

Steering Minutes September 7, 2018

Plenary

Attendance: Andrew Alger (AA), Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB), Elena Chávez (EC), Rod Hurley (RH), Raj Korpan (RK), Teresa Ober (TO), Jason Nielsen (JN), Alison Parks (AP), Ana C. Perry (ACP), Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR), Anaïs Wong (AW)

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

Constitution and Bylaws

I. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was convened at 4:45 PM

Grants

Teresa Ober (TO) moved to approve the agenda with emendation to switch N.B. items “A” and “B.” In addition, to add a new item “F” under N.B. “Scheduling Fall 2018 Party” and to shift the other items down. In addition, to amending the agenda to change item “B” under “Announcements” to “Reconstituting Ad-Hoc Committees during September Plenary.” Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB) seconded. There was no discussion. The agenda with emendations was approved.

Health Issues

Media Board

Outreach

Student Services

Participatory Budget

II. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2018

Anaïs Wong moved to approve the minutes. SB seconds. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Alison Parks)

Convocation and Student Fair: A handful of chartered organizations participated in the student organization fair during new student orientation.

Chartered Organizations: Chartered Org rosters have been opened so please sign the rosters if you have a moment. At this time, several groups have submitted their reports, but none of them have achieved active status because they do not the required signatures.

GC Room Reservations: I met with Gayle Moynihan for a non-DSC room reservation orientation. If a student would like to reserve a room that is not a DSC room, please

encourage them to consider a DSC room and if they still want a non-DSC room direct them to me. Inform students that while they get one free day in a GC room, they will be charged a fee if they reserve a room over multiple days.

DSC Room Reservation Reminder: If there any complicated DSC room reservations, forward them to me and I will contact the organizer directly.

Questions:

Jason Nielsen (JN): When there is duplicate room reservations, is it ok to delete the duplicates?

Alison Parks (AP): Yes. I would recommend reaching out and letting them know that the duplicate is being deleted in case they thought they had submitted two requests.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)

Meetings:

- Convocation took place on August 23. The open house that the DSC held seemed like it was a success.
- Schedule of plenary meetings has been confirmed. We will be voting on the December meeting later today. -Several speakers are confirmed. Please check the website for updates.
- Middle states steering committee met on September 5.
- Over the summer, as you should all know by now, the DSC was informed that the Business Office and Office of Financial Aid have changed the procedure concerning how stipends are disbursed. The Co-Chairs and -Executive Committee members have been working to gather information about this change. We still do not have clear language or a memo stating why this policy is taking effect. Later during this meeting, we will be discussing a plan a possible course of action.

Reminders:

- If you are running a committee, please cc the Co-Chairs as we are considered ex-officio members.
- If chartered org members come asking for assistance with getting new technology in their offices, please forward requests to me. CCC handles technology requests for the DSC offices.
- You all have business cards in the front left side of the office door. If you run out, let me know and I will print more.
- Please get in the habit of posting things to social media form; Committees / Officers: Advertise their meetings more widely: Grants deadlines; Grants meetings; Other committee meetings. Even if a student cannot be part of a

committee in a full voting capacity, announcing the meetings may help to engage students more widely in committee-related activities. You can find out more information on the site here: <http://cunydisc.org/social/submityourevent/>.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Meeting Co-chairs and Office of Student Affairs have been scheduled
- Meeting with the EC and Provost has been scheduled in October
- Meetings with IT, Library, and the outgoing President will be scheduled in the near future

Questions:

Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR): Where do we find the social media form?

TO: The form is on the website: <http://cunydisc.org/social/submityourevent/>. Please share this with other students as well.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)

Transition from former CCB:

- Leftover check requests from last year that were processed
- Started locker lottery with deadline of 9/14/18
- Dealt with stipend issues (still unresolved)
- Held DSC Office cleaning & inventory
- Began goals review process for affiliates
- Reconciled 2017-2018 budget with final numbers, revised 2018-2019 budget to account for carryover
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Legal consultations:

- Still happening on a case-by-case basis (a number of students have already done this over the summer)

Reminder on new policies:

- Honoraria must be paid directly to speakers and must submit a residency status form for tax purposes
- All deliveries must be directly to the Graduate Center

Website:

- Transition off of GC server discussion begun - next step is meeting with IT and purchasing to figure out process
- New version of website coming after transition

Office Hours Reminders:

- Post hours at least 24 hours in advance
- EC does 5 hours a week, steering does 3 hours a week
- Show up at times you said you would (post on FB and Twitter if late or cancelled)
- Empty coffee pot & coffee filter/grinds before leaving
- Don't send all weekend requests to CCSA (look at room request guidelines first)
- Purchasing of snacks and supplies (ask CCB before making purchase)
- If anyone does not have their keys yet let me know
- Keep submitting stipend requests, they will all be processed when the stipend situation has been resolved

Questions:

Andrew Alger (AA): Question about reimbursement for individuals who are paying for an event and are not current GC students.

Raj Korpan (RK): If a receipt is submitted in their name, it may be difficult to justify getting reimbursed.

SB: The check request would need to be submitted by a student. If the person who paid for the goods and services is then paid back, this should not be an issue.

D. USS Delegate (Rod Hurley)

I look forward to continuing the excellent work that former USS Delegate, Tellisia Williams, has done. This year I intend to help advance USS's legislative agenda which has a number of issues which will directly affect Graduate Center students including the fight to get the CUNY Maintenance of Effort Bill signed by the Governor, and protecting our Student Activity Fees from CUNY administration control.

USS Retreat:

I attended the annual USS retreat, which took place from August 17 to 19 at Villa Roma resort. It was well attended by student leaders from almost all CUNY campuses. In addition to team building exercises, and leadership training workshops, there were also a number of sessions dedicated to educating student leaders about the administrative structure of CUNY, history of CUNY, Roberts' Rules, time management, and planning for the upcoming USS legislative agenda.

USS Vice Chair for Graduate Student Affairs:

I will be seeking election to the USS Steering Committee in the position of VC for Graduate Student Affairs. I felt that with a large number of first time delegates, and a number of critical issues likely to arise in the coming year, it was important for the

organization to have some of its leadership positions filled by persons experience and institutional knowledge. As a former USS Vice Chair I am familiar with some of what the role will entail. The VC for Grad Student Affairs serves as the focal point and principal spokesperson to/for USS on all matters pertaining to CUNY's graduate students, and provide leadership to all graduate delegates.

Important Upcoming Dates:

September 20, 2018 – USS Scholarship Awards Dinner

September 23, 2018 – First USS Plenary Meeting

October 9, 2018 – BOT Standing Committee

October 22, 2018 – BOT Public Hearing

October 22, 2018 – BOT Board Meeting

Questions:

SB: I am glad that you are running for USS steering. It will be good to convey concerns of graduate students.

Rod Hurley (RH): The two former graduate students on steering have not been from the GC. We should really step up and be better advocates.

RK: If there is anything we can do to help support the election, please let us know.

E. UFS Liaison (Anais Wong)

The first UFS plenary is scheduled for October 2nd. As my predecessors, I plan to keep pushing for the UFS liaison position to become a voting member of UFS, as teaching doctoral students need representation of their particular teaching experience, not only as adjuncts but also as Graduate Assistants.

In addition, I will center my efforts on bringing budget transparency and democratization (BT&D) to the forefront as an issue that UFS should focus on.

At the CUNY-wide Budget Workshop hosted by UFS which I attended on April 13th last spring, it was pointed out that college presidents are required to submit tentative budgets to a budget committee enough in advance to allow for recommendations (unfortunately the language of CUNY bylaws is a bit vague both in terms of timelines and composition of the committee). Budget committees are meant to provide feedback, and not what ended up happening with the newly-created budget committee last year, where the president vaguely talked about already-decided items with no intention of actually discussing budget decisions.

I will also pursue Budget Transparency and Democracy (BT&D) at the GC level as part of the structure committee, where I will advocate for the creation of a budget committee truly in charge of reviewing and proposing changes to the GC budget ahead of time.

I am working on a “Resolution on Budget Transparency and Democratization at the GC” hopefully to be presented at the next plenary. Its aim is to reaffirm the need for BT&D, and to highlight the inter-relatedness of various issues tied to budgeting. Especially, it seeks to denounce the president and provost’s utter disregard for the opinion of the GC community, demonstrated by the adoption of excellence fees despite widespread opposition last year, and the hiring of not 1, but 2 new deans (“Dean for Master’s Programs” and “Dean for Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation, ” and it would seem another 3rd new Dean, but this has not been confirmed yet), when several reps pointed out multiple times that creating new expensive administrative positions was a poor budget decision.

I also want to follow up on a plan that was discussed at the end of last spring to send a memo to the Title IX team, to report to them the frustration that some students experienced going through the process of reporting harassment, and the overall lack of clarity regarding steps in the process and the measures and resources available. I can write up a short memo next week.

Questions:

TO: Earlier today, we the Provost’s Office sent an email regarding the hiring of a new Associate Dean for Institutional Effectiveness. They are interested in arranging a meeting with DSC Steering. I will send an update about the scheduling of that meeting, most likely prior to our next steering meeting if that’s possible.

RK: There was also a budget workshop organized by the PSC. They appear to be interested in issues of budget transparency and democracy. It might be a good idea to connect with them over this issue.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Andrew Alger)

A fellow student in the history department had approached Officer for Funding regarding the sale and distribution of a book on financial literacy and living frugally. The book is authored by an alum of the Graduate Center. There was still some question regarding how the books would be sold and distributed, but assuming there was interest from the student body, this could be accomplished during a workshop during which the author presented.

Questions:

SB: Commented that this book sounded like a great idea.

AA: Commented that the author of the book was a student in the late 2000s, even before the funding packages came out. The book is about \$10. It gives you some general strategies that are still relevant in the current economy.

RK: Please use the social media form. Also, grants that are approved, should also be encouraged to advertise the event on social media.

AP: Are we allowed to share things to people?

RK: We are allowed. We would have to report these things as revenues. In this case, we are not actually selling the books.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Jason Nielsen)

Membership:

Petitions received and confirmed for two program seats: Felix Grezes (Computer Science) and Alicen Weida (French)

Special Election open for Theatre. Ballot sent by CCSA on Sept 4th, closes on Sept 14th.

Governance:

Soon scheduling first Constitution & Bylaws meeting (between 9/17 - 9/28 hopefully) to occur prior to next Steering Meeting

Question:

AW: Is the constitution and bylaw committee meeting going to pick up the discussion on quorum?

JN: My understanding is that the issue has been tabled and until we meet, the issue has not come back up.

AP: I am inclined to keep it tabled and wait until the body decides whether or not they wish to bring it up.

RK: Do we know how many open seats there are?

JN: We have 42 active program representatives. We have 18 active at-large representatives. There are several vacant seats.

RK: Although they are not able to have their own programs, students in new master's programs can serve as proxies this year.

SB: Agrees that we should encourage students in new master's programs to get petitions ready in October or November.

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)

Met with Scott Voorhees and he expressed concern about lack of attendance at previous NYSHIP workshops. Only 1 or no attendees no matter how schedule shifted so going to try to come up with strategies to try to increase attendance.

Informed me that there is a shift in how adjuncts teaching at community colleges will keep their insurance. Before the community college would switch payroll to the graduate center but this is no longer the case. Scott working on making sure adjuncts can keep NYSHIP. Will update with more info next steering.

Questions:

RK: Question about the quality and coverage of the current dental plan.

Ana C. Perry (ACP): Scott Voorhees, the NYSHIP Coordinator, is trying to work on this issue.

MNR: Students learning to be dentists at the NYU School offer their services for a people at a reduced cost.

D. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)

Nothing to report. I will have a semester and year plan by October steering.

Questions:

MNR: It would be great to work with the STF on needs of students who are off-campus. I wonder if it might be possible to put together a list of needs for students who are off-campus.

SB: When students are off campus, it means that they do have campus rights at another campus. I am not sure how much we can push to get services provided to students at other colleges.

RK: Question about whether the committee had enough members.

SB: So far, seems so. Will check and let you know if not.

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Elena Chávez)

We had our first committee meeting on August 7th. Two MALS students joined the committee and showed their concern with the tuition hikes. We plan our second meeting this Monday 10th in order to plan different activities for the semester: self-defense sessions, non-violent action training workshop (with involvement from Adjunct Project, PSC members, and chartered organizations leaders, as well), board game nights, “informal” thesis writing workshop led for and by students, surveys for master students.

There is a general consensus on a) fights against sexual harassment by organizing informal healing groups led for and by student and tabling sessions in the first floor; b) improve/push to improve Title IX office.

Questions:

Elena Chávez (EC): Is it possible to replace one of the former committee members?

AW: There was a memo in the works to Title IX Office about their process lacking transparency.

EC: Yes, we were planning to draft it up and read it to the the coordinator there.

RK: Question about master's students and health insurance?

AA: Wanted to clarify the issue of meeting with the Title IX Office.

EC: The procedures and whether they are following them. They don't seem to follow-up on the case. The second thing is that accused students do not get a memo from their office. They should be more up-front about breaking the culture of silence here at the GC.

AP: Speaking to the Committee. If no one wants to join with representatives, then the steering committee can appoint members to the committee.

ACP: Wonders if students on work

SB: Students who are international students must have some form of health insurance if they are a student here.

RK: Pushing faculty and staff to also do this training is important. This should happen.

SB: Concerned that there will be no more in-person trainings. Thinks that this should still be an option.

EC: Filing a case is incredibly complicated and not clear for students.

AW: The Title IX Office is only involved for faculty, and the Office of Student Affairs is involved in harassment that involves students.

RK: There needs to be more clarity about who is a mandated reporter.

AW: All EOs are mandated reporters, and other staff may be as well. They should tell students that they are required to report a situation if it looks like harassment.

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

Attempted to meet with Keith Wilson, Interim Director for the Center of the Humanities, when we learned that the project's renovations would be moving forward at the start of the summer. However, because of work and travel schedules, it was very hard to meet. The DSC reached out again a couple weeks ago in order to attempt to meet with him again, but we have not yet been able to settle a date.

Worked on IT Services, Library, and NYPL statements. Overall, each of the statements overlap and the most pressing and time-sensitive statement concerns the future of the first floor of the Library.

Communicated with concerned students: I received a handful of inquiries over email regarding the first floor of the library and I also joined a conference call of concerned students and a librarian. In some instances, I asked students to join the Adhoc Library Committees. People expressed concerns that the Object Library is a personal art project with no student input or consideration.

Questions:

TO: Keith Wilson not responded to email -- is often in the library working. Suggested confirming date(s) that Keith Wilson is available and to then arrange meeting w/ others that can attend. Needs to be some kind of confirmation that student input has been considered or incorporated when it comes to accessibility of the space.

RK: I read the statements and made a few comments. They were very good. There was an email that went out about the party. The first version of it is for students to bring their items. On the note about the STF Committee, it is unfortunate that we are stuck with figuring out the funding situation for students on other campuses, but we should find ways to incorporate those issues into the next cycle of reviewing proposals.

AA: Do we know how many seats were removed? We should make this less of an issue about the aesthetics and more about the accessibility of the space.

SB: Just to give a different point of view. I have not been in the library yet from returning from my travels. Some of the comments have been relatively positive about the changes in the library space. We should also be open to that.

MNR: In addition to what could be an amazing an interactive project with the student body, we also need to recognize that the implementation could be a bit more cohesive in trying to resolve student needs in the library.

AW: We should not lose sight of the issue of functionality of the space.

SB: We should not come off making it seem that we are against any type of art of innovation.

AA: My concern with fielding students' criticisms on an aesthetic basis. If we focus on getting them to recognize the functional loses in the space.

RK: You will need to reconstitute the ad-hoc committee for the next plenary meeting.

The meeting had a break at 6:29 PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:43 PM.

V. New Business

A. Changes to Scheduling of Lawyer Consultations (Voting)

RK presented the changes to the scheduling of lawyer consultations. The lawyer had brought up the possibility of scheduling office hours on a regular, recurring basis. Now that the budget situation has changed, so it may be possible to change this. Since the start of the semester, we have already used up about $\frac{1}{6}$ of the lawyer budget. In the past, the lawyer would have office hours so this would be reinstating a policy that had already existed. RK opened this up for discussion.

RK: We can allocate more money towards this budget line. I am not sure if it makes sense to do this every week, every two weeks, etc. Perhaps having a trial period?

AW: I am not in favor of making this a regular office hours. We should really focus on making the lawyer available when he is needed by students. Since we have already used up about $\frac{1}{6}$ of that, perhaps then we need to do a better job in making it known that this service is available.

MNR: Wanted to express gratitude for the service. Several students have expressed appreciation. Wanted to echo the point of AW that it makes sense to do on an as-needed basis. We could be more structured around the dates of the month when he is available to meet with students so that it can continue to be a worthwhile venture for the lawyer, and not just something that is more of a burden. I wouldn't object if we paid a higher rate if the lawyer came here to the GC v. another place.

RK: Responding directly to the previous comment: the lawyer would like more consistent work. It is easier for their schedule and would allow them to make a steady income.

Another possibility is just raising the amount paid to the lawyer.

MNR: I do think that we should be smarter about the schedule and suggest tentative dates. There should be more consistency around when they would be available for students.

AA: The current rate is about \$75 per hour. Do we have a sense of the base rate for other firms? Secondly, are you able to gain a sense if we decide to keep the status-quo? The point made by MNR is good one about the regularity of the schedule.

RK: Responding to that point. Not sure what the going rate for the lawyers is. One of the lawyers does not like

EC: How many hours have been charged in the past?

RK: They charge for the hours in meeting with clients, as well as the hours due to research. So far, this academic year, we've paid out about \$1000. Typically we limit it to 2x per student per year.

AA: How many students?

RK: There are about 13 students who have been served.

EC: I was wondering how many consultations?

EK: Each student gets two consultations.

SB: Raise for the lawyers does not seem like a bad thing. The office hour idea does not seem like something that would improve the quality of life of students here.

AP: I move to keep the current system for lawyers. We can move money around. Even if we are paying more, we are paying for students sitting with a lawyer.

AW: Seconds.

JN: The budget can be rearranged and given the logistics of where people teach and life it doesn't make sense to have office hours.

MNR: I wanted to ask if a student uses up their two-hour consultation with the lawyer. If a student has tapped out their two hours.

RH: I just wanted to voice my support for the motion. I wanted to suggest that we do it after doing a bit of research on the appropriate amount.

AA: Even before we do some research, we can project the current rate.

SB: My question was whether we can vote to leave the lawyer without office hours as our decision now, and then make the decision about increasing the rate for the next meeting.

MNR: What is the rate for when the student meets with them independently? How do you decide upon allocating hours? It sounds like this service is not being underutilized.

RK: I don't know what rate they charge the student if they continue taking on the services. What I do know is that often times the lawyer will follow-up with the student to see if they've used up the two sessions.

The motion was called to a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Changes to 2018-2019 Budget (Voting)

RK presented the budget. The budget was sent before the meeting. The changes were presented, including the amount of carry-over from the previous year.

TO: Question about web consulting.

SB: Wanted to come back to the issue of the lawyer. At the end of the semester or next semester, we can always move it back. SB made a friendly emendation to increase the amount of funds allocated to the lawyer.

ACP: Question for increase in the HW Committee budget.

AA: There was a raise to the massage therapist last year.

RK: That was exactly my rationale for increasing that committee budget specifically. I also wanted to give my rationale for the other lines. For the child learning center, they have always used those funds very well. Another set of funds there would be highly appreciated. The other comment was on the supplies. I increased by \$150. This is up for discussion.

MNR: There was an idea of having some form of monetary material compensation for representatives. Was wondering if there is a way to create a raffle or give out something as a form of compensation and show gratitude.

RK: Allocating more towards the meetings budget line. A metrocard would probably be too much.

CE: For movie passes, AMC they are launching a subscription service, and there is also MoviePass. Was wondering if this is something that is really needed.

ACP: Wondering about getting a MetroCard and whether this would run out before it could be used?

RH: You could buy pre-packaged cards which would not run out.

RK: We only buy movie tickets when we need them.

AA: Focus should be on lawyers, Child Learning Center, etc.

SB: We could move the additional funds from movie tickets and put into purchasing care-packages and incentives.

RK: For the care-packages, we would need put into supplies, and the meeting incentives would be put into the meetings categories.

AA: Asked clarifying question about the motions. RK explains.

AP: Increasing meetings budget to accommodate the incentives is good, even if we don't agree on the incentives.

ACP: I am going to move to make a friendly emendation that meetings should be \$1500 and supplies go up by \$1500.

JN: The budget can be revisited. The amount in discretionary can always be moved around.

MNR: Echoing the same issue of getting feedback from the DSC body. I would be open for increasing the budget if needed.

SB: Right now, we are just moving the money into supplies. Moved to call the question.

RK: Reviewed the specifics of the motion and its effect on the budget. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Additions to Committees (Voting)

1. **Grants:** AA moved to appoint Liza Shapiro to grants committee. SB seconds. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Student Life and Services:** EC moved to appoint Shawn Fagan to Student Life and Services committee. ACP seconds. All voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Emeritus DSC Leadership Advisory Board (EDLAB):** RK presents the voting item.

The nominees included:

- (1) Liza Shapiro
- (2) Dominique Nisperos

- (3) Tellisia Williams
- (4) Charlotte Thurston
- (5) Jen Tang
- (6) Ashna Ali
- (7) Kyla Bender-Baird
- (8) Cecilia Salvi
- (9) Anick Boyd

SB: Moved to appoint these individuals above in order.

RH: Seconds the motion.

RK: Seeing no discussion, the motion was called to a vote. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Petitions for New Program Representative Seats

JN presented the petitions. Moved to approve Felix Grezes (Computer Science) and Alicen Weida (French) as new program representatives.

SB: Seconds

The motion passed unanimously.

C. Dechartering CUNY Public History Collective (Voting)

AP presented the item. Once a chartered org has been inactive for a certain number of semesters, it must be brought forth to initiate the de-chartering process. AP moved to de-charter the organization. ACP seconds.

AA: Question about starting the de-chartering process.

AP: This begins a process only. If no contact is made, then AP needs to try to find a new chair of the organizations. This only enables the starting of this process.

AA: Knows at least two of the people involved in this process. They wanted to continue but did not want to continue receive DSC funding.

AP: Cannot begin the process until the the chairs begin talking with CCSA.

JN: Commented that they could exist as a "group" focused on a particular topic of issue, but have no affiliation with the DSC.

RK: Calls the motion to a vote. All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

D. Scheduling Fall 2018 Party: October or November (Voting)

SB: There was a motion to hold the party in November. The party would be November 16 following plenary.

EC: Wanted to have it in October

ACP: October tends to be midterms and major deadlines.

RH: Wanted to suggest having some type of an open house in October, and have then have the party in November.

RK: In favor of doing a more causal wine and cheese party in October. Some of the funding for that could come from that line. The motion was called to a vote. All voted in favor.

E. Scheduling December Plenary Meeting (Voting)

AP moved to change the meeting from December 21 to December 14. There was no discussion. All voted in favor.

F. Scheduling Steering Retreat and Mention of Steering Goals

The results of the poll were discussed. September 29, October 12, October 13 were possible dates. Another follow-up doodle poll would be sent out to confirm the final times. In addition, a list of possible activities for team-building, and set of questions to guide the discussion of goals for the year would be sent out.

G. Review of Affiliate Goals

The Affiliate Goals were reviewed for OpenCUNY and the Adjunct Project. The goals for the Advocate had not yet been submitted.

H. Student Leadership Stipend Discussion

RK and TO present the timeline. RK was told in early July that the stipends would need additional paperwork to be processed. Two of the co-chairs too part in a meeting with the OFA, BO, and SA to learn more about this situation. The meeting was not successful in getting the information we needed regarding the rationale for changing this policy. We continued to follow-up. the DSC Executive Committee met with USS members last week. We are learning that this is a change that may affect other campuses. The GC is among the first to have a fully-integrated record-keeping system in CUNYFirst. Met with USS today. We agreed that this could be part of a larger issue of how Student Activity Fee is going to be reallocated.

Options:

AP discussed a few possible options. First option: Comply and sign the forms. Get paid. but also keep fighting.

Another option: Not comply, not sign forms, probably delay pay even more. Deciding the course of action of what that fight more look like: striking. Another option: Just comply.

AW: Commented that we should stop services until we are paid immediately.

SB: As a precedent, this would be a terrible thing. It would be connected to many issues and paperwork for international students. Especially after being told months after accepting the position.

AA: If we were to cease all DSC activities, would this harm us long-run. We need to take into account the wider student populus.

RK: Agree that we need to be careful. If we do a public relations campaign around this, then we need to advocate our position. The second thing I wanted to bring up is whether the administration dissolve the DSC?

ACP: Very much agrees that we should fight this. Sometimes people have weird relations with the DSC, and this could backfire if not done correctly.

JN: Question of escalating it CUNY Central?

AP: We don't know what this policy is.

EC: If this is a matter of money and getting paid. We should be able to fix that. We are striking because we are not getting paid. We are not taking into consideration how activity fees are being used.

SB: When it comes to striking, we would have to convince the DSC that this is something that we need to do. If we don't do that, then we have already lost the battle. We have to make this a big plenary issue. As the steering committee, we are part of the DSC. We need to get a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to vote in favor of striking. My bigger concern is framing this for the general body. We really need to think about whether or not we have that support.

AA: I think it would be more effective as the whole to inform the admin of what is at stake. With the meeting being 2-weeks away, we have time to draft up the resolution, and reach out to admin.

RH: Two general points, we really need to stick to seeing this policy in writing. We need to do outreach to plenary. We should consider outlining in point-form how this would impact international students.

AP: This is a seizure of student activity fees, and also creates the potential for discrimination in determining who can be student leaders. They have been going back and forth between either disbursing this as financial aid, or as student employment, either way international students and MA students may be affected/unable to get paid.

RK: I am also concerned that the negative impact a strike would have on relations with administration. There are a lot of things that we do currently cooperate with administrators. I am not saying that striking is not a bad idea, but there are also bad ideas.

SB: If this were counted as work, how many hours would it consist of? Who is not able to accept financial aid at this time?

RK: Commented that he received an email about an audit of a former steering officers. It may be in the future that steering officers have to be authorized to work

JN: Just to go back to SB earlier point that we should have this decided at plenary. I don't imagine that the majority of people in the room care about the stipends and the work that we do. Articulating the issues around SAF is important. In terms of caps, in terms of master's students participating in leadership. In addition, arbitrary demands around tax issues.

AA: Your earlier concern about making it harder for us to work with administration makes it harder for us to work with administration. If we win the strike and the administrators stop working with us, then we could still swing that to our favor.

RH: A few quick points, we should be considering how they're attacking the SAF and practices they are going to implement in CUNYFirst. Part of what they are collaborating with us is on shared governance.

SB: If we are going to wait until plenary to officially go on strike. This puts pressure on all of us and to keep going to these people and to keep pressing back. We need to keep going back and getting papers and some form of clarification. We should definitely keep talking to these people.

AP: What we need today is to come up with a concrete timeline of what we're going to do. If there is a consensus to wait until plenary, then we need a concrete timeline of what we're going to do up until then. The first thing that needs to happen is the release of a statement to students, framing the issue not in terms of our stipends, but also in terms of how this money is being reconfigured in a discriminatory manner upstairs. We need to engage in direct action before plenary.

JN: Finding out from LS would not be that difficult. If there is language drafted in the form of a resolution, then it should happen in the next several days.

RK: Finalizing the plan of action. We will finalize and send out an email to send out to the student body on September 12, then have a resolution finalized on September 17 to send out to the DSC representatives to vote on during the September 21 plenary.

I. Plenary Incentives and Logistics

RK mentioned the incentives piece. We should consider raffling off a Starbucks gift card, or a MetroCard to get them to consider staying the whole time.

We discussed changing the timing of reporting and meals for plenary meetings. The food would be delivered at 5:45 PM, and the meals would served at 6:00 PM.

Each member of steering would received no more than 2 minutes and co-chairs would receive 3 minutes to give their report. These reports would be timed.

If you have nothing to report then simply state "Nothing to report" in the minutes document. You will not be asked to give your report during the meeting in which case.

AP: Moved to approve the tabling of the incentives for the next meeting until after the budget is approved.

AA: Seconds.

II. Announcements

A. Assignment of Lockers by Steering Committee Members

RK: Plans to delegate the procedure for locker assignment to the rest of steering. More information about this procedure is forthcoming.

B. Reconstitution of Ad-hoc Committees during September Plenary:

1. Participatory Budgeting Ad-hoc Committee
2. Accessibility
3. Gender Neutral Bathrooms

C. Title IX Issues

There is an ongoing Title IX case filed against a person who is not a current representative. He should not be let into the meeting.

III. Adjournment

RK moved to adjourn by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM.