

USG SENATE MEETING

March 10th, 2012

Frist 309, 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Jackson calls the meeting to order.

Mr. Jackson: This meeting is going to be pretty short because of Midterms. Carmina and I met with Chuck O'Boyle about finding the next director of Careers Services. They'll be making that decision towards the end of the year. There's a possibility that USG will be more involved with that. The second meeting was with Frist, just an introductory meeting. We talked about late meal for upperclassmen. Lori Hall is going to be working with Ella's Ad-Hoc committee.

Ms. Cheng: Lists names of committee members. Our first meeting will be tomorrow 3:30-4:30 in Campus Club. We'll be discussing the plans for this committee and a visit to Rutgers to see their programming.

Mr. Jackson: They are creating a new position for the executive director of Career Services.

Mental Health Recap.

Ms. Bui: The movie sold out all of the tickets. The fitness events were booked completely. All the residential colleges participated. The UHS health screening had the highest number of screenings they have ever had. I followed up with two reps this week and they mentioned that CPS had higher than normal admissions during mental health week. The website was visited frequently. We also had a discussion about *Next to Normal*. I'll go straight into the discussion questions. We wanted to create something that was a little more sustainable and beyond a week. We're presenting to CPUC, council of masters, we're looking at revamping the liaison program. We're thinking of doing another video before the end of the semester. Our first question is: what are your thoughts of the executive board?

Mr. Kugelmass: I worry about creating more bureaucracy in the same line of the community service committee.

Mr. Okuda-Lim: When we talked about the idea as a committee, we thought that the difference is that we wouldn't be looking to replicate something that already happens, like at the Pace center. We would be looking to get representatives together from various groups to work on keeping the dialogue going throughout the school year rather than having the USG do all of the planning and execution.

Ms. Alivisatos: There was a lot more collaboration between groups on campus for this event and we would like to keep that going.

Ms. Shen: Does the USG need to have the chair role or can it be its own entity.

Ms. Bui: It is still in the planning stages. I did a really quick survey right after. In the free response, students wanted to see something more continuous rather than a one week event.

Ms. Alivisatos: I do think there is a value of a USG representative because of the central role of the USG.

Mr. Okuda-Lim: The USG would still be there because we're able to get the word out to the entire student body.

Ms. Bui: In the future, what are events we should avoid/repeat/new events, etc?

Ms. Davoudiasl: Were all the events full?

Ms. Bui: The glow party, the main event, was.

Mr. Sharp: Going off of the feedback we have in the survey would be very valuable. Talking to people outside of USG and seeing what worked for them would be most valuable.

Ms. Alivisatos: What do people think about bringing in speakers? There is always this fear about people not showing up. Should we not do speakers?

Ms. Shen: I don't think your highest impact was the speakers. I do think that events for speakers who are big name are effective. Maybe speakers would be effective for a smaller audience but highest impact is not with speakers.

Mr. Sharp: Maybe doing a dinner discussion with speakers could be valuable for the people who could get something out of it.

Ms. Wiley: I think the dinner discussion is good because people like to multi-task. During the week it is difficult because you get caught up in the things that you are doing. It sounds silly, but it is a practical point that should be taken into consideration.

Ms. Shen: When considering the survey, let's try to tack this onto other surveys to increase response rate.

Ms. Bui: Because we want to keep this going, what would you like to see on the website? Maybe later on, closer to finals we can post some of our remaining content.

Ms. Mancenon: When will the descriptions for the What I Be project be uploaded?

Ms. Bui: I'm not sure. I will check with Shirley.

Ms. Cheng: Is there any way to have releases at the same time? Releasing them in chunks, can get people to come back to the website.

Ms. Bui: From Shirley, what kind of what I be program should we develop to keep conversations going?

Ms. Davoudiasl: I went to an event with the peer health advisors about self image. It was an intimate environment. I think this programming is effective. If we can increase programming on their behalf, that would be effective.

Ms. Bui: What could have improved so that we can better meet the goals of the what I be project?

Mr. Lima: I remember hearing that last year when they did the consensual sex week, I feel that if mental health week had a catchy slogan, that could resonate well.

Ms. Davoudiasl: I think Prince link and Princeton FML have anonymity. I think some people would have shared had their names not been associated with it.

Ms. Cheng: Can people still comment on the website? Having an opportunity to share own stories would be effective.

Mr. Okuda-Lim: Some students have commented on how there may have been confusion between diagnosable mental health disorders versus general strength, unhappiness, etc. Any suggestions on how to separate that line for future programming?

Mr. Kugelmass: It isn't always clear what defines that line. We don't really know what that is.

Ms. Kim: I don't know the real reason why you'd want to make a clear distinction about that. The blurring allowed people to come outside their comfort zone to share their stories. I think it is good to leave it blurred.

Mr. Sharp: I think that this line is a discussion, but I think it is valuable to have this line. People should know when they should seek out help. I think it is valuable because people who don't know that they do have a problem can find out.

Mr. Okuda-Lim: CPS has an online questionnaire for that.

Ms. Ordilac: If you are asking people if they are at that line, that is not a judgment we can make. Mental Health week is a good opportunity for people to seek out those resources if they need them.

Budget Update

Ms. Yu: Budget from January 15-Feb 15. There is a new section for fund requests and invoices that have yet to be processed. How much do you think should be allocated to the Spring social budget?

Mr. Kugelmass: We've already approved their budget. I'm glad you started putting down what are accounts receivable and payable. Can we switch that around? Can we switch the budget to an accrual basis and then have the cash on a separate note?

Ms. Yu: It is hard to determine when they actually are coming.

Mr. Sharp: Why are we talking about this if we already approved the social budget?

Ms. Yu: Yes, for additional things they'd like to do.

Ms. Shen: Is she asking for more money for other initiatives?

Ms. Yu: It really depends on what Carla has planned.

Ms. Shen: I'd rather table that discussion until we have Carla's thoughts on this.

Mr. Jackson: This question is more of a long term question about how much we want to spend on spring social budget.

Ms. Okuda Lim: Is there any way we can buy a coffee machine.

Mr. Kugelmass: I would reiterate that we try to get a firm proposal on how we are going to save on office expenses.

Mr. Sharp: Does projects board have to come to us for the \$1000 expense?

Mr. Jackson: They can approve up to that amount without asking for our approval.

Agenda Setting

Mr. Jackson: Our next Senate meeting will be on March 24th. We will also have a meeting on the 31st.

Ms. Shen: Can we see what is on the agenda for the Sunday back from Spring break?

Mr. Jackson: We have the CPUC meeting recap. Greg will be presenting about Turbo Vote. Ella will talk about the Ad Hoc committee. Deana: funding request from Tiger Universe.

Ms. Mancenon: We're going to move into executive session.