

## Steering Committee

### *Minutes*

March 2, 2018

#### **Attendance**

Plenary

*Present:* Andrew Alger (AA), Nick Glastonbury (NG), Raj Korpan (RK), Alison Parks (AP), Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR), Liza Shapiro (LS), Charlotte Thurston (CT), Tellisia Williams (TW), Anais Wong (AW)

Executive Committee

**Steering Committee**

Constitution and Bylaws

*Absent:* Shoumik Bhattacharya, Teresa Ober

Grants

Alison Parks (AP): Meeting is called to order at 5:45PM

Health & Wellness

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Outreach

Liza Shapiro (LS): Approves agenda with addition of new agenda item

Student Services

Nicholas Glastonbury (NG): Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

USS Advisory Committee

#### **2. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2018**

Advocate Advisory Board

Minutes are approved by unanimous consent.

OpenCUNY Board

#### **3. Executive Committee Reports**

Governance Task Force

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

*Chartered organizations:* 22 reports are in, 2 orgs (Immigration Working Group, Jewish Connections Group) are active

- Sent another email with chartered org reminders
- Have reached out to both CUNY PHC and potential N, E, S leaders on the process of getting active
- Helping a proxy from history start a new chartered org based on the Enlightenment in a global context.

Exploring starting a Math PSA with Kieran O'Reilly, current Math rep

- Will be emailing current PSA leaders to see if they have any interest in using Votenet for their elections and also to remind them to renew their PSA for the year
- Will also be making sure I have the right contact info for PSAs.

Elections: 75 students participated in the nominations process and nominated 274 different times; most programs have at least one nominee. thank you for dealing with me poking you constantly via email to nominate.

- Will be checking to make sure those nominated are eligible for leadership this week and sending out nomination emails with Teresa.
- Elections start 4/1

Nurse practitioner letter from Student Services, Grad Council

- The Student Services committee of Graduate Council did send a letter to Provost/President urging them to hire a Nurse Practitioner. As you saw from emails for this semester we do not have one, but hopefully a letter from a faculty/student/staff group will have some impact.

Note about Room Reservations exception: if someone asks for two rooms in one week or one day, and its under the 6-8 week period, please send to me, but you can also use some discretion here: if it looks like they are asking for a date that a lot of people want, then they should use the exception, but if it's under the 6-8 week period and it looks like the date/time is not so busy, they can get it without an exception.

- Just regular reminder, too, to take a look at room reservations while on office hours.

Reminder to do Title IX training: as student leaders, we have to take it to.

- In talks with Elise Perram about setting up training dates in-person if you prefer that

Accessibility: Student sent email with some suggestions for making meetings more accessible. I wanted to hear your thoughts on these ideas.

“Send reports to members before meetings, or make them available in Dropbox, Google Drive, etc. This makes the information easier to follow (for people with low vision, or who need more time to process information). It would also make it possible to quickly disseminate important info to other students. Knowing about issues being discussed before the meeting lets people decide if they have questions for the meeting.

Discussion:

LS: There were no resolutions at the last Plenary and we did not enforce the three minute report time frame. It seems rather unfair that students say we are disrespectful when we go over 2 hours. The expectation that plenaries will not run over is unfair.

NG: Circulation of meeting reports might be useful. For example, having reports available in advance may cut back on 101 questions which come up during the meeting, and need to stick to strict time limits for officer reports

AP: Steering officer reports are crucial and setting strict time limits, making documents accessible during meeting.

CT: to summarize: 1) google doc folders, 2) stricter time limits, and 3) completed reports printed out for those who might need them for accessibility reasons

## **2. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)**

*Recent Past Meetings since the February plenary:*

- The Middle States Review Steering Committee met on March 20. This was more of an orientation meeting to the 2-year review process. More details are forthcoming.
- The DSC EC had arranged to meet with the Provost on February 26. The meeting seemed to go well and we are following up on several of the issues discussed, including:
  - Fellowship Award Letters and Transparency of Fees
  - Participatory Budget Initiatives
  - Weekend Room Reservation Requests for Non-DSC Rooms
  - Funding for Master's Programs and Fees (Plans are still going through with this...)
  - Faculty Anti-bias training

*Upcoming Meetings:*

- The GC Budget Committee will be meeting on March 6. Details to follow.
- The DSC EC will be meeting sometime before mid-March.
- The DSC Co-Chairs will be meeting with OSA on March 14.
- Graduate Council is scheduled on the afternoon of March 14.
- The DSC EC will be meeting with President Robinson on March 29. Please let us know if you have any issues you'd like to have raised with him then.
- The DSC Co-Chairs and OLT will likely be meeting with IT before the semester is over.

*Announcements:*

- An artistic initiative to re-envision concepts related to classroom pedagogy known as the Schema for a School: The Shed is currently seeking "students" to take part. You can find more information on the website here: <https://apply.theshed.org/> or by contacting [cjordan@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:cjordan@gradcenter.cuny.edu). Graduate Center CUNY students who are accepted will receive a \$300 stipend
- The Advocate issue is set to come out around March 19. If you would like to contribute something related to your DSC activities for the upcoming issue, please email CCC ASAP. The deadline to submit contributions is March 3.
- Please spread the word about the upcoming elections period. If you have questions about how to speak with others about DSC and its initiatives, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Discussion:

None. For follow-up questions, please contact TO.

### **3. Co-Chair for Business (Liza Shapiro)**

*Nurse Practitioner:*

- GC is discontinuing NP service. Email went out saying that cause is high enrollment in NYSHIP and the student referendum. Framing left out various other factors that influenced decision like the GC's past relationship with Mount Sinai. In a meeting with Student Affairs I asked how much we could contribute to help continue service- answer was that cost was upward of \$150,000 and the only way it could continue is for the DSC to contribute at rate of \$90K. We can't handle an annual cost of \$90,000 to support the NP; that is a quarter of our budget.

*Premium program fee update* (From EC meeting with Provost Connolly and EC of Graduate Council)

- Program premium fees are already requested by four programs (MA and MS) those programs haven't yet been approved and do not have students.
- -Program Premium Fee will not be able to be used for GC wide services like Library and Health services.
- Told that doctoral students could take the same courses if their EO permits; unfair for MA students to shoulder burden of costs so that these classes would run.

Discussion:

Tellisia Williams (TW): A new Dean of students is being selected and two Deputy EO's for the MA Degree program in Biography and Memoir. What are these program premium fees paying for? To reiterate, I also think that it is wrong that incoming MALS students will have to pay additional cost for these programs but doctoral students can take these courses at no additional cost.

Charlotte Thurston (CT): If fees will only benefit individual programs, then how will we pay for large budget items, or where will the money come from? When the Provost originally presented on this issue, she said they were necessary for big budget items like library services, it is unclear why we need these funds and what input students will have.

Andrew Alger (AA): Wellness Center Directors in other schools hire nurses using third party agencies. Also our most recent nurse practitioner was well experienced and could command a large salary -- were other options considered in order to bring in someone else or hire a nurse through another party?

LS: Mount Sinai and GC had an agreement so we couldn't negotiate a different line contract in terms of salary. Also, told that no other health clinic wanted to partner with us because we had very few students using services so nurses in training don't think it's

worth coming here. CUNY Medical and Baruch did not want to partner with us. Student Affairs did look into this.

Raj Koran (RK): Have the fees already been approved? Are these programs already approved? if not, they do not have any governance in place so who is deciding to implement the fee?

TW: In order to fund the new program they want to have premium fees. In terms of oversight, these are Master's programs within existing Doctoral programs

LS: Dean of Sciences looked at all proposals and identified needs in them, consolidated proposals.

Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR): Rationale for why we should continue to oppose: we can quickly spiral into university with very disparate programs. We know we have certain needs not being met, and at same time there are pockets of money that are going to accumulate very quickly. In fairness this new money should go to students paying for it but also means there isn't funding for other pressing needs such as library services.

LS: Makes it difficult to oppose fees that are program specific like software. Example, data visualization and digital humanities--makes it more difficult to say no, because they need this software. One positive expense from premium fees: some monies will be used for scholarships to underrepresented MA students.

AA: Law schools have a similar funding scholarship mechanism and it has been highly criticized

RK: I want to reiterate my point, the administration is proposing higher fees for these programs before there are any students to oppose these fees. It seems underhanded.

AP: Be wary of the framing that premium fees are a source of support which is the rationale that is currently used. Also this new money will not go towards big services and they will also use these services such as the library.

#### **4. USS Delegate (Tellisia Williams)**

- At the February 4 USS Plenary, delegates passed USS RESOLUTION 1718-P11: Academic Excellence Fee (AEF)
  - calls on the Board of Trustees (BoT) to table all request to establish or increase AEF at CUNY
  - calls on the BoT to adopt a policy to establish a fee waiver for graduate students who are unable to pay tuition due to financial hardship
  - calls for a Taskforce to review the necessity of AEF
- The next USS Plenary is scheduled for Sunday March 4 at 12PM at Guttman Community College. Please offer some feedback to emails sent on February 26 regarding the SAF. The following documents were sent as attachments:
  - THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY CHANGES
- Article XV - with new proposed language for comparison
- ARTICLE XVI with new proposed language for comparison
- SAF Resolution: List of SAF at all CUNY campuses as of Fall 2017
- SAF FAQ Sheet
- Next, Board of Trustees public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 12 at 4:30 pm at Brooklyn College
- Town hall on SAF TBA. The Executive Director of USS, Fernando Araujo (Fernando.Araujo@usscuny.org) gave the following update:

Discussion:

AP: To clarify the deadline to sign up for testifying at the March 12th BoT meeting is March 9th.

RK: According to language on "Student Activity Fee, 16.2" it says that student fees may not go to pay groups directly outside of the university -- this will infringe in our Grants application process since we currently write checks to people outside for services (i.e. food).

NG: Given that the BoT is interested in creating oversight for student money, we should point out the hypocrisy because there is little oversight over the rest of CUNY's budget, we don't know or have democratic representation in those decisions.

TW: Please sign up to testify

LS: Do we have an agenda for the Board of Trustees Meeting? In order to facilitate the testimony proposal. Secondly, we could potentially pay outside parties if we pay students first, who would be responsible for paying third parties. Third, DSC does not have earmarked monies for registered chartered organizations. In testimony, please stress the point that students should have more control over the spending of student money.

TW: If students wish to testify, please refer to email sent on Feb. 22

RK: Clarification, are there changes fully replacing existing text, are these edits, appendages, or amendments?

TW: Yes, you can look at the different kinds of changes (refer to documents shared by TW). Each proposed change looks differently, some are minor and others are complete replacements.

RK: Comment, reading from the text, it's unclear or vague, who decides how this is worded?

TW: Legal experts are the ones changing the language, students have themselves to review language, and try to make sense of these changes. Again, it would be helpful if we had student representation in the taskforce of legal experts proposing these changes.

AW: In order to be proposed for testimony, one must identify an agenda item

TW: That's not the case, you may present testimony outside of agenda items. In the meantime, please sign up to testify now.

MNR: Is there something we are doing collectively outside the scheduled board meeting? Are we trying to bring up this issue to the Provost or President or other decision makers?

TW: There is a meeting with the President 3/29 and an agenda was circulated. TW put SAF on as one of the talking points. Uncertain what he is aware of regarding fee changes.

MNR: Relying on board meetings doesn't seem like enough. MNR wonders if steering body has ideas about strategizing about influencing the decisions of board members.

LS: The decision is up to the BoT; president and provost doesn't sit on it. In the past LS made a Change.org petition that students signed against Expressive Activities policies. Hard to get that support externally though because student activity fees are more inside of the CUNY, less outside. Direct student outreach is probably key. The *Advocate* can be a place to raise awareness. If people don't know they don't know the existence of it.

AP: How much outreach needs to be focused here vs undergraduate campuses?

TW: Each of the undergrad campuses are also present in these meetings and should be relaying information regarding impending changes. Individual town halls are being organized in order to really students.

AW: On the idea of publishing on the advocate: the issue will come out at the end of march and the BoT would have already met and likely too late.

AA: One emendation I notice which may concern the DSC is the restriction on the use of referenda. My sense is that this is a result of a lawsuit which arose in Queens college around student representation. DSC should consider, how have we used referendums in the past. It seems like they are stripping away a democratic tool by including this language.

RK: do we have an idea when the BoT will vote on this?

TW: The report from last steering includes this information: in March, to be approved in June, and take place next academic year if approved.

LS: The reason why we hold referendums is because it is mandated by Fiscal Accountability Handbook, which governs how we use our monies.

MNR: Suggesting to host individual campus town halls (vs one large) seems to be a strategy to disrupt student power. Wouldn't it also be hard to get one USS representative at each one?

TW: In report is the email exchange with the Executive Director--difficulty finding a place for one Town Hall.

MNR: Is there a way for us to reserve a room here?

TW: When would we host this, at a plenary? Large undertaking.

MNR: We can take care of Room Reservation

TW: Thinking about logistics, it's more--size, fitting people.

CT: I can help reserve the C-level auditorium but it's unclear under what affiliation, and in all likelihood it's already booked.

AP: Please forward this discussion over email and in private

## **5. UFS Liaison (Nicholas Glastonbury)**

The UFS Executive Committee has announced that it is initiating a review of the Board of Trustees' proposed bylaw changes concerning student activity fees. It's not clear yet whether they have a particular stance on student activity fees but if it comes up at the next UFS plenary I will be sure to push them on it.

Discussion:

LS: I highly recommend sending an email to UFS Faculty listserv, faculty may not attend UFS plenary but they will read the email.

AP calls meeting for break at 5:52 PM, we return at 6:02 PM.

AP calls meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

## **IV. Steering Officer Reports**

### **1. Officer for Funding (Raj Korpan)**

*An update on grants:*

- 15 grant requests were reviewed at the February 5th meeting for a total request of \$9837. 12 were approved for \$6930, 3 were asked to revised and resubmit
- 1 start-up grant approved for \$200
- Total grants approved so far this year is \$15092; \$4908 remains
- The remaining grants deadline is March 16, 2018 (Meeting: April 9, 2018)

Committee updates

Student Tech Fee committee approved the following

- \$393,000 for Contractual obligations
- \$7,000 for DSC website
- \$260,000 for Library electronic database subscriptions and E-book collections
- \$11,336 for Student Affairs assistive technology
- \$78,664 for new computers with priority on new PCs (total requested was \$180,000)
- Total: \$750,000

Committee did not approve

- Statistica license (\$665) - 0 users in the last 12 months
- Criminal Justice proposal (\$8,138)
- City College Psych Proposal (\$2,225)
- Citrix Replacement Proposal (\$4,000)

Upcoming Committee meetings



- Grad Council Curriculum Committee - 3/12/2018 at 11 AM
- Grad Council IT Committee - 3/28/2018 at 3 PM

*Discussion:*

LS: I want to emphasize to reach out to Co-Chairs, security chair, etc when you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

RK: Yes, there is a lot at our disposal, GC Security can escort you to the train, call the person to tell them they will be arrested if they return to campus, etc.

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

Since our last meeting, we've closed one seat (WGS) and lost three reps. Special elections to fill the open Program Representative seats shall be underway soon and the at-large position has been offered to the next person on our list of appointees. This brings us to a total of 64 Live Seats and 62 Active Reps. Hopefully we will be able to close the gap at least slightly by March plenary.

The constitution and bylaw changes that were approved at the December C&B meeting shall be voted on at March plenary.

**3. Officer for Health & Wellness (Andrew Alger)**

The Health and Wellness Festival preparations are underway. With \$100 to spend on free giveaways for students, I would greatly appreciate the committee's input as to what kinds of things people might want.

I have begun collecting suggestions for revising the Health & Wellness webpage hosted on OpenCUNY. If you have any suggestions of your own, please email them to me at [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org)

Since the Wellness Center has decided not to continue the services of a Nurse Practitioner, I think the Health & Wellness committee should reach out again to students to see what information we can provide about healthcare alternatives. At the very least, I would like to organize another NYSHIP info session with Scott Vorhees. Your suggestions welcome!

*Discussion:*

TW: Suggestions for giveaways: Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts gift cards

MNR: Let's definitely invite NYU Dentistry, they usually give out \$100 teeth cleaning and x-ray voucher otherwise new clients must pay for \$100 fee on their own (even with insurance). Giveaway suggestions: DSC Cups with Wellness logo, Tall coffee porcelain mugs with CUNY Academic commons logo

LS: \$430 were allocated for a massage therapist, and \$100 for student prizes.

CT: Mugs were a couple years ago and it was more than \$100. Smallest bulk order on 4imprint.com that CT can find is \$150.00.

#### **4. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)**

Provisional dates for events:

- 6:00 PM, 11th April: Outreach off-campus student Hangout Session
- 6p:00 PM, 18th April: International Student Casual Hangout

The last event was to be the 27th but we are rescheduling it due to our Plenary plans. The committee will be meeting for the first time and voting on everything on the 6th of March so I can announce finalized dates by plenary. I will also be conferring with the committee on what might be needed for the events material wise before returning to steering and Liza with a potential funding request of \$200-300. These requests and the planning of the events will also depend on further responses to my request for comments from students, I have received no new messages since last steering meeting.

Discussion:

None. Please email SB for follow up questions.

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

Had a committee meeting yesterday to go over spring events and budget. Apart from regular meditation sessions and the non-violent direct action training with Beautiful Trouble next Thursday, we are also planning to have one or two board game nights again this semester.

Meditation sessions: attendance as been going down over the last two sessions. During the SLS committee meeting we talked about getting the sessions announced in the emails that go out about fitness classes (yoga + pilates). Other suggestions welcome!

Emergency meeting to stop the MA fee hike last night: pretty good attendance, came up with pressure targets and tactics.

- BoT hearing on March 12th and voice concern and general opposition to excellence / premium fees (3 schools will be getting those though not the GC for now).
- Labor Management meeting with Chase Robinson and a related silent protest also on March 12th.
- Graduate Council meeting on Wed March 14th is the next , where the new MA programs will be mentioned. It would be good to pressure the president and provost to give clearer info about the fees (if they are program specific then what about the original rationale that GC wide student services (library, wellness etc)

are under pressure from the increase MA population? If students input is needed what about the new programs with no students yet?).

- Other ideas? What about the Budget Committee meeting next week?

BT workshop next Thursday at 7:00 PM in 5414 !!! We got some co-sponsorships from chartered orgs that will allow us to offer food & drinks! Ashna is doing social media promotion for the event on Facebook and Twitter. But only a few sign ups so far... Any suggestions to better promote the event? Also I had a phone call with the trainer today who wanted some info about the audience and potential ongoing struggles that people may want to be interested in (to apply the ideas presented in the first part of the training). I mentioned the union contract struggle, the issues of budget transparency and the MA fee, groups around immigrant rights and undocumented students, plus potential struggles that will gather energy during the women's strike and related events that day. Other ideas?

#### **6. Officer for Library and Technology (Marlene Nava Ramos)**

*Needs Assessment Survey:* As of Wednesday, February 28th there were 160 survey respondents. The top three technology priorities are: functional printers, remote access software, and more computers (slight preference of PC vs Macs). Over 50% of respondents strongly agree that we should enter the MaRLI program as full members. I will provide summary report of library and technology responses by next plenary. Yessica shared access to Survey Monkey in order to collect up to date survey responses.

*NYPL- GC Collaboration Statement:* Now that we have more understanding of student research and library needs, I will be completing a statement which we started in January and outlines our existing relationship with the NYPL and our desired points of collaboration for the future, ie MaRLI, access to resources, etc.

*Library First Floor:* The Adhoc Committee and co-chairs met with Keith Wilson on February 21st where we learned he is planning on hosting a town hall for March 13 or 14th. But we have not heard from him in order to help disseminate the invitation. He is hoping to lead a larger discussion on the significance and meaning of being a public institution within today's world. The framing definitely resonates with students and overall vision for CUNY as a public institutions, and the discussion will continue to center on these large questions (vs specific desires).

*STF Committee Meeting:* The STF committee met on March 1st and we approved a budget. We had \$750,000 to work with, however after accounting for large bulk expenses such as contractual obligations (~\$400,000) and funding for Library Resources (\$260,000), the STF Committee is really only working with \$100,000 for all other needs. We discussed printers (top 1 priority for survey respondents) and IT indicated that they

are already worked out in strategies to quickly resolve interruptions in services (i.e. storing a supply of toner and printer equipment at the GC in order to avoid multiple and unnecessary technician trips). Remote Computing System (Top #2 priority) was also discussed and there are several issues with trying the 30 day trial including labor and training time, the vendor is vague, but it seems like the GC would also need to host access to hardware material. Although a difficult decision, we should encourage GC central to enhance Virtual Desktop and make available missing software. We made a partial allocation towards IT computer replacement proposal (trop #3 priority). I will be drafting a statement in order to try to lobby more resources from the President's and Provost's office. Based on proposals submitted by Criminal legal program at John Jay, issues expressed by students in Political Science informally, and survey results that we have bigger technology issues that can be resolved through the small STF budget. In addition to requesting support from the institution to allocate more funding for technology, we should also request to see a breakdown of Library and IT budgets in order to be better prepared to request more funding. Lastly, I voted in favor of allocating \$7,000 towards DSC's proposal, but I would like to highly recommend to continue working with IT staff and move to the system they are using in order to remain on the university's budget. We should continue exploring the issue and see what are options are on the technology/software front are, it seems like the issue is the developer and system we use, Drupal (vs IT not wanting to host DSC on the server).

Discussion:

LS: Clarifies that IT is kicking us off, not us leaving; the Kentico system or Wordpress won't work for doing tasks like Room Reservations.

MNR: Might be worth staying on their budget so it's not on ours, whether on STF or Student Services. If it's possible to stay on the University server, then we should. It's better than putting it on students' budgets. We are essentially asking for \$7000 out of \$100,000 budget when there are other serious needs not being met, such as the Criminal Justice program proposal which was also \$7,000.

RK: Clarifies that the person MNR was talking to is dealing with IT architecture (vs IT budget decisions): he implied that the person we hire for the website doesn't do patches quickly enough, and the system Drupal is not ideal.

LS: This is not true.

RK: There was computers funded last year, but they always fund less than what was asked. Expect to lose 50-70 computers across the GC because we didn't fund their request fully (as other computers become old and aren't. Asked to prioritize PCs because they cost less. Other illuminating thing: we pay 260,000 for the library; no breakdown but they explained everything they supply, things like eBooks, which students did indicate in survey that they want, so that's good. However, STF pays 1/3 of the library's budget. This seems very odd it's such a big chunk. Also wants to comment on that 2 proposals were

not passed: 1) Replacement for Citrix that Jessica proposed. Even though we got a backlash on it, it may not make sense to go for new platform with new approval and IT implementation and take a year to roll out, versus trying to push CUNY Central to put all these programs on the Virtual Desktop. 2) Proposal from Criminal Justice Program. John Jay and Graduate Center don't support their needs because they are not John Jay program and they are not at GC. They pay student tech fees but their proposal for paper, ink, and toner was denied, which does not seem fair.

LS: How much did they request?

MNR: \$7,000. \$5,000 for computers and \$2,000 for paper and toner. Why MNR feels that the amount DSC got for website is substantial, especially when there's only \$100,000 to work with after library/contractual obligations. Why MNR wants to bring these issues to President and Provost, to have more dedication from them to technology needs rather than just STF budget. Wants disclosure of budget of library and IT too, and want to ask these departments to make their budgets transparent. Why our relationship with NYPL is important, because they were, at GC's start as an institution, meant to be "our" library. Also clearly individual programs have needs that are not being met, and there's a question of fairness that arises for proposal that would service a minority group of students. Although in the case of the Criminal Justice Program, we know their proposal would service 98 students, which is a rather large program, but at the same time they are also requesting a lot more than they individual contribute towards the STF budget. We need to resolve program specific IT needs as well or at least a process to fairly consider them.

## **VII. New Business**

### **1. Steering Discretionary**

LS: Proposes allocating up to \$300 for health and wellness giveaways. AA seconds. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

LS: Proposes allocating up \$90 for buying two more circular extension cords so people can plug in laptops at plenary and other meetings. CT seconds.

MNR: Why is there a need?

LS: People use the room for study groups, writing. We keep this one we have in the office so extras could be kept in 5409/5414.

AA: Would we be concerned with people walking away with this technology?

MNR: Maybe we can buy more but it feels like we need to keep them in the office. In that case is one more fine?

AA: I've seen IT use locks or cables to anchor equipment. Perhaps we can ask if they have some they can spare or get one too. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

LS: Proposes to allocate up to \$700 for the Edwin Booth Award grant proposal

TW: What kind of precedent are we setting if we fund a grant which was submitted late?  
RK: The proposal will submitted at the next grants meeting, this was a way to use the bylaws to get around our own rules. This event should be supported because it is well run, well attended. The student submitted the grants proposal two weeks late. So as long as there's discussion before the date of the event then we could ostensibly fund it (vs discussing the proposal after the event occurred).

TW: Can we have more context about this event?

RK: The event proposal needs to be approved ahead of time, there's a performance by the awardee, and there's a large attendance.

MNR: Asks for clarification on amounts for discretionary budget.

LS: We have \$9,130 left as of last month; we just approved the use of up to \$390 dollars, so we have \$8,740 left over.

MNR: Which other proposals will be presented today? In order to make informed decisions about budget allocations and curious how this can potentially affect a proposal for Criminal Justice program.

LS: That's it for me. If we did do the Criminal Justice one that would take up the rest of steering discretionary

RK: Wasn't going to suggested funding Criminal Justice proposal because wants them to come to us. IT noted in conversation that there is a stopgap where older computers here still under warranty go to them. RK encouraged IT to do this.

AP: Is the Grants Committee poised to approve the grant?

RK: Yes, if they have a strong proposal without any holes. The Grants Committee did have a long conversation around protocol and submission rules. Did the organizers ask for this funding?

LS: The proposal to use discretionary funds was of my own accord, if the Grants Committee approves it in the end, the discretionary funding can be un-allocated for this purpose.

Vote: In favor: 7, abstention 1. Motion does not pass.

AP: Motions to approve up to 100 for menstrual gear. LS seconds.

LS: Are we running out?

AP: Not now but by the end of the year we might.

MNR: Volunteers to buy at BJs.

AP: Can redo Amazon order.

## **2. Affiliate Review**

Affiliate review was accomplished with constructive feedback provided to each of the affiliates.

### **3. Graduate Council Committee Nominations**

LS: What are these committees? CT: IT, Student Services, Curriculum, Committee on Committees, Research, Library, Academic Appeals, etc.

AA: When are nominations due?

CT: Not until May.

RK: How long to serve and do you have to be a grad council representative?

CT: Year to year positions.

AP: Any names to offer Charlotte?

Consensus of e-mailing with nominations.

### **4. Convocation Speaker-Addressee Nominations**

CT: Nominations for student speakers during graduation/convocation, nomination is accompanied by commentary/ justification.

AA: Someone who speaks at convocation, could they graduate in the semester before?

CT: Yes, ... and my personal nomination is Jen Prince .

LS: Last year, I believe, Aero Lane spoke at convocation and he gave a great speech related to the importance on student activism and public education.

AP: I also support the nomination of Jen Prince on behalf of DSC. Is there a date you'd like nominations?

CT: You may submit written nomination by March 12th.

AP: Contact Charlotte in order to incorporate comments or new names.

TW: Who were the other convocation speakers? IF we're nominating people, how do they compare to other speakers and what are we looking for?

CT: It's up to DSC to define "fit" of speakers. Criteria

MNR: Send an email.

CT: Matt reached out to EOs, EPOs, and DSC.

MNR: I take back my suggestion

### **5. Date of April Plenary and Statement on Gun Violence**

CT: On behalf of TO, CT asks: Do we want to create a statement on Gun Violence or Resolution? Is it a good idea to switch plenary? Can we keep plenary as is and instead propose a strong resolution or statement that day?

TW: I believe we changed room reservation, we shouldn't go back and forth

LS: If we change the date of plenary, a one month announcement is enough lead up. We also want to host a party after that month's plenary which feels better than having a party during Gun Violence National Day of Action.

CT: We've reserved all rooms on both dates on the calendar, so I think it would be good to decide soon so we are not taking up too much room space.

AP: Several concerns: I have to check the constitution in order to make sure announcement mandates. Alternatively, at the March plenary we let the body vote. I

support the idea but I'm not sure if Steering alone can articulate the change. Walkouts are scheduled to happen at 10am and on 4/20.

RK: I have a memory of a precedent, we have enough time, even have the body vote to reinforce date change. I also share the same concern of having the party on 4/20.

LS: Should we carry through with the statement or resolution? Can we start that process

AP: I'll volunteer to start that document during office hours on Wednesday.

LS: I volunteer to help.

## **6. DSC Budget (2017-2018)**

LS: Presents on budget. The main concerns on the budget is the shortfall in the projected expected revenue: from \$630K expected to \$610K actual. I have to present these changes because they are more than 10% change.

Since the Nurse Practitioner is no longer a budget item, we have \$11,400, we can provide \$6,000 to the Child Development Center, alternatively, we can donate some money to the Petrie Foundation which gives students emergency grants, or start another fund of money to be distributed to master's students, or other DSC Services

The other item is what to do with \$54,000 with what would have been the Nurse Practitioner's salary contribution.

RK: In the past we had "knowledge grants" can we bring them back? A temporary source of fund that will build archival material and enhance historical knowledge of GC.

LS: Knowledge grants are a great idea, and I will look into how they were done in the past.

CT: years ago the DSC put some money towards conference travel funds. we stopped doing that because Master's students are not eligible for that. We could think about whether we wanted to contribute towards conference travel funding now that master's students are eligible. The other is into the Petrie Foundation is being used rather rapidly, and I wonder if we could donate that money and indicate that it go towards health and wellness expenses.

LS: Do you think it worth keeping the dollar amount go towards the category of health.

AP: Donating to the Hardship fund is a good idea, I am more, when does the money have to be spent?

LS: The money has to be spent by July 1st.

LS: Let me know if you have further suggestions, I will be suggesting the Child Development Center, conference funding or contribution to health services in some way.

## **7. Student Activity Fee Town Hall**

Please refer back to discussion to on town hall.

## **VI. Announcements**



There were no new announcements made.

**VII. Adjournment**

AP motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM by unanimous consent.