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

HELD

APRIL 1, 2016

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

There were present:

USS Steering Members:
Joseph Awadjie, Chairperson
Shirley Jackson, Vice Chair for Graduate Affairs
Japneet Singh, Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs
Dexter Robers, Vice Chair for Disability Affairs
Katherine Gutierrez Rios, Vice for International Student Affairs
Okeke, Vice Chair for Part-time and Evening Affairs
Zulfiqar Soomro, Vice Chair for Fiscal Affairs

University Student Senate Staff:
Fernando Araujo, Executive Director

Guest:
Randall Michael, Social Justice Conference
Jake Streich-kest, Fight for 15 Campaign

I. Roll Call

With 7 voting members present, a quorum was established. Chairman Awadjie called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

II. Approval of the Agenda

I. Roll Call
II. Approval of the Agenda
III. Approval of the February 19, 2016 Minutes
IV. Fight for $15 Campaign
V. Chair's Report
- NYC Comptroller Press Conference
- Randall Michael presentation on social justice conference

VI. International Women's Day Event
VII. Budget Committee Report
VIII. Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

VC Jackson motioned to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by VC Gutierrez. The motion carried unanimously: {7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

III. Approval of the February 19, 2016 Minutes

VC Gutierrez motioned to approve the February 19, 2016 minutes; the motion was seconded by VC Soomro. The motion carried unanimously: {7 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

IV. Fight for 15 Campaign

Jake Streich-kest delivered a presentation on the Fight for 15 Campaign. The campaign is part of a social movement that aims at helping workers earn a livable wage. The campaign was started by fast food workers in NY who were protesting for their right to form a union and to receive a wage increase. Their goal was to get a wage of $15 for fast food workers. During the past two years, the campaign has spread throughout hundreds of city in the United States.

Mr. Streich-kest would like USS to support the Fight for $15 by spreading the word about their upcoming action. VC Roberts expressed support for the initiative. The Steering Committee agreed with the expressed support. Director Araujo stated that he will discriminate the information via the USS listserv.

V. Chair's Report

Chairman Awadjie announced that New York City Comptroller will be hosting a press conference on April 3, 2016. He requested two volunteers from the Steering group attend.

Chairman Awadjie yielded the floor to Randall Michael:

Currently, we are executing the initial phase of building a collection of on-camera interviews with students and artists sharing inspiring stories about social and civic responsibility. Where possible, we will document student organizations working in parallel to artists in cause.

Together, they could create a larger impact for local and global communities in need. Stories will support the formation of an online community showcasing and distributing student and artist works that inspire others into action. A mobile app will provide community building tools for artist and student interaction around social action projects.

This venture will highlight student community works and encourage their leadership in promoting social advancement. There are many inspirational stories to be told about how students could impact global change in their native and ancestral homelands.

We are collaborating with advocacy, media, and tech groups to champion this project. Partnerships are significant in helping support many passionate students interested in solving immigration, environmental, education, and other important issues in the world in which we live.

VI. Budget Report

VC Soomro submitted the following summary of proposals and reviewed them with the Steering Committee:

The following are the proposals reviewed by the Fiscal Committee with an Excel File were presented by me the last steering and not the budget report!!

Meeting was held on Feb 05th & 16th Feb 2016

#1
Name: USS Presents "The David Margulies People of the NY stage Series"
Proposed by: Steve Kleinburg
Campus: N/A COSA
Total Requested: $25,000
Proposal: Rejected 1-2-0
Committee Recommends that Steve gets sponsorship's from other campuses with theater departments first and then come to USS for sponsorship and not to rely
on USS alone.

#2
Name: Leadership with Jose Vergas
Proposed by: Judy Krinitz
Campus: Queens College
Total Requested: 3000, 5000 & 15000
Proposal: Rejected 0-3-0
Committee Recommends that Judy Krinitz asks other student governments and Dreamers within CUNY for more support and later come back to USS because the proposal is in contradiction within itself. We are being asked to contribute the maximum amount. The proposal asks for 3 different amounts and it implies that we should most defiantly cosponsor the event.

#3
Name: Trip to Nicaragua
Proposed by: Brielle Cardier
Campus: Brooklyn College
Total Requested: 10,000
Proposal: Rejected 0-3-0Committee Felt that this wasn't a proposal that USS should fund due to the limited reach it had to students. Also with the amount asked, USS could fund quite a lot of different proposals that may benefit a large number of students within CUNY.

#4
Name: 2016 Focus on Ability Short Film Festival
Proposed by: Margaret Ling
Campus: Baruch College
Total Requested: 0
Proposal: Accepted 3-0-0
The Committee accepted the proposal because we feel it’s in accordance with our requirements.

#5
Name: Bollywood Blackout
Proposed by: Mohit Batra
Campus: Queens College
Total Requested: 5000 Approved 3000
Proposal: Accepted 4-0-0
The Committee accepted the proposal because we feel it’s in accordance with our requirements.

The following are the proposals reviewed by the Fiscal Committee on 3 and 16th March

#6
Name: Graduate Research Symposium
Proposed by: Shirley Jackson GSC
Campus: CCNY
Total Requested: 6000 - Committee Recommended 4000
Proposal: Approved 3-0-0

Committee felt that the proposal wasn't detailed enough; example didn't have a detailed breakdown of the budget. However in good faith, considering the mix up last year with USS unable to fund their event. As it's a Gala we realize that the food is served hot and that's the reason why the amount being asked is too much. We ask the Steering to invite GSC to come to the steering to present their proposal or to make it easy ask the steering member who has made the proposal. The Committee on the other hand recommends only $4000 for now due to the fact the proposal lacks detailed information.

#7
Name: One Way: Recharged
Proposed by: CCNY Gospel Choir
Campus: CCNY
Total Requested: $3000
Proposal: Denied 0-1-2

The Committee wants to make it clear that USS is not an allocating body. The fact that the entire event is relied on USS funding didn't sit right with the committee as it's not a USS project. Gospel choir didn't specify if they reached out to their student government on the **BUDGET REQUEST FORM** but only mentioned in their proposal that they weren't able acquire enough funds from AEC AND USG. The Committee recommends that CCNY Gospel Choir should ask other schools that are going to be present at this event to cosponsor with them. Also if the Student Government at CCNY was unable to fund this event, they should have been the ones bringing this proposal to us.

#8
Name: 2016 Sociology Doctoral Conference
Proposed by: Cecilia Salvi
Campus: Graduate Center
Total Requested: $205
Proposal: Denied 0-1-2

The Committee decided not approve the budget request because the **REQUEST WAS MADE** on 3rd March & the event was on the following day 4th March.
The Committee rejected the proposal on the fact that the event was less than 24 hours away.

#9
Name: Graduate Students in Music Conference
Proposed by: Cecilia Salvi
Campus: Graduate Center
Total Requested: 300
Proposal: Accepted 3-0-0

The Committee accepted the proposal because we feel it's in accordance with our requirements.

#10
Name: The Work of Settler Colonialism Symposium
Proposed by: Cecilia Salvi
Campus: Graduate Center
Total Requested: 300
Proposal: Accepted 3-0-0

The Committee accepted the proposal because we feel it's in accordance with our requirements.

#11
Name: Breaking Broken Window Conference
Proposed by: Cecilia Salvi
Campus: Graduate Center
Total Requested: 250
Proposal: Accepted 3-0-0

The Committee accepted the proposal because we feel it's in accordance with our requirements.

There will be a press conference in Albany before the meetings with legislators begin.

VII. CCNY Graduate Student Symposium

Note: Chairman Awadjie left the meeting to attend a previously scheduled event. VC Jackson Chaired the meeting.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

FISCAL RESOLUTION: CCNY GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 1, 2016

UNIVERSTIY STUDENT SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that the University Student Senate, allocates $6,000 for the CCNY Graduate Students Symposium.

VC Gutierrez motioned to approve funding resolution proving $6,000 in funding for the CCNY Graduate Student Symposium; the motion was seconded by VC Okeke.
The motion carried unanimously: {6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

VIII. Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship Proposal

UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE

FISCAL RESOLUTION: KALIEF BROWDER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

APRIL 1, 2016

UNIVERSTIY STUDENT SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that the University Student Senate, allocates $10,000 from the USS Scholarship account reserves to contribute towards the Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship.

VC Jackson made the following recommendations to the committee considering the scholarship:

- The requirement for the eligibility be for all students in good academic standing, with the understanding that this criteria will cast a wide net of applicants.
- Following similar reasoning, that the minimum amount of credits for eligible applicants be 9 credits.
- That there would be shared governance in the review committee.

VC Gutierrez motioned to approve funding resolution proving $10,000 in funding for the Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship; the motion was seconded by VC Okeke.
The motion carried unanimously: {6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions}.

IX. Announcements

There were no announcements.

X. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, this University Student Senate Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Chairperson, Joseph Awadjie	Recording Secretary, Fernando Araujo