CUNY SPS

Student Association
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2018
119 West 31st Street, Room 318

Attendees
John Arthur (online), Leonard Blades, Mazette Edwards (online), Milan Fredricks, Rohan Ketwaroo, Barbara Makos, Winston Mitchell, Diana Sanchez (online), Tara Santos, Lisa Sheridan, Selma Sulejman, Anthony Sweeney, Jill Von Fumetti, and Shakima Williams-Jones

Guest Attendees
Dean John Mogulescu, Tracey Meade, Jennifer Grace Lee, Washington Hernandez

Meeting called to order at 6:10p

Erin Jeanette, new Mental Health Services introduced herself and left the meeting with the promise to address the SA in November

Dean Mogulescu Thoughts at 6:20
- Robust enrollment of 3300 degree students and serving 15k on non-accredited side of the house
- SPS is the online entity of the university
- Washington CIS and Jennifer Grace Lee in new roles at Student Services in
- Tracey introduced herself
  - Dean at CUNY Central Office for many years
  - Worked with Dean Mogulescu for 18 years
  - Was part of the creation of the Guttman Community College
- 2017/2018 Graduation was wonderful last year with 750 in Lincoln Center big change from first grad 2008/2009
- Reiterates that his door is always open

Question Forum
- First question: Status of Zero Textbook Initiative (Tara)
  - High cost of books skews the economics of the degree/class
  - Fall 2018 - 26 new conversations to ZTC
  - Saving SPS students roughly $190k textbook cost
  - Fall 2018 — 32% undergraduates ZTC attribute and plan 25 new courses for the term
  - Money for ZTC focused on undergraduate programs not graduate
  - At the top of the class for rest of CUNY in terms of adoption
• New Blackboard now highlights *Akademos* online portal
  - Student share and using other retails part of the portal
• Dean plans to raise the issue seriously with the faculty, particularly graduate programs, perhaps guidelines that keep integrity of the course but reduce the cost
• Dean reiterated that the Professional Grant cannot be used Student Activity fees for course requirement
• Other potential solutions discussion
  - Increase donors pool for books
  - Better leverage buying system to pressure subscriptions and other alternative forms of acquisition
  - Assign portions rather than entire books
• Alcohol policy (Lisa)
  - SPS is a school of adults that it would be nice to have wine and beer at events
  - Journalism School and the Graduate Center is dealing with the same issue
  - There is talk of applying the policy of those schools to SPS
  - Dean thought the policy was not permitted on the entire campus (will be confirmed)
  - Research funds or fees cannot be used to purchase alcohol
  - More research needs to go into the policy change, including is it a good idea? What are the pros/cons?
• Laptop Loaner Program (Shakima)
  - Can the program be expanded from current 50? Ans: While the process is easy, the focus of the program has been emergencies, not for the entire semester. Not prepared to provide laptops as part of your education, e.g. it’s an online program.
  - Easy to expand the program
  - Low student awareness of the program
  - Currently students go to a faculty member to request
  - Normally a student flagged by faculty
  - IT committed to increase awareness of the service
  - Currently limited to 30 days and have extended based on specific circumstances
  - Action items for Student Association
    - Publish article about it for the Kiosk
    - SA should help define the criteria for extending the program
    - Anthony to follow up
• Future Degrees on the table (Milan)
  - One program may be open Sept 2019
    - MS in Museum Studies through NY Historical Society
    - Focused on issues of inclusion and diversity
• Other program Ideas
  • MS in Health Information Mgmt
  • PhD Disability Studies
  • MS Information System
• Degrees take at least a year or more for a create
• New academic director just started Elizabeth Alsap
  • Filled with ideas and would love to hear ideas
• Potential Ideas
  • Sales 101 class and HTML Coding
  • Communication with Speech
  • MS in Comm and Media
  • More courses that reflect current digital space, e.g. Law in the Digital Space
  • MS in Strategic Communications
• Any faculty issues should be directed to Ed Knox, Chief academic director, George (last name missed) and your advisor
• Students need to know that they have a right to complain or ask for adjustments; mainly through student feedback
• Action item
  • Publish article on expressing opinions in Kiosk
• Other questions
  • Kiosk and Professional development placement in Blackboard? Will send an email
• Credit card processing fees too high, e.g. $95 per transaction (John)
  • Fees associated with payment plans is a university issue.
  • NOTE: it can be lowered to $40 for eCheck
  • Brought it in every campus counsel, e.g. Bursar Looking for ways to get financial aid for PT and graduate students.
  • Goal to get more money devoted for scholarships for less than 30 credits.
• Development Team
  • Newly hired came from Brooklyn College, Michael Iadarolla and has a staff of 1 FT/PT
  • Will be focused on raising more money
  • Masters programs are often off the radar in terms of funding.
• Teacher appreciation / teacher engagement (Tara)
  • Goal: To foster relationship btw online students and faculty
  • Idea: year-end teacher appreciation plaque
    • Need to establish criteria, excluding year-end evaluation
  • Want faculty to buy in
  • Perhaps a hosted event, e.g. meet and greet
• Action item
  • Could use teacher of the year for the campus (ACTION)
• Mental Health Group Training
  • Erin: how can we have a group training as an event
  • Worked at City College for many years
• Diversity Event: Leonard — Oct 4th Event
  • Topic: National Disability employment
  • Five panelist all confirmed
    • (Get names from Leonard) — three CUNY and two none
    • Alley Cashen: Suffering in Silence
    • Jess Osreal: Talent
  • Open to students and faculty as well as other campuses and will announce it
• Disability / inclusion (Selma)
  • Need for etiquette and language training among students and professors
  • Could we develop / in-person and not Blackboard?
  • Should be the entire faculty
    • Professor still assigning inaccessible books, etc.
  • Action items
    • Talk to academic director, e.g. Mariette and Chris, about course
    • May be funds available to pay for the development of a course
• Want to use the NSLS
  • Hosted inductions steps in here as a means to create community
• Pacer: step challenge
  • Action items:
    • Put a campaign and community to check in once a month
    • Was an email that was sent out so may be a conflict
• Dominos Virtual Pizza party in place of the Fall Reception
  • Possible to send a pizza to max RSVP
  • Could be some communication engagement
  • Could have ambassador in geo locations
  • Mission: send something to everyone
  • Dominos thanks to franchising may not make it possible
  • Event at end of the semester
  • Could also have a discount for those who cannot attend
  • Could also be a 'hot spot' so location other than home

OTHER BUSINESS 7:40P
Washington addresses the SA
• Kiosk hosting secured today for 3 year agreement
• Already have the domain name
• NEXT STEP: domain subscription out of sync with hosting so check on that
• Have a credit card secured today for easy procurement
• Card opens possibility of gift cards
• Want to keep the list of vendors tight regardless
• Asked about the status of the terms and conditions for the Dominos Virtual Pizza party

LOGOS (Lisa)
• Was tasked last year for a logo treatment
• App that can translate / illustrate: iOS
• Would be co-branded esp the relationship SPS
• Should be school colors included
• Marissa to inc. the CUNY school logo
• Look and Feel design:
  • Survey bot
  • Feeling: Inclusion, Community and Leadership
    • # influenced by the faculty senate logo
• Action Items
  • Greg to create Survey to poll SA

BUDGET ITEMS (Shakima and Mazette)
• Includes a carryover from A 2017/2018
• Just a top level of the budget at the moment
  • Best for flexibility since events not fixed
  • Will be more details that will come at the next meeting
• MOTIONS
  • LISA motion to pass the budget for the 2018/2019
  • All in favor: 10 (present)
  • Abstentions: NO
  • Motion carried at 8:10

Action Items
• Those who want to throw events should come with templates filled out
• All should come with templates filled out
• SA has two weeks to come out with tentative specific budgets, especially space in the building etc.
  • Budget for business office: could start with the current one
• Kiosk: will check in with co-chairs
• Grant committee: social media

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:21
Second by Milan: 8:21
Meeting adjourned 8:21