



Steering Meeting *Minutes* March 5, 2021

Attendance

Present: Rod Hurley, Katherine Anderson, Adam Kocurek, Cristina Pardo Porto, Silvia Rivera Alfaro, Sara Ortiz, Carmin Quijano-Seda, Christian Martinez, Natacha Pawa
Absent: Sharanya Dutta, Edward Charnley

Meeting called to order at 4:38pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: SO

Seconded: CM

Vote: Passed unanimously

II. Approval of Minutes of the February 5, 2021 Meeting

Motion to approve: NP

Seconded: SRA

Vote: Passed unanimously

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Sharanya Dutta)

1. Nomination period closed on March 2.
2. 2.14% turnout -- *not ideal but up from 1.5% last year.*
3. These 10 programs do not have nominations and have to petition for an open seat (*down from 16 the last time around + there is a new program, Nanoscience*):
 - a) Biography and Memoir (M.A. Program)
 - b) Business
 - c) Chemistry
 - d) Criminal Justice
 - e) Data Analysis and Visualization (M.S. Program)
 - f) Middle Eastern Studies (M.A. Program)
 - g) Nanoscience (M.S. Program)
 - h) Nursing
 - i) Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences (M.S. Program)
 - j) Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences
4. The other programs have at least 1 nomination. A ballot will be created for the program if the nominee does not opt out.

5. For the next step, Rod is contacting the nominees. Then the compiled list of nominees who did not opt out will be sent to Elise Perram and Eric Brown to check for eligibility, and I will put those names on the election ballot, and send it to SERC to approve the ballot.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)

Recent Meetings:

- 2/23 - Executive Committee of the Graduate Council - One important item was a proposal for a new Graduate Council committee - Budget Committee

Updates/Announcements:

- Yoga and Dance fitness classes are on pause pending approval from the HR office for the instructors. Because of the recurring format of the classes we cannot pay the instructors as independent contractors.
- We sent Interim VP for Finance and Administration, Brian Peterson, a follow up email with questions about the budget and student funding arising from his presentation at the last plenary meeting. He replied to say that he will source answers and get back to us.
- We emailed President Garrell regarding the composition of the 2021 Provost Search Committee. We requested an addition
 - There is only one student on the committee, along with 9 faculty members and 4 staff.
 - The student was chosen by the president' office without any consultation with the DGSC, which sets a dangerous precedent.
 - For the 2019 President Search Committee there were 3 students, and the 2015 Provost Search included 2 students. On each occasion the DGSC was asked to recommend students for the committee.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 3/8 - Graduate Council Committee on Committees Meeting - We need student reps for Graduate Council committees as follows - Committee on Curriculum & Degree Requirements: 2; Committee on Structure: 1; Committee on Student Services: 1; IT Committee: 1, Library Committee: 2
- 3/10 - Graduate Council Meeting
- 3/12 - DGSC Exec Committee meeting with President Garrell and Interim SVP Peterson
- 3/17 - Co-Chairs Meeting with Office of Student Affairs
- 3/18 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
- 3/19 - DGSC February Plenary Meeting

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

- Regarding the website - Jose and his team were finally able to update our PHP to 7.2, and while it meant that our website was down for about 5 days, we *should* be functional again.
 - If you use the website and encounter any bugs, PLEASE reach out to me immediately detailing what is wrong so that I can forward this information to Jose and his team.
 - Please remember to never put any sensitive forms or information on DSCWorks, as the site is not a secure platform. Whenever someone puts a vendor form or banking form on the site, I

rush to delete it immediately! Always send that information via password-protected PDF file, and please remind others to do so as well when applicable.

- Regarding the budget: I have been overwhelmed with work this week, so while we got the enrollment data for Spring 2021 on March 1st from Eric Brown, I have yet to sit down and tabulate updated budgetary numbers. I will be doing this early next week, and will have an updated budget to present at the next Plenary meeting. However, to follow back with what I discussed in the last Plenary meeting, since it does not look as though we suffered an enormous loss in enrollment between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, I want to go forward with my plan to increase the budget lines for the Childcare center and Petrie Fund DGSC contribution, and I plan on doing this by completely flat-lining our budget lines for movie ticket purchases, printing and office supplies, and other things that with us remaining virtual for the foreseeable future are not currently relevant.
 - Thoughts?
- Mail - we haven't checked DGSC mail for nearly a year! This is something we need to address at some point!
- For those planning to stay on steering for the next academic year - we need to talk about in-person training, as I believe Sharanya and I will be the only ones who have ever served in-person, in the offices, and in-person DGSC work is obviously different from virtual work. Let's not make any firm plans now, but I want y'all to consider that sometime likely over the summer, when we are hopefully all vaccinated, we will have an in-person training so that we can *all* refresh/learn how to do DGSC work in person!

D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz) - uss@cunydqsc.org

1. [Joint USS/DGSC Resolution Demanding a Safe Vessel at Hudson Yards](#)
 - a) [USS Ad Hoc Committee on Mental Health \(pilot meeting minutes\)](#)
 - Expanding infrastructures (both physical and digital - CUNY Blackboard and CUNYFirst Student Center) for mental health support services in partnership with [HealthyCUNY](#) and [CUNY Mental Health Student Services](#)
 - Our Ad Hoc Mental Health Committee will be organizing a march this spring for mental health (and suicide) awareness at the Highline (starting on the 14th street end) ending with a die-in at The Vessel at Hudson Yards. Please feel free to reach out to me if you're interested in participating in that march, which will be in April or May.
Intend to invite media(NY Times ,Advocate)
2. [Academic Affairs Committee](#)
 - a) Survey for Credit/ No Credit Policy for the remainder of the Pandemic
 - b) Collaboration of Initiatives to add Racial Equity, Gender Equity, Sustainability Inclusion and Mental Health
 - c) Credit/No Credit Petition
3. Legislative Affairs Committee
 - a) March 4th Meeting with Senator Brad Hoylman
 - b) [Collaboration with all other committees](#)
 - c) Continued lobbying of elected officials
4. International Affairs Committee

- a) [Resolution for Tuition Reduction for International Students](#)
5. USS Steering Committee
 - a) [A Resolution condemning Anti-Semitism and supporting the CUNY Jewish Community](#) (tabled until 3/11 steering meeting pending review)
 - b) Support for International Students CUNYwide - March 5, 2021 meeting with Nitin Agrawal, Cofounder & CEO of [Interstride](#), a comprehensive digital platform for International Admissions, Career Services, International Student Services, Alumni Services, Student Affairs, Study Abroad
6. TOMORROW Saturday, March 6th, 2021 at 1 pm [NEW DEAL 4 CUNY](#) organized by the CUNY Rising Alliance - Press Conference & [Rally at Barclay's Center \(Brooklyn\) for the New Deal for CUNY](#)
7. Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 - - To Protest Tuition Hikes - Press Conference and Sit-In at Cuomo's Midtown Office - 633 3rd Ave. NY, NY 10017 (BTW 40th & 41st) #FUNDCUNYNOW |
8. Next USS Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 11th, 2021- 5pm
9. Next USS Emergency Plenary Meeting: Sunday, March 14th, 2021- 12 noon

E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)

1.Report of the UFS Meeting held on February 23.

- Reopening plans will vary from campus to campus: some would continue online (like City College and Lehman), other hybrid, or F2F. Note that continuing online depends on prior approval by the higher ed academic affairs.
- The University is still on self screening preventive method through the everbridge app.
- 2 CUNY Mass Vaccination sites now opened : [Medgars Evers](#) (Brooklyn) and York College (Queens)
- The proposed modification on the UFS membership was adopted: Adjunct faculty can now be UFS senators.
- Validation of the creation of a Committee on Community College proposed by Maureen Matarese on December 1st.

2.Upcoming:

March 10: Graduate Council Meeting

March 12: Meeting with President Garell

March 23, 2021: Next UFS Meeting

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)

- The Grants Committee met this past Wednesday, March 3rd
- We approved two separate applications:
 - Experimental and Feminist Philosophy- for \$450
 - DTSA Graduate Student Virtual Conference and Booth Award
 - For this, the approved amount is still pending. Due to some confusion, almost two separate applications were combined into two, but then both asked for more

money. I am waiting on a descriptive budget, where they outline *exactly* how much they are asking for for *exactly* what before a budget is approved. However, due to the lack of applications, we are most likely going to approve for more than the standard \$700.

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

- talked to a lot of GC students about the nomination process, not aware of results - but seems promising from my end.
- paired with christian to help sharanya process the data necessary for the elections process
- Two new petitions for program representatives were submitted this month.
 - Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences
 - Linguistics

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

- My only update is that yoga and dance fitness are on pause due to administrative waiting.

D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

Updates:

- In contact with The Advocate. They are preparing the next Call for Contributions with a focus on perspectives from the international student community. The deadline will be in a couple of months. More details TBA.
- The survey I'm leading on Sprintax and user's experiences have had 38 responses so far. Not an exciting number, but I will begin to process data next week with my committee. The plan is to submit some sort of report to OIS.

E. Officer for Student Life & Services (Carmín Quijano Seda)

1. I had a Zoom meeting with the virtual theatre company La UVE (<https://www.instagram.com/lauvepr/>) on February 23rd.
2. In the meeting we discussed the following topics:
 - a) Possible dates
 - They said they are available on Mar 24 (W) or Mar. 25 (Th) in the afternoon (evening is better)
 - b) Webinar capacity
 - They told me that their Zoom webinar account has a limit of 100 people. But if we need more, they are willing to either change the restrictions to their account or do a live transmission on YouTube for the exceeding participants.
 - c) Type of play
 - They would like to perform original play called "Etude #2". They described it as psychological horror that explores the violence of being in lockdown

through stimulus and provocation. (There is little use of spoken language.) Duration: 45-50 min.

- Afterwards, they would like to explain the “magic” behind the scenes and do a Q/A with the public. Duration: 30 to 40 min.
 - Total time: 1.5 h
 - I asked them if they think we should warn participants about its content, and they told me that they usually rate this play as R (contains adult material such as adult activity, harsh language, graphic violence, drug abuse and nudity).
- d) Logistics (promotion, registration, webinar platform)
- They told me that they will send me a trailer of their play and pictures, but we will need to make the flyer and circulate it with the GC.
- e) Budget/honorarium
- I told them that our budget is very limited, but we have \$1,000 to plan activities for the Spring semester.
 - I also told them that we do not want to make our students pay.
 - So, they are willing to do the play for the honorarium of \$1,000. (I know that it is a lot for us. So I was thinking that the DGSC could pay \$500, and I will find a sponsor for the other \$500.)
3. On Mar. 2nd, they confirmed their availability and accepted my proposal to do a play for GC students either on Mar. 24 or Mar. 25. (We need to figure out the time.)
4. I sent them an email telling them that we were gonna have this meeting today, and I will confirm with the Steering the details of this event.
- 5. TALENT SHOW**
- a) I am thinking of May 5 (W) or May 6 (Th) as possible dates to organize a talent show.
 - b) I am already reaching out to students from the Music Department to see if some of them could be interested. But I haven't told them anything specific.
 - c) I thought of giving participants gift cards... I think it could be a good incentive.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Edward Charnley)

1. The library reopening continues very slowly - this is largely due to restrictions on staffing mandated by COVID safety policies.
 - a) Emily Drabinski is meeting this week with Reopening Committee representatives within the week and she hopes that scanning services will be available by April.
2. Emily feels it might be good to develop greater awareness of the way in which the NYPL is supposed to act as a key resources for CUNY grad students.
 - a) A good first step would be to request an up to date memorandum of services.
 - b) Streamlining the communications process between the NYPL and CUNY students to help them in being aware of the services the NYPL offer.
 - c) Readjustment of CUNY students' access to MARLI which is currently restricted to ABD students (excluding masters students, which will be significant as their numbers grow).

- d) The NYPL has provided some talks over the last few months about research during COVID, but I am going to see if I can get someone to do another one specifically for CUNY students which maybe projects how to think about research during the reopening (prospective timelines of access to sources, practicable research trajectories etc.)

V. New Business

A. Approval of New Program Representatives (Voting)

1. Linguistics - Haoqing Geng
2. Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences - [Claudia Wald](#)

Motion to approve: KA

Seconded: AK

Vote: Passed unanimously.

B. Approval of [USS/DGSC Joint Resolution Demanding a Safe Vessel at Hudson Yards](#) (Voting)

Motion to approve: RH

Seconded: CP

After discussion AK made a motion to table this item so members can have more time to consider it.

Seconded: SR

Vote: Passed unanimously.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 6:42 pm