven't been able to due to pending ones from last semester have not been passed because we have not had enough people at the meetings to pass anything

AA: Q regarding new members: the new rep for Urban Ed. Came to office hours, was uncertain what to do next. I told her to reach out to you to fill an empty seat. Have you heard from her?

AP: I will follow up on this with the representatives themselves.

3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)

We are still finalizing dates with our massage therapist, Juli Cooper, for Tuesday and Wednesday of finals week. Once we have those dates secured, Anais and I will arrange for someone to be there to assist with student sign-up and sign-in.

Questions:

CT: When you meet with RA can you ask about updates for incorporating students feedback about mislabeled food or requests for more specific food label. Especially, a digital comment box.

AA: I will bring this up at the meeting with them.

CT: If you want to meet with Bob Hatcher in the Wellness Center with co-chairs present, that is entirely possible. Let us know if you want that help.

AA: Yes, I would be grateful for that.

4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

Party on the 8th of December, 6pm onwards in room 5409. Groups that have been contacted include Women in STEM, City College STEM group and Hunter College STEM group. Other groups have not yet gotten back to me. CUNY Clear is overburdened at this time and I will be in touch with them better next semester.

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

Helped coordinate the shout-out action in the dining commons yesterday, along with members of the PSC GC Chapter, CUNY Struggle, and others. It drew a rather large group. Many people committed to attend the rally on Monday, we'll see how that goes.

Budget Transparency and Democratization (BT&D): The group working on budget transparency and democratization (BT&D) worked on an updated version of the resolution against the MA tuition increase. By the way, it got rebranded "program premium fee" (instead of "excellency fee"). I went along with Liza and Charlotte to the Grad Council EC to present the updated resolution, and it was put on the agenda for the December 19th meeting, with minor friendly emendations (with the goal to get more chances to get it passed and avoid needlessly inflame people who might otherwise be sympathetic to the overall resolution).

The BT&D group will meet next week (still working out the best time) and hopefully Celina Su will be able to attend! Our goals are to reach out to faculty about the resolution against the "premium fee" ahead of Grad Council, and gather signatures for a petition rejecting the fee.

Campus Dining: The Restaurant Associates' manager Luis Barillas got back to me and we are in the process of working out a time to meet to discuss food labelling and meal options.

Beautiful Trouble also finally got back to me, saying their fee could be "as low as \$500". Need to discuss this with the rest of my committee to see if we'll try and organize a non-violent direct action workshop for the Spring.

Questions:

RK: Who would get inflamed about the budget transparency line in the resolution?

AW: The chair of the EC suggested that it was an issue separate to the MA excellence fee issue that may make the faculty on the committee upset (when they may otherwise be sympathetic).

Nicholas Glastonbury: Is Grad Council on the 13th or the 19th?

RK: The email says December 13th at 3 PM.

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

Library Ad-hoc Committee is under formation: Joanna Dressel from Sociology, Katya Bezborodko from EES, Caroline Loomis, EES. I will be emailing the group soon in order to start drafting a preliminary survey given to representatives at the next plenary. We should meet with Keith Wilson in early January, after the preliminary results, rather than December (before the end of the semester) as previously agreed.

International Students: I met with an international student who has previously affected by federal travel ban. We are working to host an informal conversation on student concerns related to the travel ban as well as issues that might affect international students in the GC such as funding, travel support, housing and employment. The meeting will take place next Friday, December 7th at 12pm, and SB has agreed to be part of the effort. We may introduce a resolution for February's plenary.

The next meeting of the Graduate Council IT Committee is Wednesday, December. 6 at 4:30pm. DSC Rep from the Criminal Justice program previously expressed interest in joining, should I suggest his name to the Patti Myatt?

Questions/Comments:

RK: I got on the GC IT Committee during the nomination and voting period that was a part of the Graduate Council.

CT: The Committee on Committees is responsible for filling vacancies during the year. I think that they do often get suggestions for names. I don't think that there's anyone on the Committee on Committees from steering now but there used to be and they would solicit names so I don't see any reason why I we couldn't solicit names now.

SB: Are they talking about the removing us from MARLI entirely or that we would be just become a 4th source?

MNR: My sense is that they're working on making us a separate entity (independent actor) within the system instead of under the NYPL. Polly's goal is to help GC students increase library access.

VII. New Business

1. Approval of Petitions for New Program Representatives

AP: Moves to approve the petitions for 2 MALS seats and 1 classics seat.

SB: Seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Review of Social Media Correspondent Applications

Steering members tabulate their own individual rankings in order to determine their top four choices.

Steering enters executive session to discuss individual candidates' qualifications at 17:44 PM.

Steering leaves executive session at 18:28 PM. The decision has been made to interview top candidate Ashna Ali for the position of Social Media Correspondent. A set of questions would be circulated prior to the interview so that steering officers could contribute questions if they are not able to attend the interviews in person.

3. Status of Participatory Budgeting Process

TO: We received more applications (9 in total) and you should have access to see all of them. The committee will meet to decide which ones are eligible. I think we've also learned some lessons about how to do this in the future. Look out of an email about the town hall which will hopefully happen before the next plenary.

AA: I saw some proposals that seemed to only favor one program, what's our position on that?

TO: Right now, the guidelines don't explicitly prohibit that, but the review committee will consider that decisions during the town hall. All students are welcome to attend and expression concerns regarding this or any other issue pertaining to the guidelines or project implementation. We will definitely consider a criteria that projects must be interdisciplinary in the future, but since this is our first time doing this initiative, we are still trying to figure out what is both fair and feasible.

RK: I also looked up some of the proposal and they had different levels of detail. Is there a step in the process now that they're in where they'll have to provide the details.

TO: I'm making the decision that if they get past the review committee, I'm going to ask them to provide this information so that they can bring it to the town hall.

TW: I thought I read that there was language in it the proposal that it should be interdisciplinary.

TO: We left it intentionally vague. The call says that the interdisciplinary ones will be given "special consideration."

LS: Yeah, and the responsibility is on us to decide how things are spent. We can allow less interdisciplinary things to come in and maybe fund them but we can also say no.

SB: At the end of the day, the proposals that are best suited for the most people will get the most money and maybe, a small amount may go to them because it also benefits the GC if some students are helped. If we're doing the democracy thing let's do it.

RK: I want to push back on how much control that we have on deciding who is eligible.

NG: Does that also mean that we should put *all* the proposals in front of them? We have to draw the line somewhere - not all of them are viable for participatory budgeting.

TO: I think that these are all important points and that's why the discussion should happen at the review committee. I'll give you all the opportunity to give feedback and join us in the meeting.

LS: Thank you for organizing all of this Teresa! It's an experiment and I'm glad that we're trying it again!

4. Order of Agenda Items

TO: We frequently receive complaints about plenary and would like to suggest that we move new business back to the beginning of the meeting.

LS: Context of the past, in the previous years. The speaker would always go first. Followed by EC reports. And then New Business. And then Steering Reports. But people would often leave before the steering so we moved it up. We could order food later, closer to New Business so reps can stay later.

RK: First, I was going to suggest the food thing. Second, what takes so long is the reports and we could circulate things in advance.

it also

AP: There is nothing to add because the historical context has already been given. Last year, may have been the first year that the reports were moved towards the beginning of the meeting. No one has ever really followed that. Would be in favor of moving the reports to the end.

SB: Spoke in favor of moving the steering reports to the end of the meetings, after the "New Business." For steering, there is work done within the building. Having 11 of us

reporting one after the other makes the meeting seem very lengthy. Having NB in the middle breaks up the meetings.

NG: The steering reports should not be at the end; the Officer reports should just be shorter. We could cut down the invited speakers or just the officer reports.

MNR: There are some things that could be sent out loud and other things that could be sent as an email.

AA: Has been reviewing Robert's Rules and discovered that some rules specify how many questions each representative might ask a representative only one or two comments. We could limit the number of people who can respond to a question.

AP: The body can vote to limit discussion; however, any single person who wants to speak on an issue can speak at least one time. We can also put in time limits on questions. We have had to do that for some items in the past.

TO: Suggested that we delegate the responsibility of time-keeping to 2 minutes.

LS: Suggested that we all present on actionable items. These must be things that the reps reports back to constituents.

RK: Spoke in favor of having the timer more prominent. Wanted to speak on the point of SB's, that everyone reduce the amount of time talking by providing the material to one person to present. We can rotate this responsibility. There is another thing that people get bothered about is not being on stack.

TW: Wonders if we are being overly ambitious to cut reports. Especially as USS, there may be varying amounts of actionable items at different meetings. We may be doing a disservice to students if we try to cut off our own reports.

SB: There needs to be a distinction between those who deal with off-campus meetings. We can make a list to sign up for each plenary to read the entire reports of Officer's.

NG: Regarding viva voce stuff, sometimes that gets very cumbersome. If we are voting viva voce, is that something that we could do without the clickers.

AP: Responding to that issue, the clickers serve as a count. When they register a vote, it also registers their attendance.

NG: I just wonder whether we're being overly diligence..

TO: If you give a shortened report but you still have things you want people to know, I send out actionable items summaries and am happy to add anything.

LS: We can also use unanimous consent to move things like the agenda along quickly. I recognize that we all do a lot of work and we all don't necessarily report on it and that's okay too. But there are things that can be circulated and then things that can be acted on. So, for the next meeting do we want to start implementing things.

AP: One of the reasons we moved to earlier start time so presumably we could have voting items before sundown. If we withhold food till later we run into similar issues. The fact that we keep Roberts' Rules helps us because it makes things more equitable and gives people voice. Diligence for the students' sake and for transparency's sake.

SB: Diligence may force us to keep having discussions which are more about exact numbers, which is very important, but we seem to be one of the only elected bodies that does this. The second point is that we should not make any changes starting in February and we do have another steering meeting before the January.

RK: Agrees that we should start in February. The challenge that we had in the last plenary was more about the agenda, but also about the people not being present. We need to do some kind of survey or evaluation.

AA: Would like to ask that we consider bringing it to the attention and the vote of the plenary during the next meeting. Even if we are voting on changing the amount of time that officer's speak.

SB: It would be challenging to try to limit these exchanges.

AA: We could limit the amount of time to debate on a topic. There are procedures within Robert's Rules that allow us to specify how much time we want to put into discussion on a particular topic.

MNR: Based on our conversation.

AP: We don't really need to speculate why people aren't coming to those meetings. People's reasons for not coming change every year. The first year, people complained about EC reports being at the end, then others complained that the meeting started too late and interfered with the holiday. We may not be able to accommodate everyone.

Giving the representatives a full run-down of Robert's Rules. We cannot limit speeches per every motion. In terms of getting people to stay, I think it is an issue with.

NG: Spoke in favor of having a relatively

VI. Announcements

1. Updates from EDLAB Meeting

The DSC Executive Committee met with EDLAB and discussed issues including hardship funds,

AW: Because we're already called the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council and because the MA students are already confused about whether they're a part of it, maybe we should be using our full title.

TO: Yes, it was suggested that we introduce ourselves with our full title and then adding "hereafter DSC" in the parenthesis.

CT: Do we want to talk about what they said about quorum in the meeting?

2. Graduate Student Tax under GOP Tax Plan

TO: Other student councils have been very active about raising concern about this issue, but we have not. Maybe/definitely we should. We should have our stance on record.

MNR: There were a couple students who were interested in joining the rally with NYU and Columbia so maybe we should get some of them to write them.

LS: We can also make a statement on behalf of DSC leadership.

3. Party Debrief

TO: I wanted to give people an opportunity to discuss their concerns.

RK: It was great. More people came than anticipated, but I was wondering whether we could make the task distribution more equitable.

TO: I think people were great in everything.

LS: From the financial side of things, we have about \$2,000 for the next party if we want to have one.

Everyone this really pitched in. In the future, we should be on the look-out.

AW: We lost an entire room, which made it more confusing. In the future, it would be helpful to separate those tasks again.

MNR: We need to physically divide the drinks, food, dessert into separate rooms.

LS: We have been having this practice of stopping drinking by 10:30 PM. If anyone sees security being aggressive, we should discuss.

VII. Adjournment

NG adjourns the meeting by u