

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

HELD

APRIL 20, 2018

**AT CENTRAL OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
AT 555 WEST 57TH STREET—BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN**

I. ROLL CALL

There were present:

Present Steering Committee Members:

John Aderounmu, Chairperson; Yssed David Tobo, Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs; Cyrille Njikeng, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs; Jennifer Fernandez, Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs; Mauricette Gbenenoui, Vice Chair for Community College Affairs; Latchmie Marajh, Vice Chair for International Student Affairs; Kawthar Abdullah, Vice Chair for Disability Affairs; Laneika Lyons, Vice Chair for Technology Fee Affairs; Francesca Royal, Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs.

Absent Steering Committee Members:

University Student Senate Staff:

Fernando Araujo, Executive Director; Hercules E. Reid, Legislative Director.

With six members present, Chairperson Aderounmu called the meeting to order at 6:27 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes of April 13, 2018
- IV. Chairperson's Report
- V. Co-Sponsorships
 - A. Medgar Evers College Concert
 - B. Borough of Manhattan Formal
 - C. Hunter College Welfare Rights Initiative
- VI. Plenary meeting
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

Sen. Royal motioned to approve the agenda; Sen. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion carried: { 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions }.

Note: VC Fernandez joined the meeting at 7:02 PM

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2018

Sen. Lyons motioned to approve the Minutes of April 13, 2018; Sen. Royal seconded the motion. The motion carried: {7 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention}.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Aderounmu reported that USS delegates had a productive meeting on April 15th. The delegation nominated officers and had a lengthy discussion about the student activity fees.

Because the documents for the meeting, which included two potential resolutions, were not sent in advance, those items had to be removed from the agenda meeting. There was an agenda item title "Resolution on CUNY Investment Policy." Chairperson Aderounmu noted that this agenda item was intended to ask that the CUNY Board of Trustees consider a socially responsible investment policy. A number of students were informed that the agenda item called for a vote on a BDS resolution. This caused students and concerned members of the CUNY community to send dozens of emails to USS members asking them to vote no on a resolution that had not been drafted. The matter was referred to the USS Civic Affairs Committee for further discussion.

VC Royal, VC Njikeng, and VC Tobo expressed concerns over the fact that as members of the Steering Committee they were not aware of the misunderstanding until hours before the meeting. VC Royal noted this is a complicated issue which is not readily understood by most of our students; she was not comfortable considering a BDS resolution on behalf of the students at Hunter. VC Abdullah noted that a resolution on BDS would not be complicated because it would only include the facts of the conflict, with the goal of pressuring the Israel government to change their policies.

VC Njikeng noted that if a resolution of this kind is to be drafted, it would require a great deal of debate. Students will have to notify and we cannot have a situation where we learn about the night before. VC Tobo noted that it should be communicated to the Plenary that this will not be considered at the May meeting so that concern students do not show up at the meeting expecting a vote, as they did the previous meeting.

Chairperson Aderounmu appointed VC Njikeng as Co-chair of the Civic Affairs Committee.

V. **CO-SPONSORSHIPS**

A. **MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
FUNDING RESOLUTION FOR MEDGAR EVARS STUDENT GOVERNMENT
USS STEERING COMMITTEE
APRIL 20, 2018

The proposal reads in part:

This event serves as an end-of- year concert, as well as the culmination of our Commencement activities for the graduating class. The Diversity Concert not only provides our multicultural student population with an opportunity to celebrate with music from various cultures, but also provides all CUNY students with free entertainment in a safe, substance-free environment.

Sen. Tobo motioned to approve a co-sponsorship of \$10,000 for the Medgar Evers Student Government Conncert; Sen. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion carried: { 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions }.

B. **BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLUB FORMAL**

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
FUNDING RESOLUTION FOR BMCC CLUB FORMAL
USS STEERING COMMITTEE
APRIL 20, 2018

The proposal reads in part:

BMCC has a huge number of students who come from different cultures and background. Since the last year and a half, as current BMCC students, have come to the realization that, although BMCC students are of different ethnicities but we don't know much about each other's culture, or the demographics of BMCC's diversity. Plus, as Students; life gets stressful for us at times with all the burden that a student has on its self, studies, work and family, for some it may be even more than just that. But we don't find the time in BMCC to forget about all and have fun with our fellow students for a while, instead some students visit other CUNY Colleges to find that as, Hunter or City College Formal events.

Sen. Tobo motioned to approve a co-sponsorship of \$4,000 for the Borough of Manhattan Community College Club Formal; Sen. Njikeng seconded the motion. The motion carried: {8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

C. HUNTER COLLEGE WELFARE RIGHTS INITIATIVE

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE
FUNDING RESOLUTION FOR HUNTER COLLEGE WELFARE RIGHTS INITIATIVE
USS STEERING COMMITTEE
APRIL 20, 2018

The proposal reads in part:

The mission of WRI is to train and support students who have firsthand experience of poverty to effectively promote access to education for all. With our model of trainers training trainers, WRI exemplifies a democratic and inclusive process in its work to create systemic changes that lead to economic stability, empowerment and dignity for all families. We are committed to increasing access to policy-making for historically underrepresented women and men.

Sen. Tobo motioned to approve a co-sponsorship of \$5,000 for the Hunter College Welfare Rights Initiative; Sen. Njikeng seconded the motion. The motion carried: {8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Reid announce thanked the Steering Committee for giving him the opportunity to join the USS staff. He would like to take the time to meet with Steering Committee soon. He stated that he is excited to be on board.

Mr. Reid announced that, earlier in the day, he met with Phillip Thompson, NYC Deputy Mayor, about democracy now, an initiative to get New Yorkers civically engaged. Mr. Reid also had a meeting with Councilwoman Barron and Deputy Mayor Thompson about the progress of the NYC Council Committee on a Free CUNY. The committee is set to issue a white paper report on the steps needed to be taken to bring CUNY back to being tuition free. Mr. Reid, who also serves on the committee, noted that report was due earlier in the year. He is excited to see traction on the matter.

VC Fernandez reported that on April 27, 2018, the CUNY Central Office is hosting a CUNY Dreamers Spring Festival at John Jay College. USS is co-sponsoring the event.

VC Njikeng announced that the City College Graduate Student Symposium a great success. He thanked members of the Steering for their support.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, this University Student Senate Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

John Aderounmu, USS Chairperson

Date

Fernando Araujo, Secretary to the USS Steering Committee

Date

ADDENDUM: USS STEERING COMMITTEE VOTING TALLY

	Last Name	Position	Roll Call	Agenda	April 13, 2018 Minutes	MEC Co-sponsorship	BMCC Formal Co-Sponsorship	Welfare Rights Initiative Co-Sponsorship
20-Apr-18			Voting Members Present: 9	Total Yes: 8	Total Yes: 7	Total Yes: 8	Total Yes: 8	Total Yes: 7
			Total Alternates Present: 0	Total No: 0	Total No: 0	Total No: 0	Total No: 0	Total No: 0
			Total Absent: 0	Total Abstentions: 0	Total Abstentions: 1	Total Abstentions: 0	Total Abstentions: 0	Total Abstentions: 0
John	Aderounmu	Chairperson	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yssed David	Tobo	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cyrille	Njikeng	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Abstention	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jennifer	Fernandez	Vice Chair	Present			Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauricette	Gbenenoui	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Latchmie	Marajh	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kawthar	Abdullah	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes			
Laneika	Lyons	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Francesca	Royal	Vice Chair	Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes