Minutes of the CUNY SPS
Student Association Meeting
December 11, 2019.
119 W 31st Room 414
New York, NY 10001

Attendees: Leonard Blades, Evelyn Capellan, Mazette Edwards, Douglas Figueredo,
Patrycja Golinska, Jennifer Grace Lee, Lorne Lieberman, ShaWanna McPhaul, Diomaris
Peguero, Bonaparte Pierre, Marilyn Ridley, Lisa Sheridan, Anthony Sweeney, Shakima
Williams-Jones, De Quency Ziegler-Bowen.


Special Guest(s): Dean John Mogulescu and Senior Associate Dean for Strategy and
Innovation at CUNY SPS, Tracy Meade.

**********6:32pm meeting call to session**********

Agenda

I. Discussion with Dean John Mogulescu and Tracy Meade
II. Approval for the Minutes of November 2019 Meeting
III. Student Issues Survey – Bonaparte Pierre
IV. Updates from Anthony Sweeney & Student Affairs
V. Schedule Dates for Spring Semester
   a) March 27 – Student Leadership Conference
   b) May 8 – Undergraduate Research Conference
   c) May 21 - Spring Reception
VI. Monthly Committee Updates
   Commencement Keynote Speaker Committee
   Commencement Student Speaker Committee
   Special Events Committee
   Accessibility and Inclusion Committee
   Conference/Professional Networking Grant Committee
   Kiosk Committee
VII. Final thoughts, questions, comments and/or concerns
VIII. Adjournment

Notes
• The Student Association members welcomed Dean John Mogulescu and Senior Associate Dean for Strategy and Innovation at CUNY SPS, Tracy Meade.

• Dean John Molescu shared with the Student Association CUNY SPS is growing and overall, CUNY SPS is in good shape. He and Tracy Meade joined the Student Association to listen to students’ input.

• Shakima shared the need for a space in the building assigned for students meet-ups. Most CUNY colleges have designated rooms for students to meet.

• Dean Mogulescu acknowledged that space is a current issue for CUNY SPS. As the school is growing, there is very limited space in the building to offer students to meet up. There is no permanent space to designate, however, the school will try its best to accommodate students.

• Lisa addressed that the online library is converting into a new system and the process is impacting students. Accessing the library is becoming challenging as many links do not work properly to show content. As a result, students are utilizing outside resources to complete their assignments.

• The online library accessing issue seems to be a licensing and subscription problem, rather than Baruch technical issue. Dean Mogulescu is happy to check with Baruch to find a solution to this issue.

• ShaWanna discussed the low level of engagement from some professors during classes. Shawanna shared that some professors should be more involved and offer more tools and resources, specifically professors instructing calculations and math courses.

• Lorne commented on this issue by sharing his experience with one particular professor not posting grades on time. Students cannot track their progress throughout the semester. Lorne asked for a point of contact to address this type of issue in regards to professors not posting grades on time. Jennifer suggested to contact Z. Lobley, Director of Student Services.

• Diomaris shared her experience with tutoring services at CUNY SPS. It is challenging to set up in-person appointments. Patrycja corroborated the tutoring service is also a challenge for online students. Responses are not fast enough causing students to reach deadlines without feedback. Dean Mogulescu commented that adjunct faculty has a new contract that benefits instructors. This makes the faculty more available to students.
Jennifer suggested adding students hours to the course curriculum for instructors to be available for students’ questions and concerns.

- Shakima discussed the benefits of having an SPS open lab for students to share information and to network at the college. Dean Mogulescu strongly supports the open lab initiative.

- Graduate Student Readiness is doing great with professional workshops to prepare students for post-graduation. Dean Mogulescu commented while is good to encourage students to go to graduate school, it is also important to guide them in this process.

- Dean Mogulescu shared the university is pushing more courses to use zero-textbook program. Some degree programs are already implementing this program. The Dean suggested inviting associate dean of academic affairs, Jennifer Sparrow, to one of our meetings.

- Lisa and Marilyn shared their experiences with a particular class (math) as a Zero-textbook course. Dean commented that failing math is unfortunately at a high rate for CUNY overall.

- Shakima considered working in a forum with students and Jennifer Sparrow. Dean Mogulescu suggested bringing associate dean of administration and finance, Washington Hernandez, and Jennifer Sparrow to a formal meeting.

- Motion to approve the minutes with amendments from the meeting held on 11/13/2019:
  - Call to motion: Douglas
  - Second to motion: Lisa
  - In favor: Unanimous (13 members present)
  - No nays
  - No abstentions

- Students Issues Survey: Bonaparte is working on the survey. Provided a draft to the Student Association to collect feedback. Sarah is helping Bonaparte with the structure that the survey should follow. Should continue working in developing the survey at the beginning of the Spring Semester.

- New dates for Spring Semester Student Association meetings:
  - First meeting: February 6th.
  - Second meeting: March 12th.
  - Third meeting: April 2nd.
○ Last meeting: May 7th.
○ Ok to join meetings online.

● Events: 2 events requesting contributions. Undergraduate Meet-Up in February. Elizabeth Alsop is requesting a $1500 contribution to the event. Mets game on March 4. Anthony is requesting a $1,500 contribution.

● Motion to approve spending $1,500 in Mets tickets:
  ○ Call to motion: Patrycja
  ○ Second to motion: Marilyn
  ○ In favor: Unanimous (13 members present)
  ○ No nays
  ○ No abstentions

● Motion to approve spending $1,500 in Undergraduate Meet-up:
  ○ Call to motion: Patrycja
  ○ Second to motion: ShaWanna
  ○ In favor: Unanimous (13 members present)
  ○ No nays
  ○ No abstentions

● Major events for Spring Semester
  ○ March 27 – Student Leadership Conference
  ○ May 8 – Undergraduate Research Conference
  ○ May 21 - Spring Reception

● Student Association Committee updates:
  ○ Special events committee: No updates.
  ○ Professional networking grant: No updates
  ○ Abilities and Resources committee: No updates
  ○ Kiosk Committee: No updates.

● USS update:
  ○ Marilyn and Leonard suggested inviting President of CUNY USS Timothy to one of the CUNY SPS Student Association meeting next semester

● Voting to end this meeting:
  ○ Call to motion: Evelyn
  ○ Second to motion: ShaWanna
  ○ In favor: unanimous (13 members present)
○ No nays
○ No abstentions

**********Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.**********