

## Steering Minutes October 5, 2018

Plenary  
Executive Committee  
Steering Committee  
Constitution and Bylaws  
Grants  
Health Issues  
Media Board  
Outreach  
Student Services  
Participatory Budget

*Attendance:* Andrew Alger (AA), Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB), 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)  
*Absent:* Elena Chávez (EC)

### I. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 4:59 PM. ACP moved to approve the agenda. SB requested to emend

### II. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2018

AP: moved to table the minutes from the September meeting until the next steering meeting. RK thinks it is important that we have approved minutes. RK seconds the minutes.

AP: According to Robert's Rules, if the minutes cannot be approved by unanimous consent. Corrections may be offered.

TO: We should review the minutes ahead of time so that we can approve them.

AA: Call for a vote. All voted in favor of tabling the voting of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. Executive Committee Reports

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

*Chartered Organizations:* No organizations as of Tuesday Oct 2 had achieved active status, but two of them are close so please take a minute to sign rosters when you've got a chance.

*DSC Affiliate Coordinator Hiring:* We have officially hired Rafael Munis as the Adjunct Project's new Coordinator for Advocacy and Education. We're very excited to have him continue his work with us. The hiring committee for the new Advocate Editor in Chief will be conducting three candidate interviews on Tuesday.

*Several Housekeeping Items:* The list of exceptions for room reservations has been posted. You are allowed to offer students the use of their exceptions, simply cc' me when

you do so. Additionally, if you are ever unsure about a room reservation, place it on hold and forward it to me. Also, regarding room reservations, if you take any action on a room reservation request beyond approving it, please fill in the "Comments" box which action was taken. For instance, if you put it on hold because it's further than 6 to 8 weeks away or because it's a weekend request that requires approval from Matt, please indicate as such. If you've placed it on hold and forward the CCSA, also note that. FINALLY, room reservations are a shared responsibility among ALL steering officers. Please make sure that you're doing them during your office hours.

When you sell movie tickets, please make sure to note the person's banner ID or EMPLID (whatever number is on their ID) on the sheet and please make sure that if they're writing a check that they fill out that number in the memo line of the check as well.

*Reminders:*

Finally, please, double/triple check that you have turned off the coffee maker when you leave the building for the day. We don't want to risk a fire or shattered glass.

*Questions:*

RK: On the Advocate hiring committee, can we also ask the candidates who are not offered the Editor-in-Chief position whether they would consider being the managing editor.

AP: Will present the applications of the unsuccessful EIC candidates to the new EIC. Ultimately, it will be the new EIC who is responsible for hiring the new Managing Editor.

**B. Co-Chair for Communications (Teresa Ober)**

*Plenary Feedback:* After the plenary meeting on 09/21, a feedback form was sent out to all representatives. In total 14 representatives responded, which is not a completely terrible response rate! Of those 14, 13 indicated that they either agreed or strongly agreed that topics raised during the meeting were of interest to them (1 was neutral to this statement). Of those 13 who responded to statement regarding topics raised were of interest to the student body at-large, 11 agreed or strongly agreed, 1 was neutral, 1 disagreed. Some take-aways from the open-ended comments:

- The meeting was quite lengthy and there was some concern that too much time was dedicated to hearing grievances on certain topics. As a recommendation, if this happens during your report, please urge the person to speak with you after the meeting or during a break (or better yet, approach them after the meeting or during a break as many may wrongly take this as a sign their voice is being cut-off). We should also remind folks who speak following the officer reports that this is a chance for questions, not discussion. While we've aimed to reduce the officer reports, we should also be conscious of the amount of time for the overall report and discussion.
- There was a suggestion for limiting the amount of time or number of turns that representatives could speak. (This has been done during meetings in the past, especially when a controversial topic is on the agenda.)

- There was a request for officers to have their name and email contact information projected on the screen behind them. This seems like a reasonable request. Let me know if you would object to this.
- Students wanted more information about funding opportunities, equality if student-pay, health care and transportation.

*Recent Past Meetings:*

- Meeting with Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Xiang (10/05): During the meeting Dean Xiang seemed to agree that sharing data with students is a good idea. Also cautioned us that there are differences between institutional priorities and institutional research (IR) priorities. Dean Xiang suggested that we have bimonthly meetings with DSC leadership and students. This means that the next meeting will be open. If you are interested in taking part in that meeting, please let the Co-chairs know. Based on the meeting, bringing specific data-requests is advisable (e.g., for number of funded v. unfunded students, funding situation in relation to time-to-degree, etc.)
- Meeting with USS Representatives (10/05): Several of you were here for this meeting.

*Upcoming Meetings:*

- Graduate Center Budget Committee (10/17)
- Provost and DSC Executive Committee (10/25)
- Middle States Steering Committee (11/08)
- President and DSC Executive Committee (11/13)
- IT and DSC (date forthcoming): EC and Officer for Library and Technology should reply to Doodle poll as soon as possible and before October 10

*Announcements:*

- If you have not already, please encourage students (whether they be on the DSC or not) to consider joining some of the ad-hoc committees. This is a great way to open up the activities of the DSC to both representatives and non-representatives.
- Please consider joining or encouraging others to take part in the Participatory Budget initiative. As CCB will likely mention, this is an opportunity to fund sustainable, student-led projects that could potentially improve something about the GC.
- Associate Provost and Dean Olan will be chairing a task force on funding issues. Two representatives from the PSC and two additional student representatives.
- There will be a title IX statement GoogleDoc circulated. All members of steering are welcome to contribute.

*Questions:*

RK: Is discussion even allowed during Q&A portion of the meetings.

AP: Since motions don't happen during officer reports, discussion typically doesn't happen there. I actually think discussion during officer reports is a good thing. Allowing input for plans of action. Getting rid of Q&A after officer reports would not be beneficial

simply because this is the only time that people ask questions. For Robert's Rules, we are not allowed to limit discussion. However, everyone is only allowed two opportunities to speak on any given item. It is the chair's prerogative to restrict the speaking on a given item. If a person raises their hand after that, they may not get called. If the chair's of the meeting start enforcing that, or reminding people of that at the beginning of the meeting. We can check parliamentary procedure.

HR: What I witness in other meetings, I think its customary to allow for a Q&A after a report. I think it starts getting a bit bureaucratic.

JN: It has been an issue in the past where we my lose people. If we don't have quorum then we cannot vote.

RH: Where we can probably cut time is on the guest speaker and the discussion after the guest speaker. We can look at cutting discussion there. We can talk about discussion of guest speaker.

RK: Something that the Co-chairs have been talking about is having the guest speakers present for a much shorter amount of time. It is a trade-off and are inviting them to speak.

AA recommends that we take a break for food at 5:32 PM.

HR: Announcing a student representative position on the CUNY Committee on Faculty Staff and Administration:

- Meets once a month on Mondays or Wednesdays, sometime around 4 or 5PM. Students on each committee gets 2 votes.
- Most likely discuss faculty administration and raises during the meetings; giving honorary degrees; tenure; discussion of the appointment of a distinguished professor
- SB self-nominates.

AA reconvenes the meeting at 6:07 PM.

### **C. Co-Chair for Business (Raj Korpan)**

*Full and Fair Funding Campaign:* Student survey, meeting with EOs, Grad Council Resolution

*Website:* Maintenance happening over the weekend so occasional outages, migration off GC servers still pending, AWM will try to fix the Google Calendar and Google Search widgets

*Reminder about movie ticket sales:* Ask for student ID and write ID # on check and on the pink/white sheets

*Lockers:* Messed up with cutting locks for students who were reassigned lockers this year, haven't been able to empty all the lockers, got a very upset and angry email from a student, it's been very stressful

*Grad Council:* Attended Curriculum Committee and Committee on Committees

Sent out program and chartered org allocations - still waiting for memos from some program reps and chartered orgs, no chartered orgs are active so cannot process those requests

*Petrie Emergency Fund:* CCB will sit on the committee that reviews applications

*Funding Task Force:* need student volunteers

*Questions:*

MNR: Quick question about the conversations with IT regarding the website. There have been two meetings.

RK: One was with Director and VP of IT and the people at AWM.

MRN: Would like to be part of the meetings.

RK: Yes, I will happily invite others.

TO: Question about hold-up in getting the website off the GC server.

RK: AWM had to submit documentation that they were a vendor. Once that has been processed, then the migration may move forward.

MNR: Who notified you that it would be unusable?

RK: AWM said that it would be unusable.

MNR: When is the installation of this software supposed to happen?

RK: Sometime next month, possibly next week.

RK: Please, please, please volunteer for the task force.

MNR: Sean Kennedy

AA: Adam Kocurek

ACP: Maya Harakawa

RK: We should get unfunded students.

SB: Wonders if we can put someone on the task force that is well versed in funding issues.

RK: There are already two PSC representatives. If they have any further suggestions, they should let him know.

#### **D. USS Delegate (Rod Hurley)**

*September USS Plenary:* The USS Plenary meeting was held on Sunday, September 23, 2018, at Guttman Community College. It was well attended, with over 50 senators present, as well as several students, faculty members, and administrators from CUNY Central, including Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Chris Rosa.

- [Minutes from Plenary](#) meetings on February 4, March 4 and April 15 were presented and approved.
- In his report Chairperson John Aderounmu informed the Plenary about the GC student leadership stipend issue and said that USS was fully in support of the stance taken by the DSC.
- Vice Chancellor Rosa offered to respon and said that it was his understanding that it had to do with a Financial Aid Director's interpretation of the rules for calculating Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) when the Financial Aid Module of CUNYFirst was implemented at the GC. He said that the Central Office

Student Affairs (COSA) was very concerned because it affected students who are elected to represent others, some of whom are already from disadvantaged populations. He said he believed that the ambiguity - the fact that student leadership stipends was neither included or excluded by the rules for EFA - should work in favor of students, but they would look at how other University systems handle it. He said that the move goes against tradition, and COSA had no intention of seeing it changed.

- I spoke briefly, outlining the DSC's position, and presented the DSC Steering and Plenary Resolutions to the meeting.
- USS has offered to assist with voter registration on the campuses. There was a need to not only get students to register, but also to inform them about how the decisions they make at the polls could impact CUNY.
- A resolution opposing a change to student activity fees that was approved.
- USS passed a resolution recognizing the work of former Legislative Director Donovan Borington.

*Nominations of Officers:*

- Nhi Phan from LaGuardia Community College and Hussein Abdul from Bronx Community College were elected to the USS Election Review Committee.
- I was nominated for the position of VC Graduate Student Affairs.
- Elections at October USS Plenary.

*USS Scholarships:* A record 489 USS scholarship applications were received. The awards dinner will be held at the GC on Friday 10/12. The committee expressed their concern that the length of time taken by COSA to process the applications made it impossible for students to receive awards closer to the start of the semester. They would like to have the process digitized. Charmaine Townsell from COSA said that supports the idea to make the scholarship application process electronic.

*Co- Sponsorships:* USS co-sponsors events that benefit students CUNY-wide. [Funding request form](#) on the USS website. Delegates were invited to request funding assistance for events at their respective campuses.

*USS Budget:* The [USS budget report](#) will be presented at the October plenary meeting. Please review the budget and provide any necessary feedback.

*Board of Trustees Updates:*

- BOT Committee meetings will take place on 10/09.
- Academic Policy, and Research: MA in Biography and Memoir at the GC.
- Faculty, Staff, and Admin: Appointment of Eric Lott as Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center
- There will likely be discussion around an update to the [CUNY sexual misconduct policy](#), which was last updated in 2015, as well as revision of CUNY's Rules for Maintenance of Public Order (known as the [Henderson Rules](#)).
- All BOT meeting documents and video archives can be found [here](#).

Important Upcoming Dates

Date	Event	Place/Time
Monday, October 8 <sup>th</sup>	College Closed	
Tuesday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Committee Meetings	205 East 42nd Street - 7th Floor
<b>Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>USS Annual Scholarship Dinner</b>	<b>CUNY Graduate Center 5:30pm</b>
Friday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day to Register To Vote in General Election	
<b>Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>USS Disabilities Conference</b>	<b>Baruch College 9am – 4pm</b>
<b>Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>USS Leadership Training</b>	<b>Hostos Community College 10am – 4pm</b>
<b>Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>USS Election Plenary Meeting</b>	<b>Baruch College 12pm</b>
<b>Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>CUNY BOT Public Hearing Manhattan Borough Hearing</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Monday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Board Meeting	Baruch College
Tuesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	NY General Elections	
<b>Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>USS Annual Awards Dinner</b>	<b>City College</b>
<b>Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>USS International Student Conference</b>	<b>Medgar Ever 10am – 2pm</b>
Monday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Committee Meetings	205 East 42nd Street - 7th Floor
Thursday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, November 25 <sup>th</sup>	College Closed	
<b>Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>CUNY BOT Public Hearing</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Monday, December 10 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Board Meeting	Baruch College
Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	College Closed	
Monday, January 14 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Committee Meetings	205 East 42nd Street - 7th Floor
<b>Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CUNY BOT Public Hearing</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Monday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	CUNY BOT Board Meeting	Baruch College

*Questions:*

RK: Asked about changes to the Henderson laws.

RH: I am not certain but I think it has to do with the use of the term “sexual assault” vs “sex misconduct.” We will definitely try to stay on top of these changes.

**E. UFS Liaison (Anaïs Wong)**

The first UFS plenary was held on Tuesday (October 2nd).

- Executive Director Matthew J. Cotter and Chair Martin J. Burke agreed to bring back the issue of making the UFS liaison to the DSC a full member of UFS at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz was the guest speaker. She mentioned “campus climate” issues at some colleges and vaguely referred to the events at John Jay, saying Central “had a plan” to deal with these problems, but remaining rather unspecific. She said that there would certainly be an interim appointment for the GC president but would not say much more. She also urged all faculty to support and promote the “Student Success Initiative.” Some faculty later voiced concerns about the potential harm standardization (of scheduling and pedagogy)

could bring. Faculty are supposed to be consulted but it is unclear how. It doesn't seem that students will be consulted.

- [additional notes as of 10/02/2018]
  - “Trying times” in experience of faculty and students
  - In favor of “shared governance” for her means “start with shared values” and “common goals” & “respect each other” while “working on issues together as partners”
  - Huge changes in leadership, college Presidents’ transitions. Committed to consulting with faculty and represent their interests at Central
  - At campuses growing activism but also polarization reflecting national climate, diversity inclusion and mutual respect, faculty role to foster free expression of ideas and harassment free and discrimination free
  - Chancellor visiting campuses to address issues, one of them is “people don’t know how to make complaints,” where to go, etc.
  - Partnership between faculty & CUNY central for student academic success & degree completion, through discipline council, good for students, towards integrative university, “Students Success Initiatives” faculty should cooperate and “accept new ways” of doing their jobs & “use influence” to get other faculty to participate
  - Allegations at John Jay is a “challenge” but “let’s not forget who we are” and achievements (increased graduation rate and faculty successes)
  - In sum: Asking for faculty’s help on student success and campus climate
  - Questions for the Chancellor:
    - Concerns about standardized testing requirement for CUNY applicants
    - As of fall 2019 complete integration of high school grades and less reliance on standard tests results
    - With changes of leadership in CUNY, urge to reconsider role of GC in CUNY: is it really necessary?
    - “what that role might look like” maybe under question, though place of GC secure
    - Faculty building should meet the increasing enrollment -> MOE for faculty lines: stance of central?
    - “We want a new contract soon for our faculty and staff” (though there are constraints)
    - Faculty diversity -> recent city college hearing -> specifically about black faculty
    - “There is a plan for increasing faculty diversity” -> issue of retention: “we don’t support junior black faculty” sufficiently towards tenure + CUNY leadership
- UFS chair Martin Burke announced that plenaries would be more open from now on, in order to speak with instead of at the audience. All the chairs of standing and advisory committees spoke briefly about the work and goals of their committees. There was no time for attending members of the Board of Trustees (BoT) to speak.
  - [additional notes as of 10/02/2018]



- Chair Martin Burke: doing things differently now, trying to do “less talking at” and more “talking with” rest of UFS body. Life of senate done through committees. Even though there is a vacuum at top of CUNY leadership Senate can keep doing its work.
- Chairs of Standing Committees [additional notes as of 10/02/2018]:
  - Charles Keyes (UFS Libraries and Information): openness of faculty email communication and availability of software.
  - Benjamin Frantz (Status of the Faculty): Issue of Presidents' ability to advise on faculty promotion: resolution unanimously passed last May. Now last step for being considered at BoT.
  - Office of classification: discuss high school adjunct title issue, paths for adjuncts to promotion (do the same work as full timers)
  - Laro Lawton (Students Affairs): Student retention, success, DACA, focus on NYPIRG/CUNY relation
  - Philip Pecorino (Academic Freedom): reviving committee: need to be vigilant about threats to academic freedom advisory subcommittee: at each campus is there an Academic Freedom committee? Changes in forms of assessment: threat to AF? Issue of faculty being told what to teach and how to teach it. Survey of university on UFS FGL list on academic freedom committees at campuses
  - All chairs of UFS standing committees ratified.
- Chairs of Advisory Committees [additional notes as of 10/02/2018]:
  - Anne Kornhauser (Academic Affairs): Students Success Initiatives: curriculum, planning, pedagogy: can be good but also potential problems. CUNY online initiative: more online courses & programs: keep an eye on it.
  - Shirley Raps (Faculty Advisory Council to the Research Foundation): Survey results not available yet on RF and CUNY
  - Ned Benton (Budget): Surveying faculty governance leaders: results very interesting so far: will share. CUNY vs. SUNY funding of faculty: 20% more faculty in SUNY (per thousand FTE student): effect on minority students (majority in CUNY). List of all leases in CUNY: cost and square footage: assessment. MOE: Need a system paying for sabbaticals that really happen.
  - Jason Young (Enrollment Management): Needs to be reconstituted (different from “Enrollment Management Council”). Effects of enrollment: changing of enrollment patterns: drop in transfers, increasing competition from other schools, retention of students? Cuomo requested a report from CUNY and SUNY about what they do about diversity enrollment. CUNY experiments to attract and retain adult learners. Unevenness in projected enrollment among campuses: should be tweaked in some

The Title IX memo was sent on Wednesday to the four GC officials listed as the individuals to report to for Title IX issues (<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/TitleIX>):

Edith Rivera, Chief Diversity Officer/Title IX Coordinator,  
ComplianceDiversity@gc.cuny.edu

John Flaherty, Director of Public Safety, JFlaherty@gc.cuny.edu

Matthew Schoengood, Vice President for Student Affairs,  
MSchoengood@gc.cuny.edu

David Boxill, Executive Director of Human Resources, DBoxill@gc.cuny.edu

As you may have seen, Edith Rivera replied that she was quite willing to set up a meeting with us. Interestingly she noted that she is “the sole Title IX coordinator” at the GC. We need to decide who would attend that meeting (Elena has volunteered) and how to prepare ahead of it (Rod suggested doing some research on Title IX processes at other campuses, which I think is a good idea—we might want to request a meeting a few weeks away to give ourselves time.

*Questions:*

The following expressed interest in attending the meeting with the Title IX Coordinator:  
AP, EC, RH, ACP, JN, SB.

ACP: One person felt harassed by reporting to the current Title IX person. We should bring up that concern. That was very distressing to hear from a fellow student.

AW: We can certainly bring that up during the meeting for the Title IX meeting.

AP: If we do decide to meet, we should have a pre-meeting to concretely put our concerns in order. This is the most extremely example of issues with Edith. People have complained about how insensitively the meetings were done. We should use that to gauge her reactions during the meeting. Presumably the rest of the Title IX people would also be there. Even if we do just meet with her and convey concerns to MS, that would be helpful. I am glad that this meeting is happening. I think we need a strategy meeting beforehand.

RH: I am interested, but would have to see when the meetings are. I am just concerned that she is the only person. Wants to know what in the procedure is available for people who want to make a complaint.

AW: It is a problem that these things are so unclear. Those 4 people are listed. They are not technically called “Title IX Coordinators,” but if a person has an issue, they should contact one of those 4.

RH: It is a case of those individuals being the primary points of contact?

AW: Not really, because Edith sends them to MS.

RK: Wanted to say that I cannot commit to being part of the meeting but will try and support this.

SB: The Title IX does list their names, but it doesn't state that they are officially Title IX. This needs to be clearer, especially to individuals in a time of need.

JN: I did go to one training that was cringe-worthy. This is a clarification: there is a subcommittee of the Faculty-Student Discipline Committee. This consists of faculty and students. It is a question about the clarification of process.

RK: Commented on the FDSC, where the website: <http://cunydisc.org/external-delegates/facultystudent-disciplinary-panel/>. Other students are on the committee, but why had they not been contacted?

#### **IV. Steering Officer Reports**

##### **A. Officer for Funding (Andrew Alger)**

The Grants Committee reviewed seven regular grant proposals on Tuesday, October 2nd. We received 2 proposals from Psychology, 1 from Sociology, 1 from MEMEAC, 1 from Mesoamerican Studies Group, 1 from LAILaC, and 1 from Center for Humanities. A total of \$4,759 was requested. We approved expenses totaling up to \$4,279. One proposal was returned with recommendations to revise and resubmit.

Our next deadline is October 19th, and our next meeting will be November 2nd. I have begun reviewing past years' proposals in order to identify which programs and chartered organizations submit the most and which submit the least. More will be forthcoming at the next Plenary meeting. For now, the total proposals submitted per business year are as follows: 2015/16 - 44, 2016/17 - 33, 2017/18 - 40, 2018/19 - 8.

##### *Questions:*

TO: Wanted to ask dissemination plan for this research on grants?

AA: Will let you know when the data is available. Had been planning to present this information during plenary.

##### **B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Jason Nielsen)**

###### *Membership:*

- Out: Two reps have resigned. Francesco Lavini (Physics) transferred; Jeffrey Suttles (MALS) resigned last spring.
- In: New rep Mara Valderrama from Theatre Program -- nominated & accepted from special election. Also, petition received for new rep, Fadi Kaftey, to open a closed seat in Middle Eastern Studies MA Program.
- Change: At-large rep Shawn Fagan accepted open seat in Psychology.
- Thanks CCSA -- Two special elections are in process for Audiology & 2 seats in MALS.
- Contacted and awaiting response: Runner-up Azeem Hasan for seat in Physics; and runners-up for (2) At-large seats -- Daniel Boyd (Philosophy) and David Monda (Political Science).
- Email received from Matt Gold asking about creating seats for two new MA programs.

*Governance:* In process of scheduling the first Constitution & Bylaws Committee meeting soon. Some suggestions for changes have been submitted. Plan to present at next Steering and November Plenary; vote on in December Plenary.

##### *Questions:*

RH: Do we have to wait until plenary for approval to begin contacting the new representative for Psychology?

AP: As soon as the new person accepts the position, they will get a welcome email, at that point, you can start working with the new representative. Obviously, not check requests can be submitted.

RH: We had divided up the training areas among the existing representatives.

RK: With regards to program allocation, I think in the past a proportion has been allocated to students in each training area.

JN: Was going to email the new representative, along with the other program representatives for Psychology so that they can coordinate.

**C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Ana Perry)**

On Tuesday September 11, I met with Allison Cabana and Adraenne Bowe at the Wellness Center. It was mostly a check in meeting, but I did raise the question of Flu-Shots at the GC. It is possible to reach out to a place like Duane Reade and organize to have flu shots however it can be expensive and since students can go on their own and get flu shots for free or nearly free depending on where they go, not sure would be the best use of our money. The wellness center is organizing a tabling session with further information about flu shots on October 9th and October 18th which I will be sure to attend some portion of.

Now that we're in October, I will start reaching out to the Massage Therapist and the Library to organize the finals week relief stations.

*Questions:*

TO: Question about the tabling request from the person in Audiology.

ACP: Agreed that it would be a good thing to try to support.

RK: Commented on better health insurance. Several students have been complaining that the access to health insurance options.

**D. Officer for Outreach (Shoumik Bhattacharya)**

First Outreach Meeting is on the 19th of October. We have 2 members. One international, both off campus.

Working with people figuring out late payment of internationals, bringing a resolution to Plenary in October or November.

In discussion with DSC rep Kristofer Eckelhoff about expanding Gender Neutral Bathroom ad-hoc committee to encompass a myriad of issues around gender-identity and access/safety issues for trans students.

*Questions:*

TO: Question about changing the name of the ad-hoc committee.

SB: Won't change the name until the first meeting. Will let people know.

RK: Getting updates on the first floor will be part of the charge of the committee. They had brought in architects look over the sixth floor. There was money set-aside. They had started that process and brought in people to evaluate it.

SB: Had already heard about the first-floor restroom. Had heard that there is funding set aside.

AP: Wanted to say, regarding the name change, we will have to look into the name change. If a new committee forms, then great. If you speak to Kris before Tuesday, do let him know that contacting him is on CCSA's to-do list. This is part of a broader problem that we're working on.

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

Our first Board Game Night session took place yesterday in room 5396 AND room 5409, because there was not enough room to host at least 32 people. Most of them first year students from Computer Science, Physics, Mals, and Anthropology. They signed up an attendance sheet. I'm going to pass this email to Co-Chair of Communication so we just make sure that they are on DSC listserv.

We are ready to promote our One Stop Civil Resistance Day on October 12th from 11am to 2:30pm in rooms 5409 and 5414. We'll host 6 guest speakers and simultaneously we'll set tables for 9 GC student-led coalitions. We are going to spend money on lunch (200\$ on pizza) and we expect 45 students if not more. I'm going to start sending emails this weekend and several emails and flyers next weeks. It is also a good opportunity to promote DSC work within Graduate Center so if we need a table to collect signatures for our Change.org campaign, please let me know. I recruited 5 volunteers from LAILAC plus my committee who will be helping the day of the event. I'll be sending the flyer and program tonight.

*Questions:*

AA: Since the report was read, any further questions should be directed towards EC.

RK: The board game night went very well. I was really happy to see that.

RH: Could we include voter registration on Oct. 12 event?

TO: OSA offered to do a voter registration

AP: Perhaps we can reach out to them again to be at the Oct. 12 event

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

I would like to briefly discuss feedback regarding strategy on resolutions.

Upcoming meetings: Setting up a meeting with Keith Wilson and IT Services. The Graduate Council IT Committee meeting is set for November 14 at 2:00 PM.

I will be preparing DSC Executive Committee members for their meeting with the Provost on 10/25

I welcomed by the DSC Adhoc Library Committee and shared the Advocacy Statements. Please provide feedback.

[Physical Space of the Library.](#)

[NYPL Partnerships.](#)

*Questions:*

RK: I think it makes sense to distribute them to the right stakeholders. Since they are nearly done, you should try to think about them fairly soon. Another comment, regarding the IT Committee I resigned and nominated MNR to serve. Lastly, on the STF, a big portion of the STF goes to charge-backs to CUNY Central. It is very unclear what these chargebacks are for. I found a resolution dating from several years back, opposing these chargebacks, which are presumably being used for CUNYFirst. If the committee wanted to take a more adversarial approach, they should allocate \$0.

TO: Suggests getting call for proposals sent out in advance.

RH: The chargeback sounds suspicious.

RK: We have been told that we have to pay this.

TO: Asked about the statement and plans for distributing it.

SB: Suggested that we sign online.

MNR: Will send the statements with a date of when you might like to have a signature on this.

AP: Suggests that this be an agenda item.

MNR: For the plenary, was not sure.

AP: A resolution has to have an actionable item at the end. A statement is just clarifying our position. You could send this on behalf of steering. If you wanted a direct action to be taken.

TO: Clarified about the situation regarding the meetings with the Provost. The next meeting will be on October 25 at 12noon. Any member of steering who would like to be part of the planning meeting, can discuss issues with EC in advance. We can also take these statements and bring to the Provost so that she will have physically in hand.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Steering Discretionary (Voting)**

Ellen Zitane presented on the book during a recent workshop. The books are typically \$12, but we have been given a discount of \$10 for the book.

RK: moved to allocate \$60 in steering discretionary to approve the purchase of books. I attended the workshop. It was really great. I hope that we can attend another one.

RH: Seconds

TO: Asks question for distributing the books.

AA: Will leave them in the DSC rooms.

AP: Question about paying for books?

RH: Offered to buy the books and be reimbursed.

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

### **B. Changes to 2018-2019 Budget (Voting)**

Proposing to decrease steering discretionary by about \$2,000 and movie ticket purchase by \$3,000. Web consulting and hosting was increased from 4500 to 7400. Increased meetings budget based on the conversation last time, which has increased to 6500 from 5100.

SB: Looked over the budget earlier. Considering the extra money that isn't being played around. SB: Motions to approve.

MNR: Seconds.

TO: Asks about reduction in enrollment and how that affects the budget

RK: This is definitely a trend

RH: Wanted to comment on the drop in the number of students, and the increase in the number of programs.

RK: Even though the number of programs has increased, the number of doctoral students has gone down.

SB: All of the earlier years, which had larger cohorts, are now graduating. Anticipates that there will continue to be more shrinking over time.

JN: It is hard to say, the intention with these new programs is for them to continue growing. I had heard that applications were lower than expected. Presumably there is going to be more programs created. It seems far-fetched the way things are going. Some programs have requested to increase the number of admitted students.

No further discussion. The motion was called to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Petitions for New Program Representatives (Voting)**

JN moved to open the seat for the Middle Eastern Studies program for the petition that was received. ACP seconds. The motion was called to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Student Leadership Stipend Discussion**

To recap, we have a steering resolution as of 09/07, a plenary resolution as of 09/21, a petition with over 250 signatures at this time. We have contacted administrators, but our efforts have presently gone largely unanswered. CCB has requested that students who have served as social media correspondents or contributed to the Advocate be paid on the basis that it is work. Today, we met with members of the USS. We learned that a memo may be forthcoming to clarify from CUNY Central by the end of today. We expect to hear about this early next week.

### **E. Party Planning: Theme and Logistics**

TO: I'd like to open the discussion to potential themes. I'll also be sending out a sign-up sheet with duties so please sign up.

SB: Almost rock bottom. "Come sad and leave happy" as the tagline.

JN: Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the DSC.

RK: Bikini Bottom? Like Sponge-Bob

ACP: Feels like Summer.

RK: Likes the tropical theme.

MNR: We can talk about climate change.

RK: Wanted to talk about logistics. The feedback from the last party. It is very overwhelming. It is difficult especially for the bartending. For the last two parties, we have only ordered pizza.

AA: Unfortunately has the ME studies meeting then.

RK: Wanted to mention about the budget. We could even consider hiring a bartender.

SB: We could do better food.

AA: We would be required to hire a licensed bartender.

RK: I will need to investigate further

## **I. Announcements**

### **A. Steering Retreat: October 13, 2018**

We will be meeting at the GC at 3:00 PM and doing our goals report. At 4:30 PM, an escape room has been booked at Escape Entertainment (39 West 32nd Street 4th Floor, New York, New York 10001), which is nearby. We will be walking there around 4:00-4:15 PM. Afterwards, around 5:30 PM, we will go out for drinks or a small meal.

### **B. The “Object Library”: October 16, 2018**

The Object Library will be held on October 16. Please plan to go.

### **C. USS Scholarship Awards Ceremony**

This will be held next week at Friday, October 12 at 5:30 PM in the Skylight Room at the Graduate Center CUNY.

## **II. Adjournment**

RAAK moved to adjourn by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.