

DSC Plenary Minutes 11/20/2009

Chris Sula (CS) calls the meeting to order at 6:03pm

**I. Approval of Agenda**

CS asks that items f (Middle States Self-Study Response Group) and g (Wellness Center Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee) be added under agenda item IV, New Business. Suzanne Tamang (ST) motions to approve the agenda with the additions; Jeremy Seideman (JS) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

JS motions to approve the minutes; Gregory Donovan (GD) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**III. Approval of New Representatives**

JS motions to approve Maggie Robertson (English) as a new At-Large Representative; Jill Belli (JB) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**IV. New Business**

**a. Jewish Club Charter**

GD motions to approve the Jewish Club as a Chartered Organization; JS seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**b. Prison Studies Group Charter**

As the group representative could not attend this Plenary meeting CS suggests that we motion to table the vote to charter the group. JS motions to table the vote to charter the group; ST seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**c. Campus Coalition for Sexual Literacy Group Charter**

Katie Gill (KG) motions to approve the Campus Coalition for Sexual Literacy Group as a Chartered Organization; Alison Powell (AP) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

6:15pm Meeting suspended to hear from the Plenary guest speaker, President Bill Kelly

6:55pm Meeting resumes

**d. Bylaw 20 Free and Open Source Medium**

There is discussion about whether Section 20.2 is clear enough about which GSUC students have voting membership in OpenCUNY. CS entertains a motion to amend the phrasing of 20.2 so it reads "Voting membership shall be restricted to any *matriculated* GSUC student who is a registered member of OpenCUNY.org." Jason Schneiderman (JSch) motions to approve the amendment ; Jared Simard (J S) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent. CS then entertains a motion to approve Bylaw 20. ST motions to approve Bylaw 20; SR seconds. 1 member opposed; 2 abstentions. Motion approved.

**e. Constitutional Amendments**

SR presents the proposed constitutional amendments and discussion follows. Christine

Pinnock (CP) motions to table the discussion to allow people further time to read the proposed amendments. Hearing no second, the discussion continues. ST notes that informational meetings were held about the proposed constitutional amendments and that information packets were distributed a week prior in the hopes that people would review the documents ahead of time. After substantial conversation Kim Libman motions to limit the discussion to five more minutes and then vote on the proposed amendments; AP seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent. Benjamin Miller (BM) suggests that all verbs in Section 2 be changed to gerunds so it will be consistent with the rest of the document. Kyle Ferguson (KF) motions to approve the constitutional amendments, including substituting a paragraph in about officer election that creates a mechanism for three-way ties in lieu of one that can deal only with two-way ties, with indicated changes, to take effect on January 01, 2010, except Section 3.3.5.c, which will take effect July 1, 2010. All officers, committee members, and reps will maintain positions until the end of their terms; SR seconds. I opposed; 2 abstentions. Motion approved.

#### **f. Middle States Self-Study Response Group**

CS notes that the GSUC Middle States Self-Study is finished and has been posted online by the Provost. The DSC is expected to submit a formal response by December 11 (also the date of the next Plenary at which the document will need to be approved by the body) and would like to form an ad-hoc committee to craft the response. GD clarifies that the goal is to read the report and determine if it is an accurate portrayal of the institution, and CS notes that student should also provide input on the "Opportunities" section of each chapter. After asking for volunteers, SR motions to form an ad-hoc committee with CS, ST, SR, KF, Toni Perri, and Eero Laine as members; JS seconds. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

#### **g. Wellness Center Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee**

SR and KL report that they recently met with the new director of the Wellness Center and are looking for volunteers to form an advisory committee to make recommendations to the director. They ask for two volunteers from Plenary and Ashley Foster and Annie Dell'Aria express interest. CS entertains a motion to form a Wellness Center Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee that includes one co-chair, Ashley Foster and Annie Dell'Aria, 2 members elected from and by the Health Issues Committee, and not more than 2 members of the DSO who will appointed by the Steering Committee after nominations have been solicited by DSO. JS motions to approve; Jill Belli (JB) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

### **V. Student Affairs Report**

ST reports that 10 Chartered Organizations have yet to submit their rosters.

### **VI. Communications Report**

SR gives a brief report but, in the interest of time, will email a detailed report to DSC members and append it to the minutes.

### **VII. Business Report**

CS reports that he will provide a full financial report at the December Plenary meeting.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **a. Constitution and Bylaws**

CS and SR present proposed amendments to the following bylaws:

- i. Bylaw 21: Interim Media Board
- ii. Bylaw 15: DSO Wage and Stipends Schedule
- iii. Repealing Bylaws 4,9,10,12,16,17,18

### **b. Election Review Committee**

CS reports that the ERC is in the process of certifying the voters in the University Faculty Senate election. Once the committee has confirmed the winner of the election it will send out a notification to DSC members.

### **c. Cultural Affairs and Professional Development**

SR reports that grant monies are still available and asks that DSC reps encourage their programs to apply.

### **d. Health Issues**

KL reports that the committee has collaborated with the Adjunct Project to create a survey about students' experiences with NYSHIP. This is the first step toward the goal of writing a white paper by the end of the year in order to improve Graduate Center students' health insurance experience. The committee is also planning to draft a memo about NYSHIP for students on other CUNY campuses. CS notes that federal subsidies for COBRA exist and that adjuncts who weren't re-hired in the fall may be eligible for COBRA. This eligibility has been confirmed by the Department of Labor even though GC HR denied that adjuncts or GTFs who were not re-hired may be eligible for them. He indicated that he didn't know if federal subsidies would be renewed in January.

## **Announcements**

a. SR announces that while official CUNY policy is that students must use their student email addresses for communications, the Graduate Center has gone rogue and is officially asking students to forward their GC addresses to email addresses that they actually use in hopes that communication structures throughout the Graduate Center will improve.

b. SR announces that ballots for the proposed constitutional amendments, the Health Issues Committee survey, and a survey about library hours and services will be available online.

## **XI. Adjournment**

GD motions to adjourn; Ian Foster (IF) seconds. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Meeting adjourns at 8:33pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Allyson Foster