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**CUNY Graduate Center
Doctoral Students' Council
Health Issues Committee**

September 7, 2007

Chair: Denise Torres (DT)

Present: Alissa Ackerman (AA), Nancy Medina (NM)

Absent: Ericka Calton, Ian Jones, Lynda Kennedy, Chong Wojtkowski, Rex Wong, Danielle Wu, Mirian Zavala,

Meeting commenced at 4:15pm

I. Agenda

DT, AA, NM agreed to brainstorm and develop a HIC agenda for the coming year as described in New Business.

II. New Business

- a. Wellness Center: DT reviewed the current status of the GC Wellness Center: there is no Nurse Practitioner currently on staff, and the timeline for acquiring one is unclear. Matthew Schoengood and the Student Affairs office are in communication with the Executive Committee of the DSC and will provide follow-up when a more detailed timeline is available.
- b. Additional Membership in HIC: AA, NM and DT agreed to the following plans to increase membership in the standing committee
 - a. Plenary: Talk up our efforts and pass around a sign up sheet for new members.
 - b. Individual outreach: We each will attempt to engage new members especially at our home schools.
- c. Raising awareness of Health Issues: AA, NM and DT discussed how best to approach issue of increased access to health care, improved knowledge of services available, and increased awareness and participation in the DSC as a whole. Given the intended development of two additional ad hoc committees that address aspects of these the following plan was developed:

DRAFT

- a. DSC Tabling: For the week of October 15 through the 19th HIC members will table in the lobby providing information regarding the Wellness Center, Campus Workshops, and any WC updates.
 - Packets of information describing the activities of the DSC, HIC, the Finances Committee (name and approval for discussion at Plenary), and the International & Non Resident Students Committee (name and approval for discussion at Plenary) will be handed out,
 - the Student Health Insurance Guide will be made available,
 - the dates for off campus workshops will be provided.
 - Petitions regarding health insurance/wellness center/financial or student status issues will be developed and students will be asked to sign.
 - stories regarding student issues and problems can be gleaned
 - Also, the Holiday Party and Plenary of October 19th will be advertised.
- b. Workshops: To address student anxiety re issues, increase awareness in DSC activities, and provide needed information COFFEE HOURS will be held in workshop fashion.
 - Packets of information describing the activities of the DSC, HIC, the Finances Committee (name and approval for discussion at Plenary), and the International & Non Resident Students Committee (name and approval for discussion at Plenary) will be handed out,
 - the Student Health Insurance Guide will be made available,
 - Petitions regarding health insurance/wellness center/financial or student status issues will be developed and students will be asked to sign.
 - stories regarding student issues and problems can be gleaned
 - off-site visits will occur the week of Nov 6/8 and Nov 13/15 (2 per day) to the following identified schools: Hunter, Queens, Brooklyn, Lehman, John Jay, City, & CIS
 - GC site visits can occur the 11/20 before breaking for Thanksgiving Recess
- c. Advocate Article: A joint article with the aforementioned plans will be written and placed in the Advocate with EC approval.
- d. NEXT STEPS: The following responsibilities and action steps were agreed to in order to see through the plans:
 - AA: create spreadsheet for off campuses so we can be mindful of schedules; talk to reps; speak to JJ EO

DRAFT

regarding site visit; get additional volunteers; create piece on finances.

- NM: Gather contact/schedule information from bench science schools; create piece on International & Non Resident issues
- DT: contact Student Affairs for a meeting and to get logistical advice/approval; talk to Greg re Off-site campus visits; talk to Brenda re possible budget; explore how best to write letters to EOs for permission to get on-site.
- HIC: Next meeting 9/27 @ 5 PM at the GC

III. Adjournment

DT reviewed plans developed and confirmed understanding. AA and NM approved by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourns at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Torres, LCSW, CASAC-T, CCJS, DSC Chair for Health Issues Committee, on September 11, 2007