



## DOCTORAL AND GRADUATE STUDENTS' COUNCIL

The Graduate Center, CUNY  
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### Steering Committee Meeting

*Minutes*

December 2nd, 2022

4:00PM

#### **Attendance**

Present:

Graduate Center location: Ian Williams (IW), Natalia Lara (NL), Katherine Rivera Gomez (KRG), Alex Jiang (AJ), Silvia Rivera Alfaro (SRA), Eric Barenboim (EB, proxy for Angela LaScala-Gruenewald), Christopher Campbell (CC), Sayantika Mondal (SM)

John Jay College location: Jonathan Hanon (JH)

Remote attendance via Zoom: Parisa Osmanovic (PO)

Absent: Daniel Okpattah

Meeting Chair: Silvia

Minutes: Parisa, Chris, Silvia

Minutes Assist: Ian, Alex

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

Motion to Approve: Sayantika Mondal

Seconded: Ian

Vote: passes unanimously

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes of the 4 November 2022 Meeting**

Motion to Approve: Sayantika

Seconded: Ian

Vote: passes unanimously

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. End-of-Semester Party**

SRA: This is the first big party of the semester, student-wide. I'm going to give the floor to Sayantika who is in charge of this party.

SM: Let's talk about something fun. We have a date for the party and a room. Dining commons on the 16th of December. We have the room until 11pm. The party has to end at 10pm. We haven't decided on the start of the party time. We made an excel sheet of what we think are things needed for this party, potential tasks. I would like everyone to pitch in. Either help with the whole thing, take one responsibility, like clean up, buying alcohol. I really wish everyone would take one task. We want to focus on publicity, so you could help us with online publicity if you aren't coming to the GC.

What time do we want to start the party? We have the room starting at about noon. We have to decorate and talk about the food. We'll use a caterer because we're using the dining commons. We will have to look for a bartender as well, which is also part of the rules of the space. We're also thinking of a DJ, if we want a DJ someone should volunteer to find a DJ.

Someone should be able to share the link to the excel sheet for ideas for the party. So far we just booked the room and we have the fact that we can have a party in this building. We should be able to agree now so we can act on it. We talked to Rod and people on DGSC before and took their old excel sheet to be edited.

SR: Sayantika is saying that we are going with a caterer because we're required to

IW: Should we have a theme? We want unity, we want space, we're organizing against this administration so we want something fun.

CC: Getting hard liquor, wine and drinks the day of are small things that people that have more time in their hands can help with something like that. If you can't come to the GC there are things that can be done remotely like finding a DJ. We are asking if steering officers can help with the rest of the things, like perishables.

SM: Just because there are names for some things, anyone could still join if they are passionate about it. We can perhaps make a statement of cafeteria: ghost of cafeteria from the past.

NL: I like that idea, a lot of us are burned out, I did want a space that people didn't have to deal with it. Something subtle and in your face might just work.

SR: As you saw in the report, there is a petition for the cafeteria. Eric was mentioning this in the cafeteria space, another student told us they would like to join the task force for the cafeteria.

SM: I do agree that this should just be a fun party, we don't want to make this a big political event.

PMO: For clarity, when I was reading the minutes with President Garrell, something was mentioned about the lights not turning on in the cafeteria. Do lights turn on there now?

SRA: I have followed up with building facilities. There was almost no light. We called security. They turned on the light. We're following up on this request.

IW: Thank you for clarifying. I like the idea of subtle humor and fun and things like that.

PMO: Some ideas decor-wise. Post-halloween stuff. Cobwebs. Super cheap. Generators or flashlights because we can't keep the lights on.

SRA: Motion to approve Ghost of Cafeterias Past Theme  
Seconded:

Document for the party tasks:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1\\_znDC3ltF7-kGhwDSjmgMOU7bwGDrOgsZUglXZfJ61I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_znDC3ltF7-kGhwDSjmgMOU7bwGDrOgsZUglXZfJ61I/edit?usp=sharing)

B. [Statement of No Confidence in the GC Senior Administration](#)

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vR0-jFu4lhq9PkLKM4by5unCi8jvP-MSYQgCHglGGVUo3\\_1QCpD2UKblHhNNE7AdzEOqvo5mYykfntD/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vR0-jFu4lhq9PkLKM4by5unCi8jvP-MSYQgCHglGGVUo3_1QCpD2UKblHhNNE7AdzEOqvo5mYykfntD/pub)

Discussion:

Jonathan: We have a possible resolution. This is the link

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yvQuQYkjkMjeDAQU5rkc-6spoWIjHxyFOZFyXNh\\_tY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yvQuQYkjkMjeDAQU5rkc-6spoWIjHxyFOZFyXNh_tY/edit?usp=sharing) (all steering has access to edit)

Silvia: We want everyone to work on this. We want to move it onto plenary. But this body can decide what we want to do.

Sayantika: if we put out the resolution, does it count as us signing onto the vote of no confidence?

CC: This is something we will present to plenary next Friday, if the plenary passes then the DGSC will support the vote of no confidence. Can the DGSC sign it as a body.

Sayantika: Hypothetically, we pass in the plenary and someone in the plenary doesn't want to sign it, does it mean that they have also signed on it?

Jonathan: That is not the case. It only shows that the majority of the body supports it.

Ian: Clarifying question, this is the case because it is a majority voting system.

Jonathan: This is called a Perez majority. Please refer to Perez v. CUNY.

## IV. Executive Committee Reports

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

#### *Updates:*

- Chartered Organizations:
  - I assigned the [rooms](#) to all chartered organizations.
  - I opened the roster.
- President and Provost Community Meeting: as Co-Chairs we have requested the meeting that will take place on Dec 6th to be moved to a larger auditorium and to be hybrid so that the university makes the event accessible to students with ADA accommodations for remote access.
- [Food petition](#) is open now. PSC is sharing it today.
- Surplus survey: As you know, the DGSC has a \$300 000 surplus. We need to make decisions on how we will want to use it. Because this is student money from the Student Activity Fee, we think it is important to have a participatory process for the use of the money. We have created [a survey](#) to have input from representatives. However, we want to have all Steering input before sending it to everyone. Chris will talk on the communication part of the process and Jonathan will talk about the surplus during their reports. Let's discuss it now.
  - Silvia, Jonathan and Chris put together a survey after meeting with the college association to present to the steering committee for suggestions and present to the plenary.
  - Jonathan: the reason we brought this to steering committee is to get the steering's feedback
  - Parisa is going to help work on the survey for the surplus
  - OSA:
  - We have coordinated the food for the next DGSC Plenary meeting via OSA. It is very important to know that . Once we have the list of people with accommodations for remote access we will also be sending \$15 Grubhub gift cards to those participating in this modality.

#### *-Announcements:*

- I am working on a resolution to support having abortion pills on campus.

#### *Discussion:*

CC: About food, when I bring pizza as it is the easiest option for me to get due to time, but if we have more people working on the food, we can have more variety.

KRG: As a response to Chris, I would love to feel I would like to do more, but I also feel unfair that there are people who get paid more than me and have been doing much less work. 300K is a

lot of money and all of the options that are on the survey are only things that are physically in the GC while students are not at the GC. Maybe we could also use the money to work on ways to push on improvements for our salaries.

IW: So you mean using the money for a campaign to push?

KRG: Yes, that is what I mean. I think our salaries are too low in relation to other campuses.

JH: What would we be funding with this campaign?

CC: We are not thinking of one-time massive payments, we are thinking of installments. We will take it to the college association for our concrete plans. Capital allocation might not be totally possible.

Parisa: How long do we have to open this up? What is the due date for when we need to give answers about what the student body wants? Are those deadlines submitting tasks or implementation?

JH: It's a long process, how we get access to those surplus funds. We need to get this proposal approved by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the College Association. One problem is that there are no faculty representatives on the College Association because there was nobody who understood how the college is supposed to operate. The assumption was that the Committee on Committees is supposed to elect members to the College Association, but apparently, because it is in the College Association Bylaws and not the Graduate Council Bylaws, it is being delegated to the Graduate Council Executive Committee, for which there is no procedure for election of members to the College Association. Because of this, we don't know when faculty members will be added.

CC: Late March early April for a plan.

PMO: My first question is, I can't make any decisions until I know how much all of this costs. E.g. cheaper items are easier to decide.

SRA: By that time, we will need to know what we're doing with the money. We can plan for when that's going to happen but it doesn't need to happen exactly next year. It would be good if we could put into the survey how much would you like to spend. Making the decision could be hard for just a few people to make.

CC: this is very preliminary. I have not looked into how much these things cost. If you or someone else wants to look at the list that we have and find out about the cost, you are welcome to. This is something we want to talk about in plenary and steering.

Sayantika: I have not seen this list before.

PMO: The graduate council is involved?

Silvia: It's the College Association. This is one of the committees that we serve on. Jonathan will explain about the College Association. This surplus belongs to the DGSC. The College Association has the last word on what we do with our money. The DGSC has decision on what we want to do with the meeting. This list of ideas includes some of the ideas mentioned in the College Association, and is open to suggestion and people can have input into it. We are talking about it now so that we as steering can decide what to put into the survey. In the spring the entire body of GC will vote on the option.

Parisa: I want to know who put together this survey.

CC: The survey is typed up by me, Silvia and Jonathan. It is based on some ideas from College Association meeting, which includes some staff, admins and students. One of the things mentioned was technology for the library, but of course we shouldn't be paying for that.

Silvia: We have discussed with plenary that we have this surplus.

Sayantika: The College Association is elected.

Jonathan: College Association approves all expenditure of GC. It is an elected body, it's a board of directors, it includes students, admin, staff, and (usually) faculty, though there is currently no faculty on the association, as mentioned earlier. Our College Association gives us freedom over our budget, but for surplus, we need a vote of the full Association Board.

Silvia: In order to keep moving. If people want to make suggestions, I want to open the floor.

CC: We can make this survey available to everyone right now. We can work on it before proposing it to the larger body.

PMO: Last plenary it was mentioned we had this surplus, we discussed that students would have inputs. Seeing the documents being presented and asked to tweak it feels like we don't have any inputs. I ask the survey to be opened up, so there would be less gatekeeping.

Katherine: As it was explained in the beginning of the meeting, we are allowed to make changes. I do not feel like there is any gatekeeping here, the chairs are asking for our input.

Ian: I will agree with Katherine, I do not want to be spoken for.

Natalia: I agree with Ian that I don't feel left out, and I want to say that we should be mindful of the language that we are using.

Sayantika: I was in the meeting, I can see where this document comes from, and I can see why this might be interpreted that way.

Jonathan: We are sending this survey to Steering today because we want discussion before sending it out.

Eric: Parisa was suggesting how much each item would cost. My question is, should that be said in the survey? Or should we list which ones we should prioritize first.

AJ: It seems to me figuring out the cost isn't too much of a problem. It does seem like that should be on the list eventually. Before the GC student body vote that should be on the list. Depending on how difficult a task it is, that definitely should be there if the whole student body is voting on it.

SM: I would like some numbers, too. A bracket, a rough budget estimate. Some rough numbers.

Parisa: From professional experience, if we are allowed to get bids, we can put in NYC average cost on the survey. Some numbers are tougher to compile on the list, but things like painting rooms we can get rough estimates. Also doing a scale of things that are really important to people, so people can pick whatever that is the most important, and we can prioritize that first. We want to make this survey promising of putting out real results. We need to give them tangible goals that they see as being able to get done.

Silvia: Could you help us with the job of making estimates since you have the experience?

Parisa: Yes. I am absolutely interested in helping with this, I am very passionate about this. The administrative side I will need help with.

Jonathan: Motion to amend the agenda with a vote of no confidence moved above the following reports..

Seconded: SRA

Vote: unanimous

SRA: A lot of students, staff, and faculty at the GC have signed this vote of no confidence. It has 553 signatures at this point. We have seen how some of the points made in this statement have an impact on us as well.

JH: I'm going to share-screen of the draft of the resolution we have at the moment.

SRA: Like I mentioned earlier, we're bringing this to discuss, not that this is the last version of what we will submit to Plenary. We'd like your feedback on this as well. It could be the decision of this body not to have a resolution.

Sayantika: I'm confused, if we put it out, does it count as us signing the vote of no confidence?

Chris: if the plenary decides to put out the vote of no confidence, we as the DGSC sign it as a body

Sayantika: Suppose at the plenary we do pass it and someone at the plenary doesn't want to sign it - are we forcing them to?

JH: We can't force anyone at all to sign anything. If we sign it as a body, we're showing that the majority of our body supports it, not that every single member wants to sign it.

Ian: So we're clear, it's bc it's a majority consensus?

JH: Yes, it's the Perez consensus. If we don't get a quorum vote, it doesn't pass.

CC: if DGSC has majority vote, we will sign it as a body

SRA: I want to make a motion to sign the vote of no confidence

Silvia: Motion to sign the vote of no confidence

Seconded: JH

Vote: passes unanimously

SR: Let's talk about the resolution.

JH: there's going to be a town hall on Tuesday at 2pm and remote attendance option. We need to have as much representation as possible. We want the room as full as possible. We want the entire GC community is there in solidarity.

SR: As a point to those who were late to the meeting, as co-chairs we have been pushing to make this meeting remote and happen in a bigger space so more people can show up.

JH: We want to be fully prepared for this, we will be bringing this to the graduate council. We need to have quorum bc if it passes grad council, that's going to be powerful. It's looking like it's going to pass with [Grad Council](#). If the president doesn't approve the appeal to add this to the

agenda. Everyone going to this meeting, we need to prepare to discuss why we need to discuss the vote for no confidence.

Syantika: What is graduate council?

JH: Combined governance center with students and faculty. If we have our attendance at the grad council, we will sign the

Sa: Who is on the graduate council?

JH: Students, faculties, etc.. [Ian put in link, check link] I chair Committee on Committees, which will likely need to make a report at this next GC meeting. I am willing to get on the mic to make a statement, since I am a Committee Chair and my Committee is eligible to make a report.

Silvia: We want volunteers to write this resolution. Those who want to write the resolution or make changes, please raise your hand.

*Volunteers: CC, KRG*

Ian: If there's any asynchronous suggestions, I'm happy to wordsmith because I'm teaching that day so it would be hard for me to attend.

CC: I can send the final draft by 5pm that day

Motion to approve minutes of 4 November 2022: Syantika Mondal

Seconded: Ian Williams

Vote: passes unanimously

## **B. Co-Chair for Communications (Christopher Campbell)**

*Updates:*

- I finally completed digital signage training. This means that I can use the three digital signs around the 5th floor assigned to the DGSC. Syantika will undergo the same training as well. If you are organizing an event and would like to have a poster shown on these digital screens, you can send it to me. Please make sure that the document you send me is a PDF or PPT file 14.75" x 22.25"
- Recently I was asked by Steering if I could talk with Inma, our Social Media Coordinator, about expanding access to our Instagram or Twitter. This would give officers the ability to post day-of reminders, etc. on their own without having to coordinate with Inma, who only works two hours per week (meaning Inma sometimes will not respond in the time that we may need them to). I want to mention this to Steering before I have this conversation with Inma.
- The Executive Committee of the Graduate Council met on November 21st to discuss the upcoming Graduate Council. Nothing special to note was included on the agenda for the Graduate Council. However, after the Executive Committee



met Duncan Faherty sent the first email letting the EC know that the Chancellor had received an anonymous email with the No Confidence vote attached to it. This is before David Olan released the No Confidence statement publicly.

- The Co-Chair for Communications has access to a student-body-wide listserv at the Graduate Center. It's to be used very sparingly, typically for beginning-of-year and end-of-year messages to students. Last year we used this listserv to conduct a COVID-19 survey. With that said, Luke Waltzer from the GC's TLC asked if I could help the TLC circulate a survey asking GC students about teaching support and training they receive(d) here at the Graduate Center. While we could send this survey to the listserv as I normally would with materials I receive from Luke, I feel like this survey would be done more justice if we sent it via the student-body-wide listserv. I'd like to ask Steering their opinion on this before I send this survey to the student body.

### **C. Co-Chair for Business (Jonathan Hanon)**

*Updates:*

Updates from meeting with business office

- Stipends
  - Good news, they told us that because of a new protocol, I can create the requests for everyone for the entire year and submit them at once, for the Business Office to pay out on the first payroll day of each month. I created the requests for every Steering officer and will submit them next week.
- Purchases of food for Plenary
  - OSA has been helping us with invoices for the caterer, and will have a purchasing card very soon to help us. We can use this for purchases of other things, as well, after discussion with OSA.
- CUNYBuy Marketplace
  - I attended a CUNYBuy session at the CUNY IT Conference, and have CUNYBuy training this coming Monday. We can use this to purchase from contracted vendors (currently Staples/Proftech, more soon).
- Honoraria
  - We have been having difficulties getting honoraria processed - I just got a few honoraria bounced back.
- Reimbursements
  - At this time, I have still no guidance on how to do reimbursements, which are still a vast majority of our usage of our funds.
- On the Business side, we will talk to EDLAB about honoraria and reimbursements.

Surplus

- The surplus of ~\$300k does not need to be used over one year (the money can be used over the course of a few years), but to use the surplus, we need to discuss our plans for approval by the College Association.
- This needs to be done by late March / early April, to ensure that we can start moving these funds as soon as possible.
- This surplus will need to be authorized annually by the College Association
- The College Association currently has no faculty members, because of yet another failure of the administration.

*Announcements:*

Upcoming Board of Trustees Public Budget Hearing December 5th

- I will be testifying this upcoming Monday at the Board of Trustees Public Budget Hearing at LaGuardia Community College. I plan to testify on technology at CUNY, the Graduate Center's budget and Graduate Assistant deficits, and from there, pivot to speaking about the Vote of No Confidence.

Upcoming Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation Meeting December 7th

- The Auxiliary Enterprise Corporation monitors the revenue of the ASRC, food services, vending machines, room rentals, advertising, merchandising, and any other funds not directly related to the academic operations of the GC.

**D. University Student Senate Delegate (Alex Jiang)**

*Updates:*

Upcoming Board of Trustees Public Budget Hearing December 5th

- We should try to get representations.

USS preparing for a statement on the raise of wages of the management admins.

- Maybe we can have a follow up.

Auxiliary Enterprise Enterprise Corporation Meeting December 7th

**E. University Faculty Senate Liaison (Parisa Montazaran Osmanovic)**

*Updates:* There was no November UFS plenary, the next meeting will be 12/13 and they are hoping to establish a test run on 12/8 for remote attendance.

- The 10/25 meeting, as discussed in our last steering meeting, was focused on CUNY wide budget issues. Docs with Chair Verzani's notes and the presentation on Tuition Revenue Trend by Ned Benton are uploaded in our google drive.
- The November budget committee meeting was also primarily focused on low enrollment and impact on their income/budget flow

#### **IV. Steering Officer Reports**

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

###### *Updates:*

- Increase of salary was requested on 11/14, no news on the progress. Eric has been very hands off and has not been addressing my questions regarding the reasoning to why they refused the increase, even with cc'ing Silvia, Jonathan and Elise.
- Due to low attendance, yoga might be postponed until January- this was suggested by Silvia, as well as by Michelle (instructor), awaiting a new schedule from Michelle.
- Sent out a doodle to meet with committee members. We want to set up a poll for the times that work best for Yoga classes starting in January as well as finding better ways to disseminate the availability of classes to GC students, faculty and staff.
- I am feeling discouraged about setting up new classes because I have asked Eric for a schedule of prices we are "allowed" to pay instructors on multiple occasions to no avail. This feels like we are not only being told how much we can pay, but I am feeling constrained to rules and bylaws that I am unaware of.

###### *Announcements:*

- Thursday classes have been approved.

###### *Discussion:*

SRA: This is a situation we have been talking about. Last year I wanted to create dancing classes and we couldn't do it because we wanted to pay a student, they didn't want to give the student the salary we would've paid. We're trying to find the proper information so officers that come after us can have more clarity. It's discouraging for students to have to get a salary that's very low for a class of yoga, dance, compared to what's in the market. The student who wanted to teach

dance had a masters in dance. If we could think about yoga in person. Admin was not happy originally about having in person events where people sweat.

SM: An idea. We're having a hard time paying people to do classes. We understand these classes are expensive in general. What about finding a class outside of the GC and somehow subsidizing it for students.

KRG: how can we subsidize people to these classes?

JH: College of Student Affairs... this has to do with adult continuing education... the \$15 dollar limit is for any student taking money from student government.

ALG: Is there a way we can use our grants as a workaround? We can pay honoraria for speakers and other types of student events. Is grants a way to get around this?

JH: No. There's red tape in the system. CUNY is enacting red tape, we're the ones suffering, grad center administration don't want to help us. That's why we are where we are now. Grad Center administration needs to help us with this or we won't be able to function.

ALG: One time service still needs to go through hoops?

JH: Wellness budget is different from grants. We don't want to mess around with these things, because if we do, eventually the school will not want to approve things.

ALG: I can do a grant to buy materials. This may help Katherine.

## **B. Officer for Outreach (Natalia Lara)**

*Updates:* Someone from PSC asked if DGSC is open to co-sponsoring a meeting on Dec 15th to discuss issues related to international students, contracts and potentially a strike?

Will help Sayantika with party (publicity, games, etc).

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

*Updates:*

1. Party planning. Please help/volunteer. I'll design posters by this weekend now that the theme is decided, maybe a few versions for different platforms.

2. Organized thanksgiving potluck on Monday 28th. Thanks to everyone who helped. The food was great :p. Pretty photos exists :)

3. Met with the college association... so everything everyone said about it already.

4. Will do the digital signage training coming Wednesday.

5. Went to the meeting with the budget office. So everything Jonathan said about it and I have a whole new level of appreciation for what Jonathan does.

6. Women in STEM coffee event on dec 8.

*Announcements:*

**Party!! 16th Dec (5pm/6pm tentative ) Spread the word.**

**Women in STEM coffee on dec 8 . Again come if you are from stem or tell your STEM friends.**

*Discussion:*

PMO: Our \$15 limit. Maybe Jonathan can help us with this, it could be relevant to these events. Can we ask to change this because of inflation?

JH: \$15 is the limit per NY Public Officers Law.

PMO: Can we no longer offer \$15 perks because movie tickets are more than this now?

Everything else is getting more expensive but our limit is stagnant.

IW: For the movies we decided to discontinue the service, b/c all students can sign up at id.me to get the same rate.

SM: We just need a list of people for sign up, and all sign up counts towards the \$15 dollar per person.

#### **D. Officer for Library & Technology (Daniel Okpattah)**

*Updates:*

1. Had discussions with Maura Smale and Elvis Bakatis about the extension in library open hours for the weekends and weekdays. She said this might not be feasible because the patron count from the library during these periods shows that students do not utilize the library during the open hours from 9 am to 10 pm hence makes it difficult for the extension. She also said that this might not be possible because the whole graduate center is supposed to close at 10 pm.
2. A survey will be created soon for students to vote on if they insist on the library. A higher poll will help them rethink.
3. Also, Smale wanted to speak with the reps of Physics and Mathematics since there are the two major departments complaining about the increase in the hours to see if they can come to an agreement.
4. Elvis Bakatis said she can help students who want to access the libraries of NYU and Columbia university with their application process through MARLI hence students should reach out to her on this.

5. Lastly, I tried to push for the extension of the library hours for the weekends since the 5 hours window is too short. Smale Maura said this will be higher considered and thus will reach out to me as soon as an agreement is reached.
6. Also, Smale Maura said the library can't be opened for 24 hours during the exams period even if the DGSC is willing to fund this since we will have to also deal with Public Safety and this may be way beyond the DGSC budget.

*Discussion:*

PO: If we were able to utilize the numbers Garrell offered for traffic at GC, we could make the argument that the library doesn't have as much traffic because it's not open all of the time. It's the same case with the cafeteria. These spaces aren't user friendly. The MaRLI thing, if we could maybe have something sent out (a Communications thing). Is this something we could propose?

DO: Elvis sent an email even before this conversation..

PMO: How can we galvanize more support for having the hours open that coincides with the data about food traffic at the GC?

DO: I raised all of these points, students aren't coming. I'm still trying to push for this messaging. I'll go through the route of sending out messaging to students. If students push for this extension, perhaps it could be considered by library administrators.

PMO: Let's start a petition.

SM: I like the idea of a survey. With data we can make concrete suggestions.

JH: Following up on what Parisa was saying about people not coming to the library, we gave that exact argument to the president and it was waved off as "we're not going to do anything about it." They're aware, they're not doing anything about it.

IW: The president completely avoided any discussion of off hours access. It was sidestepped.

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## **E. Officer for Funding (Angela LaScala-Gruenewald)**

*Updates:*

- There are several upcoming grant deadlines to keep on our radar to apply for funding for spring semester.
  - Upcoming Deadlines
    - January 20
    - February 17
    - Full list here: <http://cunydisc.org/grants/>
- New Funds Approved
  - \$700 for a Colombian Cultural Workshop, "Cumbia"
  - \$233 for Traditional Mexican Altar de Muertos
  - \$700 for the XXVII Latin American, Iberian and Latino Cultures Graduate Student Conference: In trance: Corpographies, cosmopolitics & geopoetics

- Considering for Future Funding
  - Next Grants Committee meeting is Dec 9
  - Evaluating two grants
- Revised our reimbursement guidelines

*Discussion*

No discussion

**F. Officer for Governance & Membership (Ian Williams)**

*Updates:*

- Attendance Records

Update to date for September, October, November. September was discounted as per resolution adopted at the last Plenary. We had 29 attendees.

- Removals

The following reps will be removed from consecutive non-attendance the last two Plenaries and a complete failure to communicate.

Name	Role	Program	1st Absence	2nd Absence
David Amoh-Boateng	At-Large Rep	Biochemistry	October 2022	November 2022
Abhipsa Shatarupa	At-Large Rep	Biochemistry	October 2022	November 2022
Jasmine Pathan	Program Rep	Chemistry	October 2022	November 2022
Aurash Khawarзад	Program Rep	Earth and Environmental Sciences	October 2022	November 2022

- Vacancies

This will bring our total number of vacancies from 24 to 27.

- Elections and Petitions

There are a few petitions we need to move through before the end of the calendar year.

- **Linguistics** - just need to vote on the nominee (Vicki Lee). We didn't get to that at the last Plenary. She has been made aware that we will vote on this.
- **Classics** - identified rep (Nan Coffee), but petition not signed. I am in touch with her and the previous rep about this. Nan stated she will get a signed petition to me before the next Plenary.

- **Educational Psychology** - identified rep (Ligia Mendonca) - they have not submitted a petition.
- **Constitution & Bylaws Committee**  
I sent out a Doodle to schedule an informal meeting this month to plan an agenda for Spring 2023; I anticipate we will meet several times to discuss C&B issues next semester. Jonathan determined that we can meet remotely. I anticipate the meeting to occur the week after next, and I aim to keep it to an hour.

*Discussion:*

JH: About Constitution and Bylaws, we got advice from the GC EC, the Committee on Structure is considered advisory and can meet remotely. Constitution and Bylaws can meet remotely.

## **VI. Announcements**

## **VII. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Sayantika Mondal  
Seconded: Eric  
Voted: Unanimous  
Meeting is adjourned at 19:28 (7:28 pm)