

## Steering *Minutes* February 1, 2019

Plenary

*Attendance:* Shoumik Bhattacharya (SB), Elena Chávez (EC), Elizabeth Che (LC), Rod Hurley (RH), Teresa Ober (TO), Alison Parks (AP), Ana C. Perry (ACP), Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR), Jason Nielsen (JN), Anaïs Wong (AW)

Executive Committee

**Steering Committee**

Absent: Raj Korpan (RK)

Constitution and Bylaws

Alison Parks (AP) calls the meeting to order at 4:39 PM.

Grants

### **I. Approval of Agenda**

Health Issues

Teresa Ober (TO) moves to approve the agenda with emendations including: striking item K (Amazon...) and replacing it with "Social Media Correspondent Job Call," and to strike from the agenda item "Steering Discretionary" under New Business and to move items up accordingly.

Media Board

Outreach

Marlene Nava Ramos (MNR) makes a friendly emendation to move the OLT report to the first item under Officer reports. Elizabeth (EC) seconds the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes.

Student Services

Participatory Budget

### **II. Approval of Minutes of A. December 7, 2018**

Anais Wong (AW) moves to approve the minutes. EC seconds. All voted in favor. he motion passes.

### **III. Executive Committee Reports**

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

##### *Chartered Orgs*

- The rosters for Chartered Orgs are open for signing again ... please sign them.
- We ended last semester with 13 groups inactive, which is about the norm. The room reservations sheet in 5495 has been updated and as a reminder groups that were inactive during the Fall 2018 semester may NOT use an exception during the spring 2019 semester. *Room Reservations:* All the reservations for fitness classes have been made so you may resume approving them as usual.

### *Elections*

- The nominations ballot for the 2019/2020 DSC Elections went live today and will be open until March 1, 2019 at 11:59 PM. If you're interested in staying on the body, please make sure to nominate yourself.
- Feel free to direct all questions to me.

### *Updates on 5495*

- It's going slower than anticipated. I'll email security on Tuesday and work on signage for the office but hopefully within the next week or so it will be able to open. There won't be password protection on the printer for the time being, so we'll keep an eye on the levels of our supplies to ensure that they're not being depleted at a faster rate than usual. If we find it's an issue we can revisit the issue of password protecting them and/or the issue of the

### *Discussion:*

AW: One question: someone came during Office Hours who were not active in the last semester. I told them that they needed to get signatures. They wanted to know if they would be submitting receipts if they had not achieved active status until the end of this semester.

AP: They will not have active status until the Fall of this year, if they are active this spring semester. If a group was not active in Fall 2018, they cannot use a room reservation exception this semester.

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

### *Recent Past Meetings*

- December 12 at 10:00 AM: DSC EC Meeting with the CUNY Interim Chancellor
- December 12 at 3:00 PM: Graduate Council meeting (USS need not attend)
- December 14 at 1:00 PM: DSC Meeting with Dean Xiang
- December 14 at 3:00 PM: DSC EC and OLT will have a Meeting with Library

### *Upcoming Meetings:*

- March 12: DSC EC Meeting with the Interim Provost

### *Reminders/Updates:*

- The DSC is permitted at least one-page in the Advocate. If you would like to use this space to advertise your committee's work as part of the DSC, please let me know.
- The DSC Steering ([dsc@cunydisc.org](mailto:dsc@cunydisc.org) and [dsc.steering.committee@gmail.com](mailto:dsc.steering.committee@gmail.com)) passwords were changed. If you no longer have access, let me know and I will make sure you have the access info.
- Thanks, all, for completing the SPARC training! In the year ahead, we will have to figure out how to ensure better compliance. Perhaps creating a brochure to promote

awareness of Title IX on campus, and explanation of why the mandatory training now exists because of NYS state laws.

- If you are on a Graduate Council Committee and it did not meet last semester, let me know. We are also still seeking nominations for Graduate Council Committee student representatives and want to ensure broad involvement.
- Later, we will be settling on a day/time to hold the Steering Retreat. If anyone is interested in taking the lead on organizing it, please let me know.
- You should have all received the announcement about the departure of Interim President Connolly.

*Discussion:*

No questions.

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

- *College Association:* Met and approved the DSC budget in December - still waiting to hear back on the policy regarding payment to speakers and performers being paid through NYS Payroll.
- *DSC Participatory Budgeting Initiative:* The committee met and approved 3 proposals for the ballot - accessible door for library, replacement and restocking of pantries, and event to support artwork related to trans and gender-non-conforming communities. We are planning to have 2 weeks for the ballot Feb 11-22.
- *DSC Website:* Website has not been transitioned off the GC server yet because of a hold up on the contract with AWM. We are still in discussions to make it happen but not sure how it will be resolved.
- *Office Hours:* Please resume normal office hours schedule (5 hours for EC, 3 hours for steering)
- *Stipends:* Please submit your January and February stipends if you haven't already
- *Plenary Incentives:* Now that the budget was approved by College Association, we can move forward with our plenary incentives raffle. Can someone volunteer to purchase gift cards or some other appropriate prize for the February plenary? I think 4-5 prizes should be good and the total spending should be \$200.

*Discussion:*

MNR volunteered to purchase incentives and agreed to be in touch with CCB about this. Any discussion, please email [ccb@cunydisc.org](mailto:ccb@cunydisc.org).

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

*USS Meetings*

- Over the break the State Maintenance of Effort Bill that would have provided CUNY with much needed capital funding was vetoed again by Gov. Cuomo despite USS lobbying efforts.

- On January 23, 2019 NY State Senate passed Bill 1250 - The Jose Peralta NY State DREAM Act. USS, along with several other organizations has been calling for this legislation for over 10 years. The DREAM act basically amends education laws to remove state funding restrictions and make higher education more accessible to children of immigrants. It has been named after State Senator Jose Peralta, a former USS Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs, who died suddenly last December.
- At the start of the year USS fully implemented the CUNYfirst system for all transactions. This has caused several problems in USS's ability to access and utilize student funds. In addition the USS debit card has been cancelled and all purchases must be made from CUNY authorized vendors.
- Four vacancies opened in the USS Steering Committee due to resignation, graduation and academic ineligibility.
- Legislative Affairs, Student Technology Fee, Evening and Part-Time Students, Community Colleges
- Plenary meeting was held on Sunday, January 27, 2019, at Guttman Community College. Elections were held for the vacant positions and the following persons were elected:
  - VC Legislative Affairs: Frantzy Luzincourt, CCNY
  - VC Community Colleges: Nicole Sanchez, LGCC
  - VC Student Technology Fee: Rejwoan Muttabar
- The position of VC for Evening and Part-Time Students remain unfilled and an election for this position will be held at the next meeting of the Plenary.
- USS meeting documents can be viewed here.

#### *Board of Trustees*

- BOT Special Meeting on 1/14 - CUNY's Budget Request was released late - day before executive budget released - essentially making it meaningless. TAP gap, mental health funding addressed for the first time. Approved - 2 No's and 1 abstention
- Chancellor search - Candidate Tony Marx withdrew in July. Search opened again, another shortlist produced and another withdrawal - Bob Hughes. We will have a new chancellor shortly - already "chosen" but going through processes, so in the next couple weeks.
- All BOT meeting documents and video archives can be found here.

#### *Events/Meetings*

- 1/18 - Myself and other USS Steering Committee members met with Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz to discuss CUNY's involvement with Amazon. Also present at the meeting were Angie Datta Kamath - University Dean for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, and Amy McIntosh - Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Strategy.
- The Interim Chancellor said that her enthusiasm for Amazon is genuine and she believes that the move will provide unparalleled opportunities for CUNY students - good jobs at HQ, diversify the face of tech, and move beyond a living wage to a meaningful career. She said CUNY remains committed to its liberal arts tradition and to educating the whole person; this is a long story, major move, last word hasn't been

written, we want to hear from students. There is a proposed 10 year project that will see the workforce increase gradually, and an Advisory Community Board will monitor the project and make suggestions for development, environmental protection, and the use of the infrastructure fund (funded by Amazon payments in lieu of taxes). Carmene Mallow from Queens College is the student rep on this committee.

- CUNY was part of the bid but were not part the negotiations. CUNY not mentioned in the MOU between Amazon and the City; not giving Amazon any buildings or space, only assets in the form of students.
- Three committees have been set up to handle Amazon's move to NY: Workforce, Development, Infrastructure
- CUNY is talking to Amazon leadership and HR right now and things are happening.
- VC McIntosh said that they were taking cues from the situation in Seattle where Amazon made significant investments in the University of Washington -
  - sponsored programs, research grants, 10 million building grant to double the size of its Computer Science program; 21st century center for liberal education -
- Dean Kammath said her office has been developing a framework for working with employers in general, and Amazon fits this framework. They are not doing anything special with Amazon but see it as an opportunity to improve how CUNY engages with employers in general. She is meeting with Amazon to present this framework with a view to securing opportunities for CUNY students, both with existing operations and at HQ2. Business units at Amazon are still figuring out what jobs and job types will come to NY, vs Arlington. The framework focuses on:
  - Training CUNY students, including AWS training and certification
  - Internships - decisions for placements in tech are made out of seattle, but other areas like marketing, accounting, HR will be handled locally
  - Jobs - 50/50 split with tech and non-tech jobs - at associate, bachelor's and graduate level; accelerated interview program for underrepresented communities.
  - Check [www.HQ2.nyc](http://www.HQ2.nyc) for documents and other information related to Amazon's NYC headquarters.

#### *Announcements*

- Monday Feb 11- Students With Disabilities Lobby Day - Albany
- Tuesday Feb 12 - Higher Education Action Day - Albany
- I would like to apologize for my absence at the next DSC Plenary meeting on February 15th. I'm travelling to San Antonio on February 14th to present my work at an HBCU
- Monday, February 25 - BOT Committee Meetings
- Thursday, March 14 - CUNY: Culturally United - John Jay College
- Thursday, May 2, CUNY's Got Talent - TBD

#### *Discussion:*

TO: Question about the meeting with the Chancellor about Amazon.

RH: It seemed very tentative here. More details in my report.

MNR: It would be helpful for students to receive an email about the Advocacy Day for Students with Disabilities.

RH: Agreed.

**E. UFS Liaison (Anaïs Wong)**

- *UFS Academic Freedom subcommittee*: submitted a report addressing a concern raised by a member at the December UFS plenary: the question was how an Appeals Committee determines that a student complaint against a faculty member would be a matter of Academic Freedom (and thus dismissed). The committee found that there are several steps in the appeals process where the question of Academic Freedom is addressed, and highlighted that a key factor would be making sure that the 2 faculty members elected yearly to each Appeals Committee should be “knowledgeable about academic freedom.” The relevant CUNY policy is [Policy 5.20](#).
- With the collaboration of the Faculty Advisory Council to the Research Foundation (FAC), the RF published [survey results](#) about faculty/customer service (for grants and other RF services).
- I will be meeting with UFS Chair Martin Burke next Tuesday (Feb 5) to discuss the process to follow to create a part-time faculty UFS seat for the Graduate Center.
- The next UFS plenary will take place on February 19.

*Discussion:*

None.

**IV. Steering Officer Reports**

**A. Officer for Funding (Elizabeth Che)**

- *Grants Committee* has approved a total of \$10,229.00. The total available is \$9,771.
- Received 9 applications for the January 18 deadline. Total requested is \$6,133.38; average request \$681.49.
- *Next Grants Committee* meeting is February 5, 2019 at 3 PM-4:30 PM in room 5396.

*Discussion:*

None.

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

*Membership:*

- Petition received from Lisa Millsaps to open seat in Urban Education (voting item).
- Second seat in Sociology is closed. One person was nominated but declined.
- J. Nielsen moves from at-large to the open 2nd rep spot for English.
- Special election for Nursing. Marva Frederick off the body -- had not attended Plenaries.
- MA/MS programs: I contacted all new program directors or APOs on 12/10. I sent an email with info about the DSC and the process for opening a seat. I received one email from an interested student but have not heard back.

- Two open at-large seats -- requested form Steering names to possibly contact to fill seats. Two suggestions received from Elizabeth Che (thanks!): Yilin Wang (from Ed Psych) and Ming Chen (Ed Psych; but also interested in OpenCUNY Committee). I would like to possibly add Sabeena Ramnanan (Audiology) for consideration. Are there any other suggestions for names -- and order to contact (this is possible voting item on agenda).

*Governance:*

- Doodle sent for a C&B meeting for 2nd or 3rd week of February.

*Discussion:*

None.

*Governance:*

- Next C&B meeting will be first week of semester or middle to late January.

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

- Held massages on December 18th and December 19th - had great turnout with only one missed slot on the 19th for a total of 42 massages. Many many many thanks to Elena, Andy, and Teresa for helping out and keeping me from being too crazed.
- Collected a little over \$100 in tips for Juli so that worked well
- Payment however was delayed because of an issue of putting people on New York State payroll and getting them a W2 - Juli indicated this was a problem in the Spring of last year as well. If this will be the case moving forward should find a way to put her on now so it won't delay payment in the Spring.
- The total for the massages was \$900 leaving about \$850 left in the budget. Just enough for another two 6 hour days of massages in the Spring.

*Discussion:*

Any questions, please email [wellness@cunydisc.org](mailto:wellness@cunydisc.org).

EC: It was very cold in the location, near the door, where it was held.

MNR: Suggested concourse level.

TO: Should make sure that there is a space that is easy for students to find and accessible.

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

*Activities of the Committee for Outreach:*

- Two events were approved by the committee last semester. These will be in March and April, I will bring more details to Steering in the March meeting:
- The March event will check in with internationals about ease of payment.
- The April event will be organised with groups such as STEM outreach and will be aimed at off campus students.
- Students in Clinical Psych at Queens college reached out about the need for a grad council and asked for a meeting. I will be meeting the interested students and am also going to set them up with USS rep and CCC.

*Discussion:*

RH: offered to be part of the meeting.

SB: When it is set-up, he will let people know.

EC: There is some sort of gathering for international students in Chelsea. It is actually a firm that helps with paperwork.

SB: The Office of International Students does have a few people who organize events, but it is really associated with a firm, that is responding to a particular interest-group that might not appeal to GC students. It is also cost-prohibitive.

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

*Activities of the Committee for Student Life and Services:*

- The first Student Life and Services Committee Meeting will take place next Thursday February 7th. We look forward to working on activities for the Spring 2019.
- In coordination with Officer for Outreach, we collected testimonies from first to third-year students who were affected by the fellowship delays. We plan to keep those testimonies on hand in case payments are delayed again.

*Discussion:*

TO: Have you been hearing that the stipends are delayed?

EC: No, not yet, but we haven't received them.

SB: We are still in a holding pattern at the moment, because it is not late yet, but will need to see in the next week.

RH: It seems like domestic students have gotten it, but we should be on the look-out if the stipends are delayed.

EC: Non-citizens are still getting paid, at least about 2-weeks later. There must be something else that we can do to find out a bit more about what is going on. Tracking what might be causing the delay, to make payments more timely. By February 15 is the latest that we should expect to receive it.

RH: Especially because it places a burden on the students who need it the most. We need to start this process sooner.

EC: We have the sources to press for this now.

MNR: I forgot to put this in my report, but I have been doing blogging and I find this a good way to share information.

TO: For now, just email me if you would like to have something posted on social media.

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

- *STF Proposals:* are due February 8th for DSC review and COB Friday, February 15 to Elaine Montanilla. Proposals submitted to the DSC for review will be presented at February's Plenary (on Friday, February 15th):  
<https://opencuny.org/gctech/2018/12/07/call-for-proposals-student-technology-fee-budget/>



- IT Services is hosting in-person office hours for the first two weeks of classes in the study room located in the second floor of the Library.  
<https://opencuny.org/gctech/2018/12/07/it-services-helpdesk/>

*Discussion:*

TO: Question about whether the EIC of the Advocate was interested in going in the direction of fully online issues?

MNR: It was just a suggestion. Will need to talk with the EIC more.

## **V. New Business**

### **A. Petitions for New Program Representative Seats**

JN: Moves to open a seat for the Urban Education program based on the petition that Lisa Millsaps. SB voted in favor. All voted in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

### **B. Room exceptions for "CUNY-wide \$7K or Strike Conference and Organizing Day" Saturday 3/2, 9AM-7PM in 5489 and 5396 (5414 & 5409 covered by co-sponsor exception) (Voting)**

AP: Briefly presented this reservation request.

AW: To clarify: two have already been cleared by an exception.

AW: Moves to give the extra rooms.

RH: Seconds the motion.

There was no discussion. All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

### **C. Nominations for At-large Representation - 2 Vacancies (Voting)**

JN presented this issue. JN will contact those who are nominated to serve as at-large representatives. Two names have been nominated so far.

AP: The way this works, if you have people that would be a good fit on the body, give the names now. You can give a name or general discussion.

EC: Question about how it works. I was soliciting names from the program and both Yilin Wang and Ming Chen volunteered themselves.

TO: William Novello

SB: Lim Tenn Joe, Sharanya Dutta

JN: Sabina Ramnam

TO: Sophie Griffith, Diana Melendez (Social Welfare)

The current order:

1. Yilin Wang (Educational Psychology)
2. Lim Tenn Joe (EES)
3. William Novello
4. Sharanya Dutta (English)
5. Sabeena Ramnam (Audiology)
6. Sophie Griffith
7. Diana Melendez
8. Ming Chen

**D. Appointment of OpenCUNY Hiring Committee (Voting)**

AP: We will need to appoint a hiring committee for the OpenCUNY Coordinator position that has been vacated. We need to appoint one OpenCUNY, at-large Steering Member, one DSO, and one DSC representative. Is there anyone who would like to serve on the Committee.

TO: Nominated MNR, who respective declined.

RH: Nominated JN.

ACP: What is the time commitment? We didn't meet in person until the hiring committees. We met twice.

JN: I would like to nominate ACP.

ACP: Accepts the nomination.

TO: Seconds the nomination.

All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

DSC Representative

TO: Mounira Kechida (History)

ACP: Gwen Shaw

AP: Cannot, as she is serving on the OpenCUNY Board

TO: Nora Bartosik (Music DMA), Shung Feng (Criminal Justice), Felix Grezes (Computer Science)

SB: Zhuo Yin (Physics)

RH: Would like to move up Zhuo Yin (Physics). He would do well as part of a committee.

AP: I will move him up to number 1.

SB: Moves to appoint Zhuo Yin, with the others as alternatives.

AW: Seconds

All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

DSO Member

EC: Nominates Ming Chen (Educational Psychology)

SB: Dainy Bernstein (English), and Param Ajmera (English).

AW: Moves to appoint Ming Chen. SB seconds.

All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

**E. De-Chartering of the Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group (EMIG) (Voting)**

AP: Reviews the procedure for de-chartering. As CCSA, must be the one to make the motion. Moves to approve the de-chartering process of the Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group (EMIG).

ACP: Seconds.

SB: The early modernists still do a lot of stuff within the program. The person who was running this recently moved.

All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

**F. Date of Spring Party**

TO: Presented this

SB: Suggested April 12.

ACP: Cannot come on April 12 that week.

SB: April is a good month to do this. March, I'll be away.

JN: Is there something on April 12 in the rooms.

TO: There was something in the rooms on April 12.

**G. Date and Time of Steering Retreat**

Based on the results on of th Doodle poll, it looks like Saturday, March 30 from atbou 2:00-6:00 PM is when we'll have the Steering Retreat. Other possible options included February 23 or March 9.

SB: We should consider doing karaoke.

**H. Date and Time of Steering Retreat**

SB: The announcement about the listserv will go out early next week. It will be a forum for International Students, and anyone interested in issues affecting international students.

TO: Thank you for setting this up!

**I. Social Media Correspondent Job Call**

AP presented this.

SB: Moves to approve the job call.

ACP: Seconds to approve the job call.

There was no further discussion. All voted in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

**I. Announcements**

**A.** There was a question raised by a student about taking a leave of absence.

**B.** There were concerns raised about the recent fees for late registration or dropping classes.

**II. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:03 PM.