

PSC Delegate Assembly, April 20, 2023

Draft Minutes

Present:

Batson	EC	Huang	C	Bink	HEO	Gronowicz	MCC	Apkarian	Y
Bosket	EC	Mano	C	Bonilla	HEO	Hutchison	MCC	Hansen	Y
Davis	EC	Veeseer	C	Brown	HEO	Johnstone	MCC	Pritchard	Y
Delutro	EC	Abdali	CLT	Dempster	HEO	Offenholley	MCC		
Gaboury	EC	Batiz	CLT	Doney	HEO	Roberts	MCC		
Jeu	EC	Girgis	CLT	Galloway-Perry	HEO	Smallwood	MCC		
Kang	EC	Gruber	CLT	Lee	HEO	Smart	MCC		
Kurtz	EC	Irigoyen	CLT	Llamas	HEO	Walker	MCC		
Lewis	EC	Bardsley	CSI	Martini	HEO	Jones	MEC		
Lilly	EC	Bishop	CSI	Miller	HEO	Lashley	MEC		
McIntyre	EC	Cope	CSI	Minor	HEO	Stephens	MEC		
Meltzer	EC	Hagedorn	CSI	Moon	HEO	Cameron	MEOC		
Persinger	EC	Powers Silverberg	CSI	Morrison	HEO	Albany	NYCT		
Romer	EC	Tournaki	CSI	Norman	HEO	Behrent	NYCT		
Schnee	EC	Tyner	GCC	Okrosy	HEO	Birchett	NYCT		
Seo	EC	Aptekar	GS	Parker	HEO	Cheng	NYCT		
Shacter-Dechabert	EC	Bianchino	GS	Patestas	HEO	Cuordileone	NYCT		
Stemberg	EC	Borrell	GS	Epstein	JJ	Harris	NYCT		
Turner	EC	Devlin	GS	Hovey	JJ	Loguercio	NYCT		
Utakis	EC	Goldberg	GS	Majumdar	JJ	MacDonald	NYCT		
Vasquez	EC	Grassman	GS	Pittman	JJ	Standing	NYCT		
Wharton	EC	Hu	GS	Swenson	JJ	Duncan	Q		
Winter	EC	Kagan	GS	Vance	JJ	Foasberg	Q		
Bank Munoz	B	Merriwether	GS	Cally	KCC	Genao	Q		
Hashmi	B	Rothman	GS	Cuccia	KCC	George	Q		
Juhasz	B	Shirazi	GS	Rosson	KCC	Gerwin	Q		
Manlow	B	Wood	GS	Spear	KCC	Guskin	Q		
Schiller	B	Berube	H	Alexander-Street	L	Shalkowski	Q		
Davis	BAR	Walker Kilkenny	H	Auslander	L	Bordoni	QCC		
Gareis	BAR	Cusick	H	Chen-Hayes	L	Pecorino	QCC		
Hernandez	BAR	Gold	H	Farrell	L	James	RFNY		
Petersen	BAR	John	H	Wangerin	L	DiSalvo	RT		
Plochocki	BAR	Kenigsberg	H	Beaty	LGCC	Friedheim	RT		
Wine	BAR	Stone	H	Cleary	LGCC	Friedman	RT		
Guishard	BCC	Bernardini	HCC	Connors	LGCC	Greenbaum	RT		
	BEO								
Dunson	C	Pimentel	HCC	Durand	LGCC	Kissack	RT		
Balun	C	Adams	HEO	Karras	LGCC	McCall	RT		
Barnett	C	Ballerini	HEO	Creaco	MCC	Moran	RT		
Cappetti	C	Baptiste	HEO	Grant	MCC	Newfield	RT		

Guest:

Chris	Natoli	H
Christopher	Santiago	CSI

Staff:

Shomial	Ahmad
Ida	Cheng
Bettina	Damiani
Rico	Doan
Ava	Farkas
Brian	Graf
Dean	Hubbard
Daniel	Hunt
Denise	Jetter
Kim	Lashley
Faye	Moore
Anais	Surkin
Pete	Zwiebach

[Members of the DA convened in pre-DA small groups on Zoom: 6:15 -6:45
Membership , Coalition Work, Anti-Racism Work, Anti-bullying Work Health & Safety, Local Budget
Cuts, Digital Organizing, Healthcare, State Budget Campaigns, CATs]

Approvals

A. Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda (Motion: H.Meltzer; seconded) **APPROVED.**

B. Minutes for March 16, 2023 meeting

MOTION: To approve the March 16, 2023 DA minutes (Motion: H. Meltzer; seconded)
APPROVED.

II. President's report and discussion (including written) - J. Davis

Rutgers strike

During the Rutgers strike, which lasted for a week and involved three campuses and three unions, significant salary increases were achieved for the lowest-paid instructional positions, along with other notable benefits. The negotiating team focused on demands that would benefit the common good and encouraged member participation in bargaining sessions. Rutgers University was compared to CUNY to inform contract negotiations. In addition to the salary increases, other provisions were achieved, including guaranteed funding for Teaching Assistants/Graduate Assistants for five years, extended appointments for Adjuncts based on teaching duration, presumptively renewable contracts for certain non-tenure track positions, increased authority over scheduling for department chairs and faculty members, a process for addressing salary equity across campuses, a side letter protecting against caste-based discrimination and harassment, and the establishment of a Common Good Community Fund with a budget of \$600,000, administered by a 501(c)3 organization.

Takeaways from Rutgers successful campaign include winning support from students and the community, the speed in which they were able to escalate and challenge the administration and that they were in control of the media narrative. All of these elements seemed to have been critical to their victory.

State and City Budget - Report delivered by Andrea Vasquez.

After three weeks past the deadline, deliberations are ongoing regarding the state budget. Despite the uncertainty of the final budget, members of the PSC have already made a significant impact through various actions such as demonstrations, marches, lobbying efforts, and communication with legislators and the Governor. Some notable achievements include successfully removing the Governor's proposed tuition hikes from consideration, as both the Assembly and Senate have expressed opposition to them. Additionally, the PSC's efforts have resulted in the inclusion of more funding for CUNY in the legislature's one-house bills compared to what the Governor had initially proposed in her executive budget. This positive development has set a favorable stage for negotiations between the executive and legislative branches. The progress made is evident from statements made by Assembly Higher Ed Committee chairperson Patricia Fahy, who acknowledged the increased attention given to the serious needs of SUNY and CUNY, highlighting the impact on the quality of education. The momentum gained from advocating for the New Deal for CUNY has also led NYSUT to launch a statewide campaign for a New Deal for Higher Education, encompassing both SUNY and CUNY.

Mayor Adams has unveiled his city budget proposal for the fiscal year 2024, indicating potential cuts to various city agencies, including CUNY. In the previous year, savings were achieved through vacancy reductions, leaving positions unfilled and taking them off the books which resulted in the loss of over 200 faculty and staff positions at CUNY. The mayor has announced a third round of cuts, expected to range from 3-4 percent, that will be included in the upcoming executive budget proposal. These cuts would impact several sectors, along with CUNY. The budget director justified the additional cut to CUNY by highlighting that CUNY and K-12 education would receive a lesser cut of 3 percent compared to other city agencies facing a 4.75 percent reduction.

Despite these proposed cuts, there is optimism due to the City Council's strong advocacy for CUNY. In their response to the budget, CUNY is mentioned 46 times, with the council opposing any cuts and supporting the union's request for an extra \$35.5 million to hire 200 new full-time faculty advisors. Eric Dinowitz, the chair of the Higher Education Committee, emphasized the need to expand comprehensive support services at CUNY, expressing that programs like ASAP should be the standard for all students, rather than a specialized initiative reliant on separate funding.

PSC actions on CUNY budget

PSC officers and members testified at City budget hearings and a roundtable discussion convened by the Higher Education Committee chair.

Planned actions:

- May 8, 4:30 pm, Board of Trustees Public Hearing
- May 11, 12:30 pm, City Hall Park

Bargaining

CUNY has not yet scheduled bargaining dates with the PSC, but efforts to push for negotiations are ongoing. A member petition titled "Come to the Bargaining Table" will be presented at the May 8 Board of Trustees hearing. Member-leaders from various local Collective Bargaining Teams (CATs) met on April 18, and local actions, including tabling, will continue on campuses until the end of the Spring semester.

NYSUT RA

PSC will send a delegation to the NYSUT Representative Assembly being held on April 28-29. They aim to gather support for a resolution the PSC co-sponsored, which advocated for the elimination of Tier VI from the New York State pension system. The PSC has a longstanding history of opposing Tier VI. Additionally, the

delegation participated in the triennial election of NYSUT officers and directors, as well as voting on a proposed dues increase.

City health plans and Welfare Fund benefits

The period to waive NYC-provided retiree health plans (Aetna Medicare Advantage and HIP VIP Premier) is open from May 1 to June 30. The PSC has been updating their website with information and guidance to help retirees make an informed decision. An online information session hosted by Aetna is scheduled for Friday, April 21, at 10 am, followed by a PSC-only debriefing. The PSC is exploring legislative options to establish a premium-free Medigap plan equivalent to the current Senior Care plan, but City Council members have indicated that they will not consider it until the City budget is finalized. The Organization of Public Service Retirees is preparing to litigate against the implementation of the Aetna Medicare Advantage plan, but the PSC is not involved in the lawsuit. The PSC is also working to verify that retirees who waive city health coverage can still retain eligibility for PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund benefits, and they aim to address any necessary changes to the governing documents of the union and the Welfare Fund by the end of the month.

Break

III.

A. Financial Report - F. Wharton

February 2023 Financial Statement
Total Operating Income: \$ 1,461,000
Total Operating Expenses: \$ 1,945,000
Surplus (Deficit): \$ (484,000)

Year-to-date (6 months):

As of February 28, 2023, the financial statement shows a six-month deficit of \$226,000 when year-to-date expenditures are compared with year-to-date income. PSC spent \$10,008,000 and \$9,782,000 was received over the six-month period.

**MOTION: To accept the February 2023 Treasurer's Report (Motion: J. Batiz; seconded)
APPROVED.**

B. Executive Directors Report - D. Hubbard

.Staff:

Daniel Hunt started as our new Financial Services Director on April 4.

II. Elections committee report:

NYCCT- Pat Rudden resigned as delegate on 3/23. The vacancy was recognized by the elections committee on 3/27.

QCC- Linda Hart resigned as Officer at Large on 3/24. The vacancy was recognized by the elections committee on 3/27.

GC- Susan Fountain resigned as Alternate Delegate on 3/6. The vacancy was recognized by the elections committee on 3/8.

Executive Council: Claudia Shacter-DeChabert was elected as Part-Time Personnel Officer at the Delegate Assembly meeting on 3/16. The election was certified by the elections committee on 3/27.

The Spring 2023 chapter elections are under way. The nominating petitions were distributed on Monday, February 6, 2023, the deadline to receive nominating petitions passed March 6, 2023 and ballots were mailed to members' home addresses on Monday, April 3. Here is the remaining part of the timeline:

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023, 5:00 PM — Ballots in an uncontested election must be received at the PSC Office.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023, 10:00 AM – Mailed Ballots will be counted.

The elections committee will meet between 5-10 working days from Friday, April 28 to certify the results. The terms for the newly elected shall commence ten (10) working days after the certification of such election by the Elections Committee or in the instance of a challenged election ten (10) working days after the action of the Delegate Assembly.

MOTION: To accept the Elections Committee report (Motion: P. Lewis; seconded) **APPROVED.**

IV. Committee Report

Anti Racism Committee

MOTION: To appoint Diane Auslander and Shawn Grant to the Anti Racism Committee. APPROVED

AMENDMENT: To nominate Mary Phillips to be appointed to the Anti Racism Committee (Motion: M. Hashmi; seconded) **APPROVED**

V. Membership Report - A. Vasquez

Andrea Vasquez shared a table showing membership data by campus and title.

- 153 new members signed up so far this year.
- By title, a third of these new members were HEOs and more than half full-timers.
- Still at 88% full-time membership and 51% part-time membership. Pre-pandemic numbers were 95% FT and 62% PT.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn not necessary due to the meeting coming to the extended time from a procedural motion and an additional procedural motion to further extend time failed.