

Student Government Minutes

General Session Tuesday January 19, 2010

1. Motion to approve the agenda, Elette

- moved Steven, passed by oral vote

2. Schedule of General Sessions

- Elette presented the list of dates,
- Melinda asked regarding number of missed meetings before a problem?
- Suha asked if we can meet once for a longer meeting? Seconded by Alysa
- Paula and Patrick commented that its going to be nearly impossible to schedule
- Becca commented that there are ample chances to mis for reasons and this is simple every week.
- Steven Suggested meeting two weeks on one off, people seemed to think too complicated
- hand count stay longer, come earlier
- Becca motions to accept meeting once per week from 12:40-1:40 until a better suggestion is made.
- Ayes 15 passed

3. Haiti Relief Efforts

- Elette presented the request that CUNY SG write the check from BLSA rather than
- Mike R. asked how other Student orgs can get involved, asked if they are involved?
- Suha Proposed that we add to the funds from the SG budget. At least something.
- Motion made, seconded, Aye 19
- Patrick motions to table this discussion for next week
- Any suggestions re our efforts to help Haiti efforts
- A letter to Students regarding the SG getting other orgs to work in a coordinated way with BLSA post on twen.
- Jamal We should be fundraising and take an official position
- Steven – email to students that we are coordinating this effort with BLSA and include other resources that people can donate and how including clothes canned goods and other ways to help.
- Paula- reach out to organizations connected to the community and help them find ways to give effectively and use SG as a conduit to a good CBO on the ground.
- melinda- do an event that people might pay to come to to raise money like a fashion show or talent show. This would also get money in later on, so that it isnt just a flood and then no more money.
- Elette requested that those students interested in working as point people on reaching out to other student organizations and planning events for the student body – Jamal, Melinda,
- Brights suggested SG should delegate the discretion to develop and prioritize these ideas to pursue. Seconded by Becca

4. Resolution to do away with Deans' Forums

- Elette explained the rationale being that Dean's Forum is not useful and poorly attended
- Suha commented that rather than getting rid of them we should “reclaim them” and make them useful to the student body.

- Latoya, I agree with Suha. How does dean's Coffee compare with the Dean's Forum?
- Elette – Forum is more formal with topic and pre-submitted questions and all the Deans in attendance
- Casey- this will make the deans less approachable and this is at least some opportunity that is there to be approached. It should be redone
- Deans coffee is about twice a month
- Deans forum is monthly.
- There is confusion about this maybe information is needed,
- Mike R maybe we can reach out to other groups and orgs to not schedule and ask the organizations to build participation.
- Stephan - we need it to be at SIT for people to come
- Suha – it can be at SIT and it needs to be relevant, maybe it needs food. We can come up with a new theme or some other reason its compelling. We need to make it compelling.
- Make the Deans come to a forum that we think is relevant not
- Melinda – Dean's forum is important that it exists, its our forum and we can make them be incorporated more. Find a way to make them interact with students more.
- Becca - once or twice a semester, we need to raise issues that we need addressed. Like the academic policy. To really push people on issues that matter.
- Suha – Solicit questions in advance
- lets have a structure, get groups in with slots for each group, lets find a really useful way of coordinating the people coming and doing things
- Suha – suggesting a theme – decreased diversity and how it relates to other issues here , keep It open ended.
- Latoya - The questions will be deflected, and our administration is defensive and frustrates us with a lack of answers. We need also to come up with ways to hold the deans accountable.
- Bright- proposed some steps, Tell Charles we will select the dates of deans forums. We need to settle soon on the first theme and the list of Questions. Give some of the questions ahead of time so they cant deflect, we can plan to have two this semester and stick to themes.
- Elette withdraws her suggested resolution
- Bright call for Charles to be disallowed to schedule. Aye 15,
- Twen discussion on the topics and dates.
- Suha will take point.

5. Resolution on the new building (to replace the current resolution)

- bright introduces a resolution that re articulates the position on the New building
- It accords with Brights views and hopefully will have a stronger mandate than the 9/0/11 abstentions
- Alyssa clarified that there are serious budget cuts
- Suha asked why the procedural point was included.
- Melinda – this dialog has to shift to how do we make it good? How do we get the best out of the new building, utilize the new kitchen and other issues
- Alyssa – there are really some serious concerns that are illegal and need to be called out
- Bright – this is just raising it, and can give feedback, we will vote on it in the future. It can go up on listserv and Twen site. Bright thinks that the price is wrong and the building is good but we as a group are not there yet. Its intended as a compromise. If there are more positive statements we can add them.
- We need to focus on student needs and be proactive on that. We should move onto

focusing on the key areas. We need to focus on the student body's feelings are. Its not about for or against.

- Steven – maybe when we get the new building we could have a more interactive governance model, a new way that decisions are made, with more student involvement in decisions being made.
- I second Melinda's comments we need to get involved in a positive way and getting them involved
- What is this really addressing, more about holding accountable criticism isn't about negativity. We need to focus on a community response that holds the process in check. We need to have a clear message.
- Tabled by voice vote
- discussion will continue on TWEN

6. Special Election of Vice President

- Ebette explained only Steven is running, vote to confirm him. Motion Seconded
- Steven explained that his focus is on internal and external communication, clarifying what is going on and getting us involved in what is going on and figuring out how to use TWEN more effectively.
- Jamal requested as to whether Steven Beard would remain a 1L Representative while being Vice President
- Steven Beard was elected with a vote of 7 Aye 4 Abstention 2 Nay

7. Resolution on amending Grade Appeals Process

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8. Drafting policy for SG budget and allocation

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9. Voting in an editorial policy for the website

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10. Motion to close meeting.

Passed -