MINUTES OF THE STEERING MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

HELD

November 18, 2011

AT UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM—12TH FL 101 WEST 31ST STREET—BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

There were present:

**USS Steering Members:**
- Kafui Kouakou, Chairperson
- Jeffrey Aikens, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs
- Dmitriy Bykovskiy, Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs
- Muhammad Waqar Arshad, Vice Chair for Senior Colleges
- Zeeshan Saroya, Vice Chair for Evening and Part-time Affairs
- Mohammed Samra, Vice Chair for Technology Fees

Chairperson Provost welcomes members to steering meeting. With six members present, a quorum of 6 is established and the meeting is called to order.

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

I. Roll Call
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Chairperson Report
IV. Vice Chair’s Report
V. USS Budget
VI. Announcements
VII. Adjournments

VC Samra motions to approve agenda; the motion is seconded by VC Saroya. The motion carries unanimously (6 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)
III. Chairperson Report
Chairperson Kouakou informs members that he met with Vice Chancellor Frank Sanchez about his role and obligations as USS Chairperson. He also met with Jay Hersheson, Senior Vice Chancellor Governmental Relations. VC Hersheson suggested that USS needs an organized website where links to all scholarships available to CUNY students can be posted in a centralized location. VC Hersheson also suggested that he could provide interns to help manage the website.

In an effort to mitigate confusion on when the plenary meetings will occur, Chairperson Kouakou suggests that the Steering Committee agree on a set of dates to present to the plenary on Sunday for approval. These dates, of course, will not be during major holidays, finals time, or spring break.

The following dates are presented as good meeting dates for the plenary session:
December 18, 2011
January 29, 2012
February 26, 2012
March 25, 2012
April 22, 2012
May 27, 2012

With the exception of the first two dates, all the other dates meet the “Sunday before the fourth Monday” clause of the constitution.

There is agreement on these dates by all the present members. These dates will be submitted for approval at the following Plenary session.

IV. Vice Chair’s Report
The Vice Chair’s take the time to speak briefly about some projects that they wish to do. Generally, most initiatives are in their embryonic stages.

VC Aikens is interested in developing scholarship/assistance programs that target graduate students. He will be working with the scholarship committee to reserve some funds. Fee-waivers for CUNY undergraduate students who plan to attend CUNY graduate programs is also important.

VC Samra is looking to work closely on the Pathways Resolution petition.

VC Saroya is thinking about organizing some evening events, including

V. Budget Report
VC Bykovskiy and Fernando Araujo, Budget Director, take time to summarize the status of the USS budget. Some history on the budget process is given by Mr. Araujo. VC Bykovskiy is interested in holding two budget hearings to prepare a
budget for the upcoming 2012 fiscal year. The hearings will be in December so that it is adopted by the plenary during the December 18 plenary session.

Chairperson Kouakou says that USS has been debating with COSA and the on the exact projections of the budget for the current fiscal year. There are numerous schools who have not submitted their funds and USS has suffered as a result. They will be meeting with VC Sanchez and COSA about this next week.

VIII. Announcements
No announcements were made.

IX. Adjournments
VC Aikens motions to adjourn, to which most members second. Meeting ends at 8:00.

Fernando Araujo

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Kafui Kouakou

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