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

HELD

December 16, 2011

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

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 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
- 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
- Sandra May Flowers, Vice Chair for Community College Affairs

I. **Roll Call**
Chairperson Kouakou welcomes members to the meeting. With eight members present, a quorum is established and the agenda is initiated.

II. **Approval of the Agenda**
   I. Roll Call
   II. Approval of Agenda
   III. Approval of December 2, 2011 Minutes
   IV. Chairperson’s report
   V. Discussion on USS Budget
   VI. Resolution against Tuition Hikes
   VII. Resolution against spying of CUNY Muslim Students
   VIII. Announcements
   IX. Adjournment

VC Bykovskiy motions to approve agenda; the motion is seconded by VC Arshad. The motion carries unanimously (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)
III. Approval of the Minutes
VC Bykovskiy motions to approve agenda; VC Arshad seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)

IV. Chairperson’s Report
Chairperson Kouakou informs committee that the by-laws committee met and will present proposed changes to the plenary in short order. Amongst those changes is the establishment of the LGBT Task Force as a standing committee of USS.

Chairperson Kouakou yields floor to Professor Adam Schott Wandt, Deputy Chair for Instructional Technology Department of Public Management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He’s is presenting a proposal to seek to limit the increasing cost of tuition by creating a “CUNY eBOOKS” database. The goal of the project is to organize the purchasing power of the CUNY student body to leverage up to an 80% discount on textbooks. Professor Wandt is seeking to build awareness around this proposal. He believes it is important for student leaders to take advantage of the opportunity to negotiate with textbook companies on better deals on books.

Nigel Guscott, an undergraduate student at John Jay, is seeking to build awareness about a “CUNY Week” which will consist of a series of CUNY wide events designed to build community to our University. Mr. Guscott assures the committee that this is the beginning of a larger conversation with numerous student governance bodies around the University.

V. Discussion on USS Budget
The Steering members have a lengthy conversation about the line items in the budget. This is a continuation of the budget hearing that had taken place right before the Steering Committee meeting was called to order.

VC Flowers expresses her interest in having the line for students with disabilities increased. Chairman Kouakou assures VC Flowers that USS will continue to support students with disabilities through CCSD and other organizations and initiatives. He believes that the USS support for the students with disabilities community could be augmented without necessarily allocating more funding for that specific line.

VC Alfonso motions to approve the budget as drafted; VC Arshad seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions)

VI. Resolution against tuition hikes
This resolution was drafted by VC Alfonso in response to a conversation the recent tuition hikes. The CUNY Board of Trustees did approve a $300 raise for the upcoming academic year but they will have to approve the $300 increase for the upcoming four years. This resolution aims at outlining the position of the University Student Senate for the upcoming years.

VC Bykovskiy motions to approve agenda; VC Arshad seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions).

VII. Resolution on spying on Muslim associations
This resolution was also drafted by VC Alfonso. The resolution aims to advocate for a fair and just treatment of student organizations on our campus, specifically, the Muslim student associations at several senior colleges which were infiltrated by the NYPD.

VC Bykovskiy motions to approve agenda; VC Arshad seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously (8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions).

VIII. Announcements
No announcements were made. The committee has a brief conversation about the presentations that were given during the Chairperson’s Report.

IX. Adjournments
Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the University Student Senate Plenary session was adjourned at 9.05 P.M.

Kafui Kouakou

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Fernando Araujo

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