



Steering Meeting *Minutes* April 9, 2021

Attendance

Present: Rod Hurley (RH), Sharanya Dutta (SD), Adam Kocurek (AK), Natacha Pawa (NP), Sara Ortiz (SO), Christian Martinez (CM), Katherine Anderson (KA), Cristina Pardo Porto (CPP), Edward Charnley (EC), Carmin Quijano Seda (CQS), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA).

Meeting called to order at

I. Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m

Motion to approve: NP

Seconded: SD

Vote: Unanimously approved

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

Motion to approve: RH

Seconded: SRA

Vote: Unanimously approved

III. Executive Committee Reports

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

- Election ballots are now open (**APRIL 1, 2021, 12 AM EDT - MAY 3, 2021, 11:59 PM EDT.**).
 - Ballot can be accessed: <https://eballot4.votenet.com/dsc>
 - Please help spread the word about elections!
- Help chartered organizations obtain active status by signing their rosters:
<http://cunydgsc.org/works/chartered-organizations/list>
- I'd like to solicit some strategies for getting the word out about elections. Any suggestions?
- Quick catch-up on the Sprintax tax situation that I've faced today.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Rod Hurley)

Updates/Announcements:

- This weekend I'll be launching the Virtual Art/Photo Exhibition. Officer for Student Life and Services will take care of compiling the contributions and posting them on our website. The social media correspondent will post them to our SM profiles.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 4/19 - Graduate Council Executive Committee Meeting
- 4/21 - Co-Chairs Meeting with Office of Student Affairs

- 4/22 - GC Reactivation Committee Monthly Meeting
- 4/23 - DGSC April Plenary Meeting
- 5/7 - DGSC Steering Committee Meeting

C. Co-Chair for Business (Adam Kocurek)

- I have not received any feedback/complaints from students regarding the budget proposed at the last plenary meeting, so I have left it as it is.
- With regards to the GC Provost Search Committee - I am bound by oath not to discuss the proceedings, but I want to emphasize that Raj and I are advocating for candidates who have demonstrated in their applications a concern for student needs and a strong commitment to diversity and equity.
- I have been working with student representatives to try and find creative ways to spend their allocation money. So far, the two main ways that are currently being taken are 1) purchasing gift cards for students in their programs for virtual parties, and 2) using the money as honorarium payments for speakers/presenters. These are by no means the only ways allocation money can be spent, but they are currently the dominant ways. A few students have asked to donate their money to the emergency fund, or are electing to hold off on using allocation money for another semester (which frankly, I am thankful for, considering the fact that we are going to have less money to work with next fiscal year).
- Please remember to submit your check requests
 - Anna Metreveli at the Business Office is taking off June 14 - July 2, 2021 and will be leaving country. At that time she will not have access to her work emails.
 - Typically, we have a lot of payment requests by the end of the fiscal year. Please submit your FY2021 requests by June 1, 2021 this way we can issue and mail checks before she leaves.
 - Any check requests they submit while she gone will be automatically included in the FY2022 budget. Wei, the other officer at the Business Office, might be able to issue emergency wire payments, but not checks because she does not go to the office.
 - In other words, please submit all outstanding stipend requests by June 1st. I will also ask student reps at the next plenary meeting to please submit any/all reimbursement requests before June 1st.
- If you are planning on continuing as a steering member for the next academic year, please note that at some point soon, Sharanya and I (as the two senior DGSC members who will be the only ones who have experience working in-person at the GC as DGSC staff) will be reaching out to you in order to schedule training session so as to facilitate the transition back to hybrid life at the GC.
 - This transition will be a little rocky, as it will be new for all of us, and Sharanya and I are rusty as it is. But we will manage it together! I want to hear your thoughts/concerns.
- Michael Greer and Joseph Bonninger have drafted a resolution expressing concerns about the GC reactivation plan, and want to present it at the next plenary meeting. They asked that I notify steering of their plans.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a8eB697SVwitWFjTIR7YBB4FF8JPihVEIVLdWTGb7G0/edit>

D. USS Delegate (Sara Ortiz)

- [USS/DGSC Joint Resolution Demanding a Safe "Vessel" at NYC Hudson Yards](#) - Passed unanimously 04/08/21 by USS Steering
- Original Resolution (3/14/21) ["Condemning Anti-Semitism and Supporting the CUNY Jewish Community"](#)
- Counter-Resolution (04/08/21) ["Supporting CUNY's Jewish Community, Working to Build Meaningful Mechanisms to End Racism and Bigotry, and Opposing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism,"](#)
- [Open Letter to the CUNY Community Re: USS IHRA resolution](#)
- [JLSA Statement about the 4/8 USS Steering Meeting](#)
- [IHRA Out of CUNY! Toolkit](#)
- Event Announcements:



- Leanne Fan, Adjunct Project Co-Organizer fan.w.leanne@gmail.com · (909) 992-2019
- Next USS Plenary Meeting: Sunday, April 11th, 2021 - 12 noon
- Opportunities for external mutual support
- Tomorrow:

Saturday, April 10th - 3 pm - Bronx - Upper Manhattan DSA EcoSoc - Rally to Push for Public Power legislation holding Con Ed Responsible
1775 Grand Concourse in the Bronx

- [Columbia Student Workers' Strike Campaign](#)

E. UFS Liaison (Natacha Pawa)

Report of the UFS Meeting, March 23

Guest speaker: Matt Sapienza:

- In the 132 million allocated in federal support last year, \$41 million had been allocated earlier in the year for expenses that the colleges have incurred as part of the pandemic, to cover a) dorm and activity fee refunds; b) other tuition refunds by the colleges and c) for mental health services.
- Remaining money to be used to compensate lost revenue due to enrollment losses.
- the Corona Virus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act or CRISTA (Dec 2020), **allocated \$455 million to CUNY**
- **A second wave of funding to come**, CRISTA and this new ARPA, the city will be getting about \$6 billion and the state is getting about 12.5 billion in direct support.
- Now, we have a **\$77 million dollar** challenge on the stateside and bad news on the city side. CUNY is now working to develop a plan as to how and on what the colleges should spend those funds.

- **The third stimulus package** was recently passed is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) . Regardless of what was received by CARES and CRISTA, the ARPA **will be approximately \$55 million.**
- **Note: This stimulus money from the federal government is a cash allotment**
- **STATE BUDGET (April 1st): The Senate added about \$250 million whereas the Assembly added a little over 200 million.**
- **Good news: They took action to try to close the tap gap. Both agreed on restoration, child care.**
- **The Senate proposed 5 million for mental health .>>>an increase for mental health funding and for CUNY LEADS.**
- **16 million** was spent on laptop, ipad, hotspot.
- **\$20 million** for tuition and fee reimbursements

Chair Martin Burke:

Chair Martin Burke spoke about **reopening** , **Senior College Future Enrollment**, and **vaccines** (he specified that there is a difference between “everyone **should get** vaccinated”, and “ everyone **must get** vaccinated” EVC Jose Crews’ last day on the job will be on **May 30**. The news vice chancellor will take function in January of next year. 2 faculty are in the search committee.

Next meeting, May 11.

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Funding (Christian Martinez)

- **The grants committee’s last meeting was March 24th**
 - a) We approved the “Promoting Science Accessibility: A Symposium” for \$700. This event will be held in June
 - b) So far this semester, we have approved of 4 grants, for a total of \$3050
 - c) The grants committee next, and final meeting, will be Wednesday, April 28th.
 - d) PLEASE APPLY FOR A GRANT!

B. Officer for Governance & Membership (Katie Anderson)

- one program has reached out about establishing membership for next year (after failing to nominate anyone in the current election cycle)

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

- Yoga has been having good attendance. The professor is happy with the class.
- A person wrote to me because of attendance to dance lessons.
- I would like to propose continuing with these two classes during summer if we can do that.
- We will have the next committee meeting on Friday 23rd.
- We still don’t have the date for “Navigating NYSHIP”. I would like to have suggestions for this activity.

D. Officer for Outreach (Cristina Pardo Porto)

- LETTER TO OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS on Sprintax
- State Tax Withholdings

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

- Waawena Jewelry Workshop for Mother's Day
 - I am in contact with a Native American student from the Anthropology Department. She agreed on doing the workshop.
 - We are thinking about doing the workshop between Apr. 26 and May 6 (before Mother's Day). She says she can **Thursday 29, Friday 30 or Wed, May 5**.
 - She has asked me about the supplies. Could we reimburse her for the supplies used in the workshop? She says that she could assemble the kits, and I can send them out to people. But I don't know if that would be too complicated.
 - Alternatively, I thought about giving \$15 gift cards to the first 10-15 people who register to the workshop so they can buy the beads and threads.
 - I'll be working on the flyer this weekend.
- DGSC Spring 21 - Art & Photo Exhibition
 - Rod and I are working on a Google form to send to students and ask to participate in this online exhibition.
 - We are thinking of giving a \$10-15 gift card per work submitted.
 - Rod, do we have a deadline to send the Google form to students?
- DGSC's end of the semester party
 - DJ + BYOB: What do you think about setting up a date and contacting a DJ and/or live entertainment to be with us for 1-2 hours.
 - We can send an invitation so students bring their own booze and dance with us.
 - Plus, if we have the money, we could do a raffle at the end.

F. Officer for Technology & Library (Edward Charnley)

STF Committee Notes:

- Went through current year allocation and updates on the status of the projects
- GC Printing Supplies (\$30K) was instead used for emergency laptop purchases (\$6k still available)
- University-wide initiatives (\$200k), each campus pays into this for CUNY-wide software (zoom, Microsoft products). CUNY central did NOT take this and we have these funds available to spend!
 - this may not be a policy decision, could be a temporary thing as a result of covid
 - several years ago, central office raised the STF so they could take a portion of it centrally to spend across all the schools
 - last year they didn't spend all that money, and they rebated some of it back. this year because of covid, they are not doing central office initiatives so that money is not being taken from us
- Contract obligations
 - we have to pay the Konica Minolta contract whether we have students printing or not. More flexibility for the purchase of paper. We don't know how much paper we'll need next year
- Biology

- one license for zotero storage space (\$20)
 - not per student, we have many other storage options at the GC and free options online
 - not approved
- Psychology
 - Pavlovia for online behavioral research
 - institutional license, many psychology labs use this, popular
 - each lab pays per subject and pay it out of their grant
 - could RF buy the license for all the labs instead if it coming from STF
 - approved for \$1950
- IT
 - Replacement of PCs and Macs in student lounges and library
 - 80 PCs, 45 Macs
 - PCs bought with 5-year warranty, Macs with 3-year warranty
 - ideally 180 PCs and 70 macs
 - approved for \$2,075.72
- Library
 - Electronic database subscriptions \$210,000
 - Additional ebooks \$92,671.20 DRM-free, and on-demand \$25,000
 - One-time purchase for the ebooks that would then be in the collection
 - approved for 328000
- SLHS
 - Eye-tracking software and computers (\$50,117)
 - GRTI (graduate research technology initiative)
 - not approved
- Student disability services
 - software and equipment
 - additional requests for licenses but without dollar amounts
 - request for support staff without dollar amount
 - approved for \$4515
- Speech Linguistics
 - 3D/4D Ultrasound (\$90000)
 - not approved
- EES
 - purchase of equipment to broadcast colloquium (\$3019.68)
 - not approved
- Michael Greer has kindly drawn up a resolution for the DGSC to consider opposing the austerity cuts which are being made to the library. The resolution is still in the works but any

thoughts or contributions to the language would be welcomed. I will submit it in the next plenary meeting for consideration and ratification.

V. New Business

A. Steering Discretionary Funding (Voting)

Motion: (RH) We should allocate \$2500 form our discretionary fund for the gift cards for the photo and art exhibition

Seconded: SO

Vote: Vote passes unanimously

Motion: (RH) We should allocate \$1500 to spend on gifts for outgoing DGSC representatives

Seconded: CPP

Vote: Vote passes unanimously

B. Planning for Spring Steering Retreat & Goals Assessment

RH: This is a follow-up from the retreat we had at the beginning of last semester where we set goals for the year ahead.

C. Addressing Students' Diversity More Effectively (The right to have a different opinion)

Discussion on strategies to allow space for minority or dissenting voices to be heard during online meetings including assigning a chat moderator.

VI. Announcements

SO: Motion to support April 14th town hall on human rights and LGBTQ.

Seconded: SRA

Vote: Passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at: 8:10PM