



Steering Meeting *Minutes* December 4, 2020

Attendance

Present: Rod Hurley (RH), Christian Martinez (CM), Cristina Pardo Porto (CPP), Sara Ortiz (SO), Edward Charnley (EC), Adam Kocurek (AK), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Carolyn McDonough (CMD), Natacha Pawa (NP)

Absent: Sharanya Dutta

Meeting called to order at 4:39 pm EST

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: SRA (motion to approve the agenda adding Meeting Item “C” related to LAILAC program)

Seconded: AK

Vote: passes unanimously

II. Approval of Minutes of the November 6, 2020 Meeting

Motion to approve: EC

Seconded: AK

Vote: passes unanimously

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Sharanya Dutta) (*AK reports on Sharanya's behalf*)

- Chartered Org Rosters: If you STILL haven't signed the chartered org rosters, please please do. They have until Dec 20 to get active status, or they'll lose their funding. Please sign ALL the rosters, it only takes a bit. They're all pretty close to total, with the 11 of us signing, that should basically put them all over the limit.
- I hope everyone has completed their SPARC training. If not, please email Eric Brown ASAP.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)

Recent Meetings:

- 11/23 - Executive Committee of Graduate Council - There was one agenda item that was concerning: a proposal to admit non-degree students to the GC for certificate programs.

Updates/Announcements:

- The DGSC Steering committee sent an email to GC President Robin Garrell on Nov 30 regarding the DGSC's support for LAILAC students' complaints about program leadership. President Garrell replied on Dec 3 that “As you have stated, the current climate in LAILAC is indeed concerning. We are actively assessing the situation and determining what steps will be taken to improve the situation.”
- In that email I also reiterated our request for a townhall meeting and President Garrell said that “A message will be sent to the campus shortly providing the date and time and also

guidance on how to submit questions in advance. Please save the date: the Town Hall will be held on December 14 from 2 to 3 PM.”

- On Dec 3 I received a copy of an email sent from Provost Julia Wrigley to LAILAC faculty, staff, and students. The email informed the community that the EO and DEO had resigned, expressed disappointment at their resignations, and blamed students who spoke out about problems they were experiencing.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 12/7 - Graduate Council Committee on Committees
- 12/9 - Co-Chairs Monthly Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
- 12/9 - Graduate Council Meeting - 3pm
- 12/10 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
- 12/11 - DGSC December Plenary Meeting
- TBA in December - College Association Meeting

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

- Regarding program allocations - I've been in contact with a number of departments, trying to brainstorm ways in which they could utilize their program allocations while we are still virtual, and have had mixed success. Several programs have requested to save their funds for next semester, and while I have expressed to them that I cannot guarantee rollover, I will do my best, budget permitting, to honor that.
- With the hecticness of the last few weeks, I've been unable to take more steps towards finishing our new website; once the semester concludes, I will make that a DGSC top priority and hopefully our website manager and I can get that up early in the Spring semester.
- If you still have not submitted all of your stipends for the Fall semester months, please do so ASAP; remember that starting in December, the monthly pay rate for USS/UFS rises to \$588.06, and for steering rises to \$392.04.
 - For January payments; please note that if you have an outstanding balance, all stipend payments go towards paying that outstanding balance before it goes to you. So it's IMPERATIVE that you accept your tuition remission/fellowships before you request your January stipends!
- Regarding reopening - the CUNY re-opening committee has us virtual until at least Fall 2021; however, with the Pfizer/Moderna vaccine likely to be approved in the next 2 weeks and with there already being preliminary planning on wide-scale vaccinations, CUNY, with the permission of the government, may transition to hybrid halfway through the Spring. I bring this up because new steering members have never worked for the DGSC in an in-person capacity, and as CCB, I am responsible for training you all how to manage our lounges and offices, as well as provide you with office/lounge keys, etc. This training is not possible right now, but we might have to do it quickly in the spring. I want this to just be on people's radar as we head into the winter session.
- Christopher Campbell, I believe, requested more information about joining Steering when a position opens up (I saw "I believe" because he private messaged me in last month's plenary while I was taking minutes and am having difficulty recalling, but 95% sure it was him).

D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz)

- USS Plenary Meetings (Elections) - November 29th / December 6th - 12:30 pm
 - Can be viewed on our [USS Facebook Live](#) page
- CUNY Roundtable with 2021 Mayoral Candidate Scott Stringer
- Meeting with 2021 Manhattan DA Candidate Janos Marton

Janos Marton's campaign for Manhattan District Attorney in 2021 will be hosting a virtual Town Hall on **Tuesday, December 8th at 8:00 pm** to hear from community members to discuss how we can best hold police accountable, take on government corruption, and invest in social services for our communities. Janos is a lawyer and criminal justice reformer who has spent his career fighting against powerful interests and standing up for New York communities. [RSVP here](#)

- Global Kids
- Adjunct Project Updates
- New Deal for CUNY - [See more details and view the video HERE](#)
 - Make CUNY tuition-free: eliminate tuition for in-state undergraduate students and replace tuition income with public funds.
 - Increase the number of mental health counselors to meet the recommended national standards.
 - Increase the number of academic advisors to ensure student success.
 - Hire 5,000 additional full-time faculty to increase the ratio of full-time faculty to students. Professionalize adjunct compensation.
 - Invest in capital renewal plan to address urgent issues of health and safety, accessibility, energy and maintenance of CUNY buildings.

E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)

Report of the UFS Meeting. Dec 1st, 2020

- Remarks by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost José Luis Cruz – 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.
 - CUNY Contract with Blackboard (Learning Management system) will end soon. Options to adopt will be discussed. But they have not yet received a report from the committee. (There was a survey of faculty).
 - Enrollment of Fall 5.6% enrollment down./ Percentage drop about 10% in community college.
 - Policy of credits/ No credits was revised and might not continue to exist.

- The use of camera during final exam in proctoring
- Chair's Report - Martin Burke
 - No budget/ anticipation for Spring 2021. The mayor will find the real dollar amount. But he
 - Wishes to have a budget for the whole Spring , not just a month to month as it was at the beginning of Fall
 - Amendment of the UFS Membership. In red and crossed out are items deleted. Highlighted in yellow are amendments

§1.

a.) Each unit of the University shall have one **representative Senator** for each sixty persons, or major proportion thereof, who are full-time faculty eligible to vote at that unit. No delegation shall have fewer than two Senators. Each unit having at least sixty persons who are part-time members of the instructional staff, as such staff is defined in the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, ~~as well as those persons holding titles in the CLT series,~~ but excluding those persons identified under Section 3 below, shall collectively have one additional **representative Senator, who may be an adjunct professor, adjunct associate professor, adjunct assistant professor, adjunct lecturer, or a person holding a title in the CLT series.** Units which have separate schools that have previously elected their own Senators, and schools which have sixty members of the faculty or a major portion thereof eligible to vote, shall continue to provide such representation within the total delegation.

b.) Faculty eligible to vote shall constitute the electorate for purposes of nominating and electing candidates.

§2. To be a member of the Senate representing the faculty identified under Section 1.a. above, a person must ~~hold faculty rank~~ **be a member of the instructional staff,** except as excluded below in Section 3.

§3. No person holding the position of Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, University Administrator, University Associate Administrator, University Assistant Administrator, President, Provost, Vice President, Assistant Vice President, University Dean, University Associate Dean, University Assistant Dean, Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, Administrator, Associate Administrator, Assistant Administrator, ~~Visiting Professor, Visiting Associate Professor, Visiting Assistant Professor,~~ Research Associate, Research Assistant, Clinical Assistant, Registrar, Associate Registrar, Assistant Registrar, Registrar's Assistant, Higher Education Officer, Higher Education Associate, Higher Education Assistant, Assistant to Higher Education Officer, Higher Education Intern, Business Manager, Assistant Business Manager, Assistant to Business Manager, or whose duties are predominantly administrative in nature, not directly related to teaching and research, except in the case of department chairs, shall be eligible for election as a Senator.

§4. Senators shall be elected for a term of three (3) years, except that each unit of the University shall allocate, if necessary, terms of office to individual Senators in such fashion that, as near as may be possible, one-third of the terms of office of all its Senators shall expire annually.

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- Proposed Resolution on the creation of a Standing Committee on Community Colleges – 7:40 – 7:50 p.m. – Maureen Matarese. It is a long term issue.. since 1995.
 - The importance of adjuncts having a space to be heard.
 - Approved by 92 % of faculty present
 - Next Meeting: February 23,2021.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)

- The last Grants Committee Meeting was held December 2nd, 2020
 - Only one grant, the Cognitive Neuroscience Game Night, was approved for a total of \$230
- This semester we only approved of 3 grants in total, one being a start-up grant, for a total of \$1510 this semester
- Two groups have reached out to me about rescheduling their Spring 2020 events for the Spring 2021
 - LAILaC's XXV Annual Student Conference
 - *Back from the Field Series: Spring 2020 Four-Field Student Discussion*

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

- Two representatives lost due to absences after the last plenary meeting.
 - at-large; one psychology
 - contacting next in line - based on results from last voting cycle.
- Seat to be filled:
- At-large, Psychology, Computer Science
- Up to date representative contact list can be found [here](#).
- Looking to find and/or create a document that outlines all opportunities for student involvement in GC-governing.

C. Officer for Health & Wellness (Silvia Rivera Alfaro)

- We shared information on free safer sex supplies locations across NYC on November 25.
- The Health and Wellness Committee will keep focusing on the online information:
 - I got the credentials for OpenCUNY on November 20.
 - Our next meeting will be on December 18.
- I emailed Adam and Rod about having a page on the official DGSC website and they agreed.
- The committee for searching the NYSHIP administrator will meet on December 08.

D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

- No updates.
- Please sign and share this [Open Letter for Universal Doctoral Health Insurance](#).
- Testimony to the CUNY Board of Trustees in Opposition to the [Resolution to Approve a Contract with Turnitin for Plagiarism Detection Software](#)
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRSUH1MlrE8_DjwB7YdOhHHSPiq9a0KOPFMk7axahigdJYiYzVs6oeFPon9o4tVAu8T4hVo43f9My90/pub?fbclid=IwAR20G-UHl9Mo574sWJ259dnHTx0xLZewmkdH8hxQYZfNM_dr_rRX35nkWM
- Direct Deposit for NRA - updates?
- 2016-2021 Cohorts in face of the Pandemic - Tuition remission for all. Can we fight for this? Are there any initiatives, groups, movements currently working on this?

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Edward Charnley)

- PSC Strike Authorization meeting attended.
- Arranged to meet with Jamilla Hamani to discuss potential strike measures and how they will affect international students.
- Tried repeatedly to contact the OIS to discuss what they would advise regarding potential for strike and the Taylor Law.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Carolyn McDonough)

- **Upcoming library workshop:** *Doing Research in Covid 19 Times* -- Dec. 16 3:00-4:00 pm with Melissa Gasparotto, The New York Public Library's Associate Director of Research Services and Institutional Partnerships and Emily Drabinski, the Graduate Center's Interim Chief Librarian. Registration via Google form is required in order to receive a Zoom link to attend this library-related event: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1faipqlscjfgftsmxfmxwmeutelz1xdgmm58thucrlmk9knawyggwoqq/viwwform>
- **Workshop description:** How can libraries best support graduate research when circulation itself is both deadly and essential? Enabling students and faculty to read for examinations, conduct archival and print-based research, and complete theses, dissertations, articles, chapters, and books is among the most pressing access issues of our time. Join Melissa Gasparotto, The New York Public Library's Associate Director of Research Services and Institutional Partnerships and Emily Drabinski, the Graduate Center's Interim Chief Librarian, for a discussion of the challenges and opportunities posed by Covid-19 to scholarship for the public good.
- **Technology:** IT support is available via SELF-SERVICE link. **Please note:** When using the SELF-SERVICE link, be sure to inquire about inventory levels FIRST to avoid unnecessary delays in waiting for a reply: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Information-Technology/IT-Self-Service-Resources>

V. New Business

A. Signing the [COVID-19 Open Letter for Universal Doctoral Student Health Insurance](#) (Voting)

Motion to approve: SRA

Seconded: AK

Vote: passes unanimously

B. Appointment to DGSC Outreach Committee - Amit Kumar (Voting)

Motion to approve: CP

Seconded: AK

Vote: passes unanimously

C. Discussion on LAILAC Student Situation

We agree to issue a response to the letter that was sent by the provost containing the following:

- state the framing of this situation is inappropriate
- we oppose the decision to stop LAILAC admissions in FA21
- advocate for shared governance - a new EO should be decided by the program as a whole.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at: 6:59 p.m.