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

HELD

December 2, 2011

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

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:55 P.M.

There were present:

**USS Steering Members:**
- Kafui Kouakou, Chairperson
- Antonio Alfonso, Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs
- Jeffrey Aikens, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs
- Dmitri 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
- Liliete Lopez, Vice Chair for Students with Disabilities
- Sandra May Flowers, Vice Chair for Community College Affairs

**Staff:**
- Fernando Araujo, Budget Director
- Okenfe Lebarty, Executive Director

Chairperson Kouakou welcomes members to steering meeting. With nine members present, a quorum 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 (9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)

### III. Chairperson Report
During the Board of Trustee Public Hearing at Baruch College on November 21, 2011, there were 15 students arrested or detained and then charged with trespassing and resisting arrest. An investigation is currently underway. Chairperson Kouakou has spoken to members of the Chancellery about dropping charges. He will be following up with them to ensure that these charges are dropped. The Chairman is currently gathering all the facts on the investigation before creating a plan of action. He has a scheduled meeting with CUNY administrators who are taking part in the investigation.

The vote at the Board of Trustee meeting that followed on November 28, 2011 went as expected. Chairperson Kouakou was the only member who voted against the proposed tuition increases over the next five years.

USS will have to do some follow up work on inquiring about where exactly the money is going. Steering members would like a good portion of the money to go to full-time faculty and student services.

Chairperson urges members to start thinking about being proactive and finding ways to help avoid future tuition hikes. This is an election year and using that as leverage to get commitments from local politicians who are interested in preserving affordable education.

### V. Vice Chair’s Report
VC Lopez is working on a food drive with Queens College based organizations and Helping Hands for the Disable.

VC Flowers is working with Dominic Carter on some potential initiatives.

VC Alfonso has been thinking about which direction to take the office of USS Legislative Affairs. In light of recent protest and clashes with peace keepers, a CUNY student bill of rights would be a good idea. He posits that we should create a student ran research project to outline solutions.

VC Soraya has been meeting with school president to have library and bursars office later hours. He will be making his rounds to the other CUNY campuses for inquiries.
VC Waqar is working on a proposal for the website. He is thinking about working creating some scholarships for students. He would like the scholarship committee to get up and running.

VC Samra had conversations with student from CUNY united.

VC Aikens is still doing outreach to graduate departments.

VI. Budget Report (Update)
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.

VII. Resolution against the spying of CUNY Muslim
Members express support for a proposal condemning spying on CUNY Muslim organizations. VC Alfonso agrees to draft such a resolution for the review of the committee at the upcoming USS Steering meeting. He also will draft another resolution in condemning the recent tuition hikes.

VIII. Announcements
No announcements were made.

IX. Adjournments
VC Aikens motions to adjourn, to which most members second. Meeting ends at 8:53.

Fernando Araujo
Kafui Kouakou