



**CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Steering Committee Minutes**

December 2, 2005

Present: Celia Braxton, Ericka Calton, Stephanie Domenici, David H. Golland, Lee Hachedoorian, Brenda Vollman, Chong Wojtkowski, Charles Lieberman (ex-officio, non-voting). Excused: Tina Lee, Adriana Tomasino. Proxies: Celia Braxton for Tina Lee.

Chairperson: Lee Hachedoorian
Minutes: Celia Braxton
Meeting called to order at 6:14pm

- I. Approval of Agenda**—unanimous consent with changes: **at home.**
- II. Minutes** approved with minor format changes by unanimous consent **and a change regarding absentee reps discussion.**
- III. Old Business**
 - A. Health Issues: Ericka reports that just over 100 responses to the Health Services survey have been received, including paper and online. The Committee is focusing now on advertising the website. We must also find out what Mary Clancy's real hours are and compare them with student on-campus hours. The Committee also will be trying to raise awareness of the differences between the Wellness Center and Psychological Counselling by flyering about health events. Lee Hachedoorian volunteered to join the Committee
 - B. Charles: President Kelly says he doesn't believe there is any room in the building for bicycles. Charles suggested installing CCTV on the exterior directed towards the bike racks so Security can monitor the bike racks. Lee questions whether there is really no room? Brenda suggests they can come in at the service entrance. Charles will update us next meeting.
 - C. Disability: Brenda reports the Hub station now has Jaws. Student Affairs has designated this an "adapted" station.
 - D. Travel & Research Fund: After discussion, it appears the SC is in agreement on splitting the allocations into two pots, Fall and Spring, with Fall allocations to be allotted only to activities taking place during the months designated as the Fall semester, and Spring allocations allotted only to activities taking place in those months designated as Spring. Which months go with which semester? The problems are really August and January, in both of which we believe there is a fair amount of travel for conferences. Both cannot go into the Fall semester, or the Spring allocation will be unfairly and significantly more generous. Tina has been volunteered to work with Lee to discover what records are available from

the Business Office and Marilyn Marzolf that would enlighten us on which months are most popular for traveling and conferencing.

IV. Report of the Co-Chair for Communications, David H. Golland

- A. Absentee representatives: No new problems have revealed themselves. Seven reps. in total have been dropped for various reasons (leave of absence, withdrawal, resigned from class). There are three further representatives who have missed three consecutive meetings and have not responded to David's attempts to contact them: Ulyana Munoz-Acuna, At-Large; Mariya Shyko, Educational Psychology; Muhammad Salim, Electrical Engineering. He has tried reaching them by telephone as we suggested and has phoned all APOs.
1. *Re* Muhammad Salim: Ericka reported that she had not contacted Electrical Engineering, as she had promised to do, to find out the registration status of Mr. Salim or whether he has received any notification through the APO. The discussion of Mr. Salim's DSC status was tabled until the next SC meeting.
 2. *Re* Ulyana Munoz-Acuna: Lee Hachedoorian moved she be removed as an At-Large representative as she has missed three consecutive meetings and has not responded to David's emails or phone messages. The next person on the list of At-Large Representatives will be offered the position. The motion passed unanimously.
 3. *Re* Mariya Shyko: Educational Psychology has two representatives in addition to Mariya; thus they will not be without representation if Ms. Shyko is removed. Chong Wojtkowski moved to remove Ms. Shyko from her position as Departmental Representative. David Golland seconded. The motion passes with one nay and one abstention.
- B. Frick plaque: John Flaherty is looking for the plaque. Facilities doesn't know what happened to it.
- C. Website: Camille will be working three days a week instead of twice. She has updated for Christmas. Chong says her French Group hasn't been put up; Chartered Orgs link links to nothing. David reports there is a problem with the GC server: Camille always gets viruses from the GC server whenever she uploads, so does it as quickly as she can. She has had to wipe her hard drive twice already this year. We will have to look for a commercial server to solve this problem. Brenda asks "if we keep running away from the GC server, what is our Tech fee doing?"
- D. Open Meetings Law. All meetings of bodies deciding on expenditure of student monies must be open to the public. Executive sessions discussing personnel matters can be closed, but voting has to be open.
- E. *Advocate* Flare-up. David read the exchange of emails regarding Sandor John's suggestion that a story about Miguel Malo be placed on the front page. The problem has been resolved at present. No action is needed now.
- F. Class Size: We have had only two replies, from Philosophy and Political Science. Philosophy states they are overcrowded. Political Science states three of their introductory courses are overcrowded. Stephanie Domenici reports that Psychology is overcrowded. Chong Wojtkowski reports that French is

overcrowded. Stephanie brings up the policy of auditors: how much of the problem is caused by auditors? An issue for the University is how many faculty lines are at the GC, and how many professors are fulfilling their contract obligations? There are at least three issues that effect this problem, and she is not clear how much we have control over or impact upon.

- G. *Advocate* Correction: Headline of the most recent issue says we “denounced” the compact. It was a denunciation of tuition increases, not the compact. David has asked for a correction in the *Advocate* website and an *Erratum* notice in the next printed issue.

V. Report of the Co-Chair for Student Affairs, Stephanie Domenici

A. Mailings:

1. Holiday cards to increase recognition of the Graduate Center student body: to Albany legislators, Board of Trustees, people in the Mayor’s office, the Higher Education Committee of the City Council, and executives in CUNY Administration. We have \$180 left from last year’s scheduled June mailing which did not go out. We may need a little more since last year’s cost was \$160 and she didn’t get to all of them. Add CUNY Admin, plus Higher Ed committee of the City Council. Chong and Ericka will help her.
 2. Postcards to student body in February with info on DSC meetings, etc.
- B. On-Campus Bar: The Open Mike nights were a flop but perhaps now we can get a Bar. Matt Schoengood is now in charge. At present it is still to be set up in 365 Express; Restaurant Associates is our only option due to the GC’s contract with them. A Bar Committee has been inaugurated to discuss arrangements.
- C. Funding Cap: overwhelmingly email is against the cap; overwhelmingly email is against a fulltime job being part of the issue.
- D. December plenary: Stephanie suggests we inaugurate a Holiday plenary. David asks for Subway Hero suggestions. Celia moved we use Manganaro’s rather than Subway. Stephanie seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously with three abstentions. Stephanie will handle the alcoholic drinks. Chong and Ericka will decorate.

VI. Report of the Co-Chair for Business Management, Tina Lee.

Tina is not present.

VII. New Business.

- A. USS Report: Charles Lieberman had to leave early, so there is no USS report.
- B. Brenda asks for clarification of the notice that extended Library Hours are due to increased allocation of Tech Fee monies. David explains that the tech fee is paying for another tech employee at the Library during the extra hours.
- C. Flash Drive distribution: Ericka states OIT sent nine (9) drives for the entire Engineering department, which includes four programs and close to 200 students. There is one Executive Officer for all four programs. No one knew about the drives until Ericka herself sent out an email, and by that time, the E.O. had

distributed them to selected students. Ericka is advised to write to Steve Brier regarding the problem and let him know of the inequity.

D. Other New Business: None.

VIII. Announcements: Thanks from Stephanie to Tina and Ericka for coming to the Public Meeting of the Board of Trustees last week. Ericka gave a very good impromptu speech.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.