



DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The Graduate Center, CUNY
Robert E. Gilleece Student Center | Suite 5495
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Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 4th, 2022

4:00PM

Attendance

Present: Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Christopher Campbell (CC), Jonathan Hanon (JH), Katherine Rivera Gomez (KRG), Ian Williams (IW), Sayantika Mondal (SM), Eric Barenboim (EB, proxy for Angela LaScala Gruenewald), Alex Jiang (AJ), Daniel Okpattah (DO)

Remote attendance via Zoom: Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic (PMO)

Meeting Chair: Chris

Minutes: Ian

Minutes Assist: Alex

Meeting called to order at 4:37pm

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve: JH

Seconded: SRA

Vote: Unanimous

II. Approval of the Minutes of the 14 October 2022 Meeting

Motion to Approve: JH

Seconded: SRA

Vote: Unanimous

III. Executive Committee Reports

A. Co-Chair for Student Affairs (Silvia Rivera Alfaro)

Updates:

- Meeting with the Wellness Center on Oct 25th. The Officer for Outreach, the Officer for Health and Wellness, and I participated in this meeting with the staff of the center. It was a very productive meeting, as during the previous years it has been really difficult to reach out to the Wellness Center. The officers will report more on the meeting.
- Lunch with the president, the provost, and the interim, the co-chairs and the USS.
- Cafeteria:
 - At the meeting with the president and the provost, I asked about the issue of the cafeteria, they told us the responses of the vendors have been based on the number of people coming to the building at the entrance of the lobby. They mentioned the number of people coming weekly has increased from around 600 at the beginning of the semester to 2000 recently and this could be a good factor for the
 - The testing center has been moved to the new location (also on the first floor). The vending machines and the tables have been installed on the first floor.

Rooms reservations:

- Last year, due to Covid policies, the Steering Committee has made decisions on room reservations in order to respond to the context of the moment, particularly, we have included the option for students to reserve a room for a 2-hour window for a maximum of 16 times over the course of the semester to teach virtual classes, sending a copy of their teaching schedule at the moment of submitting the reservation request. I would like us to discuss if we will keep this option for the students or if it would be a good moment to change this policy.
- During this year the rooms are being more active. We have about 74 reservations at the moment, I am including the reservations for our plenaries in this number. However, it helps us to have an idea of the use of our resources.
- Works is open for room reservations. However, the file with the rooms should still be used as there were reservations made prior to opening Works.
- About the room, a common issue that has been asked by the students is if our rooms are equipped for hybrid meetings. This is a topic I would like us to take in mind for possible improvements.

Announcements:

- Upcoming meetings
 - Budget Committee (Graduate Council) - Nov 7th, 4 p.m.

- Please remember to complete your SPARC training if you have not already done so.

Discussion:

- Silvia: delivered report, recapped meetings. Discussed concerns with foodservice vendors. Room reservations - concerns with resolving issue online w/ classes not being assigned rooms. There are internet connection issues in some rooms.
- Chris: following up on Cafeteria time. Some discussion about that. Similar situation at Baruch - been vending machines now for some time. Heard from Matt Schoengood at OSA about a vendor for the cafeteria who had a contract, Business Office didn't pay them on time, and the vendor backed out.
- Jonathan: One thing about the cafeteria - everything at CUNY is a CUNY-wide contract, including restrictions on what we can do for vendors. For food service, this is not the case. We asked the President about the GC; we were told it is not subsidized, GC has to make it work financially. Only CUNY-wide when it "makes sense for CUNY".
- Silvia: PSC meeting - there is a labor-management meeting. They are also discussing the cafeteria. They were also discussing payments and delays, similar issues that we are experiencing. We should get closer to PSC and other issues.
- Chris: We've been talking a lot with the PSC, how to collaborate over the next year. We're going to invite them to one of our Plenary meetings as a speaker.
- Ian: I'm in favor of that.
- Parisa: What did the Provost and President have to say about this?
- Chris: This is in my report. Basically, there will be vending machines on the first floor, with "elevated food"
- Parisa: let me ask - we have a certain amount of money put aside for events, catering, etc. How much would it be for us to subsidize food on each floor, for each department? What if we were able to look at the budget and subsidize each department? If there are days there are more people there, and they know they are in need of food - how can we get food in people's mouths that is more affordable than what they can get on the street?
- Chris: Jonathan is going to discuss a surplus in the budget, and some options we could consider, like having food every week.
- Parisa: What could we do? Like Google, or other companies that have yummy snacks?
- Chris: I'm not sure what the process is.
- Parisa: Costco has a business account system... What if we tried out something for procuring food where we were not relying on vendors. After we see how much we're spending and consuming, perhaps we could go to a vendor and say, "this is

how much we're spending and eating... Do we want to spend money based on that to allocate food?" Could we try something out?

- Silvia: It's a good idea, but it's difficult to keep food in other places in the building, or keep it in... for example, this week, the Mexican Studies group had an event for Dia de los Muertos, and they [administration] were really hard with where to keep food and store it, I don't know how it wouldn't have them...
- Parisa: do the departments all have fridges? We have one for Sociology.
- Silvia: Many do, some don't, but even those that do have fridges have very small fridges.
- Parisa: vending machines have shelf stable food.. but
- Silvia: could we have something in the dining commons for students to pick up?
- Sayantika : We have a policy in my department, we can't store food in our department.
- Jonathan: There are a lot of intricacies that have to go into this - what are we providing, how much, how long, how are we planning for it, how are we planning to store it? Also concerns of larger scale operations about providing food - we can't start a business. The GC is a union building. So there are legal and budgetary intricacies.
- Parisa: I'm not suggesting starting a business, but something to get more money and funds for students.
- Jonathan: That might run into more complications.
- Parisa: I'm suggesting we explore this as an alternative to nothing, which is what we have right now. I have a Costco membership to look into ordering in bulk to look at ordering and delivering to the GC. Just something, it's crazy to think that there are so many people coming in every day who have to either pack lunch or go hungry.
- Eric: can we combine this idea with a petition? Do it one day? Do it every month?
- Jonathan: once a week?
- Eric: that's a lot of work. How much support do we get? If it's one huge thing, a demonstration.
- Ian: We can get ideas, put it out through social media.
- Parisa - if I thought that student enthusiasm would push the needle, I would be at it every day. I've seen them push things that they're like "there, there now". Particularly if we get it on social media and news, maybe that will get them to act.
- Sayantika : I have another idea, about distributing to different departments. a) different departments are involved in different levels, some do not have reps and b) many students and departments are not here because of their labs. Bars or something more stable make more sense. There are other schools that have pantries for students, maybe we can do something with groceries for like 3 days?

- Silvia: I want to say more about this - will be in Chris's report, there are pantries on other campuses.

B. Co-Chair for Communications (Christopher Campbell)

Updates:

- We will need to change the Steering and Plenary duties to include Food and Food Assist as was done in previous years. For now, I changed "Plenary Incentives" to "Food" since this is the equivalent of our online meetings. If you need to change certain dates, let me know. I'll mention in my report that there will be ways of ordering through Provost/OSA so we won't need to use our own money. Like I mentioned in an email sent earlier today, I've been ordering and picking up food for our meetings and it's too much for one person to consistently do.
- We discussed forming a group to begin the process of doing a press release but, for the moment, that's off the table – reimbursements have been made in a more timely manner recently, and we don't want to rock the boat with the business office. Instead, Jonathan, Angela, and I will meet with members of the Business Office at the beginning of December. We will ask them what their plan is for assuring on time payments going forward. Our discussion from this meeting will inform whether or not we will go forward with organizing.
- Some updates on the meeting with the President & Provost:
 - The GC is giving Department Heads and others a "P Card," which is essentially a company credit card. The DGSC will not be getting a P Card. However, there will be options for ordering food and supplies through the Provost's Office as well as OSA.
 - When asked about a cafeteria option, President Garrell suggested that if students are financially strapped that there are nearby food pantries.
 - The Centralized Payment System was, essentially, denied by President Garrell. She said that a targeted intervention for students would be more appropriate considering there will be a change in the current system within the coming years (i.e. it wouldn't make sense to change a system right now since it will be changed soon, anyway). This targeted intervention approach would entail, perhaps: (1) students contacting Phyllis Schultz to request that their MOU be filled, or (2) other people around the university being given the ability to approve or fulfill of MOUs (such as APOs). This will need to be followed up on.
- At our next Plenary meeting we will vote on adopting the Board of Trustees clause for remote access to our DGSC meetings. I asked Matt in OSA a few days ago how requests for "extraordinary circumstances" exceptions would work but he didn't know. We're still figuring out how this would work. We would prefer

that Disability Services handles these requests for a number of reasons, although we will still need an in-person quorum. In a lot of ways, blending both in-person and online attendance could be problematic for the DGSC if quorum can only be met in person (e.g. if x number of people can attend online, what about the y number of people under “extraordinary circumstances” would need to attend online as well?)

- I received a couple of complaints about the DGSC not holding a Halloween party this year. We definitely need to start planning a GC-wide event that would take place perhaps close to the end of the semester.

Discussion:

- Chris: delivered report; talking through items.
- Parisa: anyone who takes on food, just be aware you may not be reimbursed in a timely manner.
- Chris: Provost has P-card (cards for purchase), we need to work that out a week in advance to make sure everything is ready to go. It'll involve some coordination.
- Silvia: on the pantry, I want to go a little bit with Alex's comment. It was also in a frame of asking if there were students, in general, who experienced food insecurity. As we mentioned, in the case of international students, there are international students who have to send money [home] with the money from their scholarships (example: students from Venezuela, or Lebanon). There are also students who have children, it makes it harder with our scholarships. The pantry is important, especially given inflation.
- Chris: On my end, I'm hard-pressed to think that President Garrell is thinking about food pantries from the perspective of students sending money to their families. I think it's more, they just don't want to pay us more. To me it's problematic..
- Silvia: I don't think they exclude each other, it's part of the subjects. It's going to be a part of the budget committee.
- Sayantika - there are schools that are partnered with external organizations, get food from them and then they distribute it to students, that's how they make it free.
- Jonathan - OSA does not have a p-card. Information we put on record should be accurate.
- Ian - some of us are not familiar with these things, so people should correct them as we go along.
- Parisa - I'm unsettled by the cues that I'm hearing, about President Garrell... I find that really disturbing... that whole attitude, the whole discomfort with referring to students and treating students in this way. I find it dehumanizing and I'm not into it, and again, I don't even think we should be sitting here talking

about it... No, we're doctoral students, what are our peers looking at in their institutions? We should stop swallowing this message, we're CUNY, we're not Columbia... What is this disgusting mindset that they say? We should deserve to be able to eat when we go to class. I cannot see a DGSC of a previous year actually discussing a food pantry as a viable option.

- Alex: The previous discussion was not about a food pantry, it was about a cafeteria. The president was worried about students and food insecurity - she asked multiple times if students were experiencing it, and she shared the information.

C. Co-Chair for Business (Jonathan Hanon)

Updates:

- Reimbursements
 - Most of our reimbursements have gone through, and it seems like things should be processed better moving forward.
 - Some fell through the cracks, I am working on these.
- Stipends
 - All stipend requests I submitted to the Business Office prior to October 15th should be processed.
 - I have followed up about those I have submitted since then and am awaiting further information.
 - I am figuring out where any remaining delays are coming from, to try to prevent them from happening again.
- Business Office
 - I am working on setting up a better and more sustainable workflow with the Business Office.
 - Upcoming meeting on Wednesday, November 30th, to discuss how to more effectively expend our money.
- Follow-up Information on Surplus
 - No longer confidential, we have a substantial surplus to expend in the coming years, and need to make plans to spend our surplus.
 - Ideas?

Discussion:

- Jonathan: surplus is between \$200k-\$300k.
- Alex: we can't move the funds into future years?
- Jonathan: we need to make sure about how to use substantial amounts of it. Let's create a 2-3 year plan on how we want to expend it.
- Alex: we could donate some books to the library.

- Sayantika: that's a lot of money; we could start our own scholarship, or other forms of money for students (direct support).
- Chris: part of the suggestion was Matt and Brian suggesting they use funds to purchase for the library.
- Jonathan: Meeting with CIO of CUNY. Tech fee usage across CUNY. Most of the tech fees are used on things that it shouldn't be used on. We need to follow this up with CIO in the future. Tech fee might have more scrutiny behind it. We might not be able to pay for some data bases in the future. We might need to cover more things from our budget.
- Sayantika: Agree with Chris. CUNY should figure out how to purchase it's things with its funds. Our funds are not theirs. We should find things that would be interesting to spend money on, things that CUNY won't cover.
- Jonathan: It makes no sense that we pay for CUNY things.
- Silvia: Maybe we should invest in the rooms. More tech in the rooms.
- Chris: Upgrade for long term viability for GC would help students.
- Sayantika: Is it something that CUNY should provide? If not then we could help provide it.
- Silvia: another thing that was brought up, could be two things good for the wellness center. 1) a nurse practitioner; 2) a social worker. The NP was paid before partially with money from the DGSC. Matt mentioned that a social worker could be very good for the students.
- Parisa: What is the protocol for opening up to suggestions of the use of funding.
- Jonathan: Everyone can give suggestions, but we haven't even decided the process. The proposal will come from college.
- Parisa: who's going to decide which tier of the decision will be the final decision?
- Silvia: We are going to discuss with plenary on where to spend the money. We will also involve discussion with admins for feedback.
- Jonathan: we are still not sure what the last step of approval is.
- Parisa: In case of vending machine, could we purchase vending machine?
- Jonathan: can't do that, that belongs to the auxiliary enterprise corporation. Vending machine will have labor cost, and that must be unionized, it has to go through the auxiliary enterprise corporation.

D. University Student Senate Delegate (Alex Jiang)

Updates:

- Late Payment
 - Centralized payment system -- unlikely
 - Centralized timesheet approval -- possible
 - Every department having a MOU -- something we can work on

Discussion:

- Alex: payment system is affected by CUNY-wide changes. Alternatives - w/ advisors not approving, we can hand that to APO's. Students not being aware of how much they are being paid, some have MOU's that state clearly how much they are going to be paid.
 - Ian: asked clarifying question about funding structure/letter for students, causes of students not knowing from where/how they get paid.
 - Chris:
 - Alex: discussed his own experience.
 - Sayantika: Doesn't the offer letter say everything you are supposed to get paid at the beginning of your year?
 - Katherine: there's a graduate advisor in each department, they are responsible for getting students their letters.
 - Ian: Are there disparities in payment amount in the same program?
 - Katherine: Yes, some students get paid more.
 - Sayantika: Not every department gets paid by advisor. Some people are not even funded. People get paid very differently across GC.
 - Alex: For example, some of my friends are paid \$40k without having to teach. Some people get \$30k in total, and some people have different payments.
 - Parisa: Eliminating the two tier funding was what we were discussing with the president last year. This is something that we should push for, knowing we got funding increase from NYS. The provost was not aware of the way that science students are paid. They were committed of getting towards that, but I don't know if we are still push towards that.
 - Jonathan: Follow up on that. When we were talking about the \$7 million didn't we not receive that funding?
 - Parisa: We did get it, but we are not receiving it immediately. The provost was big on eliminating the two tier system.
 - Jonathan: I don't think we got that... I was at both last year. In the winter we were told we didn't get it.
 - Alex: Clarification on the discussion of eliminating the two-tiered system
 - Parisa: [explained the two-tiered system; disparities of funding between departments] -- basically a minimum funding model that also guarantees health insurance.
- [back and forth]**
- Ian: My program is only funded for two years with Grad-D. We emailed the Provost this fall about it, with a letter signed by the two most recent cohorts, asking for a humble increase of a third year of Grad-D funding.
 - Parisa: I agree. We need to make higher-ed accessible, we need to fight for that.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/j/92825478194>

E. University Faculty Senate Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)

Updates:

- September: did not meet quorum.
- October: missed, due to flu. Minutes were sent out ahead of time. All about enrollment, increasing rates of transferability (from community colleges to senior colleges). They are seeing attrition and drop-out rates from Senior colleges. A spreadsheet was sent out re: enrollment, discussion about competition with SUNY's.
- Most of the dialogue: how do we fill our classrooms, and how do we earn more money?
- Mission for USF Liaison - do we want to maintain the same mission as years past?
- I could also just be a messenger.

Discussion:

- Jonathan: we're talking about the role of the UFS Liaison, about getting more representation. At this point we have a voice on the floor; we can further our agenda, we can represent the UFS on the floor as a member of the body, even if we don't have a vote. Another thing UFS is focusing on is online studies, and low faculty numbers, and low faculty rates across campus. Of the \$52 million allocated for hires, about \$10 million cannot be accounted for, CUNY is under-hiring. There are a lot of things going on that CUNY is just not doing what it's supposed to do.
- Parisa; in terms of the hiring gaps, that was a topic that was discussed even last year, I believe Ned Benton brought it up last year. One of the faculty members was discussing the conversion from current adjuncts to some of those lines... it's definitely one of those topics that was brought up. But the concern with filling those lines, the concern I got was that it was secondary, in terms of the top down, to getting enrollment numbers. They're more preoccupied with making money, to paying money. They're more content with having classes filled to the brim, and using underpaid adjuncts, overworked adjuncts, than filling these lines. When we talk about going to the PSC with things, this is where we bump heads; the PSC represents other people who don't have the same interests as we do, as educators, this is why I feel it's important for us to have a voice on USF. Even though we're given the opportunity to speak, there's a lot of politics... so if i were to raise an issue to talk about adjuncts who are underpaid, and work too many classes, they don't want to hear that... and then I wouldn't get called on. They don't care... [...] maybe we should have a strategic understanding of what the position is for. I can come back all

year, they're worried about money, and worried about enrollment... How can we better utilize this position?

- Jonathan: when it comes to how we can work with the UFS. The UFS is not just full timers, there are a lot of people who do want to work with adjuncts, we just have to talk to the right people. Even the fact that CUNY is hiring lecturers and not professors, UFS has brought this up as well. CUNY central is talking about developing additional lecturer titles, similar to tenure-track professor titles. We have lecturers who are teaching 27 credits per year but are not getting paid for advising and research load, whereas professors teach less, get paid more, and do get paid for advising and research load. Apparently, even though we're told CUNY central demands 70% in-person, the Provost says that there is no such mandate anymore, it is up to the college's decision. College administrations do not want to inform us that they can let you teach online if they let it.
- Ian: Same experience, requested to teach online, and they allowed.
- Parisa: This is a UFS resolution that led to CUNY central to give each college their own decision on whether they can teach remotely or not. Here we can see UFS fighting along our interests. Not always though, only when it is in their interest.
- Ian: asked point of information, who is Ned Benton?
- Jonathan: President of John Jay Faculty Senate, Chair of UFS Budget Advisory Committee. [https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/faculty/warren-"ned"-benton](https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/faculty/warren-)

IV. Steering Officer Reports

A. Officer for Health & Wellness (Katherine Rivera Gomez)

Updates: Yoga classes will begin on Monday November 14th 730am. Only once a week for now, since one of the yoga instructors declined the \$63-hr rate . I asked the second instructor if she is interested in taking the Thursday class but I am still concerned about the pay. Discussing with other students after the Plenary meeting, they were shocked that the pay is so low, one mentioned that before when the classes were in person, the instructor would get cash tips after the classes, so the pay raise is deserved when classes are online. Silvia has mentioned to Eric that we need to have a clear idea of how much we can pay the instructors through OSA so we know our limits. I asked him for this document as well as a reason why HR declined the raise and to submit a new request for an increase.

Meeting with the Wellness Center with Silvia and Natalie was very introspective, we learned about how they work and the options that they offer as well as other options students have when they encounter problems. Natalia and I want to work on a document to provide the resources that were pointed out to us by the Wellness center, to make it more accessible for students to see what options are available to them depending on what their specific needs are, whether it is at the wellness center or other resources.

Discussion:

- Katherine: HR denied our request of \$80 an hour for a Yoga instructor even when we can pay for it.
- Parisa: When we are talking about the budget money that we have, can we buy gym equipment?
- Jonathan: discussion for another time, we need to talk to facilities about that. Need exercise room.

B. Officer for Outreach (Natalia Lara)

Updates:

- Met with the staff members from the Wellness center with the CC of Student Affairs and the Officer for Health and Wellness. We shared some student mental health needs that we were aware of, including the thought of having a support group for students who are experiencing high distress due to situations in their home countries.
 - The Wellness Center told us a lot of students have been using their services. In regards to the situation with Iran, they told us many Iranian students have reached out and each appear to have different needs.
 - They walked us through some of the services they are offering and how they are trying to reach more students.
 - The Officer for Health and Wellness and myself will check-in to ensure that students know how to sign up for services.
 - A staff member from the Wellness Center also agreed to come to a Plenary meeting, which might be a good place for student representatives to share any current mental health needs.
- Met with Heidi from the International Office and the Officer for Student Life and Services. Heidi said that many international students are interested in having an international student organization. Sayantika and I will write an email inviting international students to create this organization. The purpose of this organization is to be a home base for organizing social events and for students to connect.

Heidi will send this email to all international students, and they will reach out to me if they are interested.

Discussion:

- Parisa: did they mention the plight of Iranian students? I don't think anything went out about it.
- Jonathan (and Alex): An email went out from the President. The wellness notice went out, and the political notice went out quite late.

C. Officer for Student Life & Services (Sayantika Mondal)

Updates:

Organized a virtual Halloween contest. (An online photo contest)

Still taking entries till tmrw! And also looking for ppl to judge or suggestions on how to do that. Just showing off the pretty poster



Got some free boardgames! And will be buying some more board games so that we can start our board game nights soon.

Discussing with Officer of outreach the idea of a thanksgiving/Friendsgiving event for students who are away from home and others interested (tentatively Wednesday 23rd Nov/ Monday 28th)

Discuss hosting an end of semester party for all students with other members.

Host other activities. In particular I love the idea of a signing party for the cafeteria and would like to do it.

Met with Heidi from the International Office. Heidi said that many international students are interested in having an international student organization. Natalia and I will write an email inviting international students to create this organization. The purpose of this organization is to be a home base for organizing social events and for students to connect. Heidi will send this email to all international students, and they will reach out to me if they are interested.

Follow up on the off hour access issues.

Discussion:

- Jonathan: off-hours is not happening, according to the President. They are short-staffed in Public Safety for overnight hours.
- Sayantika: it was temporarily suspended for the pandemic, it should be resumed.
- Silvia: they said they are trying to find people for these positions, but it has been really hard to find people. The people who are on staff right now, they work double, they work a lot of hours.
- Sayantika: I understand they are overwhelmed, there used to be more staff.
- Parisa: Cheering what you are saying! They are saving money by not hiring.
- Jonathan: Under staffing in many situations. Wellness center, public safety etc.
- Katherine: According to some laws, they need to have enough security personnel.
- Jonathan: Other campus doesn't have off hour hour, necessity is the condition.
- Sayantika: Faculty can access off hours, they should be able to do it.
- Ian: Matter of principle. We need access to a library on the weekend, we need the space. It is a reasonable request, outside condition notwithstanding.
- Parisa: Increasing library hour pre-pandemic conversation. How do they justify doctoral students not having access to a library.
- Alex: We don't actually hire, so what can we do?
- Jonathan: follow up on library being open, the president don't want to extend to hour b/c people are not there. But obviously people are not here b/c the hour is bad.
- Ian: Psych rep mentioned that a lot of worker that do extended hours are students. And it is difficult to get students.
- Parisa: can we get access to NYU and Columbia library? That's something we should push for it. If they don't want to pay for full time staff.
- Sayantika: Building access is different from library. We should have building access back to pre-pandemic condition. Anything constructive we can do?

- Jonathan: I don't think there is anything we can do. They just need to hire more people.
- Natalia?: We just focus on opening cafeteria, get people together, then we get to do other things.
- Parisa: Angela texted, she said if we are going to reopen the cafeteria, can they accept snap? Can we ask for that?
- Jonathan: that should be possible. I've seen that at other CUNY's before.

D. Officer for Library & Technology (Daniel Okpattah)

Updates:

- Discussion with Maura Smale about extending library hours on the weekends. She said she will speak with Matthew Curtis about that.

Discussion:

- Zhou wanted a meeting on library hour. By 8:15pm only 15 people at the library. Matthew hires library staff. If they see more students coming in, we can justify our ask for more hiring. I was thinking how can we get students to come and stay the library. Even if they just see students stay until 9pm, we can make an argument.
- Sayantika: 8:15pm is too late, people don't come back after dinner.
- Daniel: I understand what you are saying, but if the admins see people come in, it would make it easier for us to ask for extended hour.
- Sayantika: Ask people if they would come back if the library hour is extended.
- Daniel: send out a survey, how much people use library.
- Ian: Thank you for sharing this valuable information. Maybe we can mobilize enough students to hit the bar for having longer hours.
- Katherine: Is there a way to ask for temporary extension, so we can see if people come in longer.
- Jonathan: Other campuses when they do 24h library, student government pay for it. We can do that, we can talk about it.
- Alex: what is the distribution? Over time? When does the number drop off?
- Daniel: it drops after 8:30pm. For 6 or 7, we have maybe 40 people.
- Alex: can we get rid of having to show ID at the library?
- Jonathan: that's a CUNY-wide policy for all libraries
- Alex: is there space for discussion and conversations in the library?
- Sayantika: [...]I said let's all write a research paper :pp

- Jonathan - IT conference is happening at John Jay, on December 2nd. Chris is presenting there. How many people would interested in attending?
- Silvia: some of us are interested in attending the conference; the idea is to set a meeting location at John Jay, and here.
- Jonathan: if you're interested, we can set up a remote location at John Jay [and also have it here]. Since it's a CUNY campus, provided we disclose these public locations so that they are able to attend, it's considered for quorum for an open meeting.
- Sayantika - let's just do it there.
- Jonathan - we can do it at both.
- [agreed upon by meeting]

E. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)

Updates:

- Grand deadlines
 - Friday, November 18
 - Friday, January, 20: this is the First Grant Deadline for Spring Semester—a good time to apply for any funding needs in the spring for events or services
- Grant Committee met today to review one grant
 - Approved “Colombian Cultural Workshop. Cumbia: The Legacy of Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Resistance” (honoraria) (\$700)
- Recently also approved via expedited review
 - The Ofrenda (\$233)
 - LAILAC Student Conference (\$700)
- Considering future funding for
 - GC Music Teaching Hub Student Submission Incentive Program
- Next Grant Committee Meeting is Dec 9 at 3 pm Room 5409
- New social media promotion on grants rolling out! Please follow and share our DGSC materials – @cunydgsc

Announcements:

Discussion

F. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ian Williams)

Updates:

- I tabulated attendance and absences for the September and October plenaries, which Co-Chairs have access to the full data on.
 - September attendance was not great (we had 27).
 - October was only slightly better (30).
 - September is not surprising given that we had five days' notice for the change to mandatory in-person attendance. We had fewer requests for proxies for October.
 - I have not yet received requests for November but anticipate that I will once Plenary reminders are sent out.
- To my knowledge, Proxy requests are not yet up and running in Works, so I am continuing to do so by.
- There are several roles which will be automatically removed this month in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, unless we decide to, under extraordinary circumstances, waive the September attendance.
- Linguistics petitioned for a representative and submitted a completed petition to me.
- Silvia offered to help me with reviewing previous election outcomes to identify potential vacancy fill-ins, and outreach to program EOs and APOs regarding vacancies.
- We have one filled petition to vote on:
 - Linguistics - Program Rep - Vicki Li

Announcements:

- Reminders about signing in at Plenary attendance, and requirements for attending Plenary and/or arranging a Proxy. This is everyone's responsibility to take care of for their own role.

Discussion:

- Silvia: before, with the DSC, Master's students were not a part of the council. That might also be a difference. It's really important for the Master's students to join, for them to have access to their allocations.
- Silvia: about Works, we can turn it on.
- Ian:
- Jonathan: that would require us to create events on the calendar. When we looked at the minutes of the old Plenaries.
- Sayantika: tell people if they are going to be removed?
- Ian: it is part of the rule how this is happening. But I would like to email people about it.

- Parisa: Giving a pass for september. UFS didn't even have a meeting b/c they didn't have quorum. A lot of people were not prepared, it would be exclusionary if we just kick people out.
- Ian: Great irony in how Open Meetings Law is kicking people out. Would we want to absolve September attendance?
- Jonathan: Let's reach an agreement first and then we can bring it to plenary.
- Parisa: Do some positions have more leeway as they have many more meetings to attend to?
- Ian: I hear you. I think the constitution and the by laws are strict, we can stretch it to an extend, but not infinitely. We should talk about what we can do.
- Daniel: Most of my experiments are run on Fridays, they typically run very long. It is very difficult to make it in time.
- Ian: get someone to proxy! Cycle through them.
- Sayantika: When election comes we should tell them about this, so they know that Friday is going to be meetings.
- Daniel: It is not fixed that we have to meet on Friday.
- : I suggested last time more people should come as audience.
- Katherine: I think it is a good idea, just to get people to come here and watch.
- Parisa: I offered money for someone to be my proxy, but people were not interested. The department is fighting for the SSA to be compensated for their labor. I believe everyone should be paid for their labor.
- Jonathan: We cannot pay students to serve on the plenary, it's illegal.
- Parisa: We should fight to change the law, if the law is exploiting us.
- Silvia: We all need to come to the plenary.
- Sayantika: I got my proxy, but my point it is hard to get proxy. Perhaps we can suggest there's free food maybe that makes it easier.
- Jonathan: there are certain things that cannot be paid for. I.e. department paying for students to serve on committees.
- Silvia: Logistics is also a problem, because we haven't been reimbursed.
- Ian: There is a burden for whomever is paying for it. There is just an expectation that students do things for free.
- Parisa: We are being used to improve the department. E.g. finding guest speakers, looking at applications. But we don't get supported at all. Going through all of that the student government looks not so appetizing, it just looks like another bureaucratic apparatus. We should support people who are trying to help improve the condition of the students.

V. New Business

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Alex

Seconded: Eric

Voted: unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 7:11 pm 11/4/2022

DRAFT