

CIIS Student Alliance Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2006

MINUTES

1. Introductions

2. Student Concerns

Since Student Alliance always serves food at meetings, the assembled members voted to purchase (for under \$100) plates and silverware to cut down on waste and be more green. Shane David proposed that we spend some money to buy reusable plates, cups, and utensils for our SA meals and events. The proposal was an effort to approach sustainability at our meetings in a place where we have been using a lot of resources. With the approval of those present at the meeting, Shane will head to Goodwill to get a set of items for future use, no more than \$100 (probably more like \$50). Using these materials will create a responsibility at meetings for someone to volunteer to clean up.

A student brought up discord between faculty, students and administration that shows the need for an independent arbitrator or ombudsman. Mary Fries pointed out that Student Alliance is the place where such problems should be brought and addressed. Kim D'Arcy also noted that a problem happened last semester and she started to address it with the administration, but then found that none of the students were able to follow-through with the discussions with the administration that Kim had set up. Another student suggested that perhaps a grievance committee should be set up. The current grievance process is to go to Richard Buggs. Outreach Liason Sergio Rodriguez-Castillo is another resource, if one is concerned about confidentiality, etc.

3. Volunteers Needed

Mary Fries announced the following Student Alliance voluntary positions that need to be filled:

1. Publicity Coordinator – filled!
2. Food coordinator - all meetings have a meal, Student Alliance is looking for someone to take responsibility for ordering and getting the food, all expenses will be reimbursed. An incentive is that the coordinator gets to keep the leftovers!
3. Film Coordinator-organize film screenings. Kim would like to establish a film night every month, but needs help in organizing it.

Volunteers are also needed for organizing the Multiversity (on April 2, presenters are needed as well), Expression Session (CIIS' Talent Show, Friday April 7) and the End of Semester Party.

Action Teams needing volunteers: The Student Alliance Website needs a focus group for webmistress Mary to bounce ideas off of. Other Action Teams that could use volunteers are Greening of CIIS, Budget Action Team and Proposal Action Team.

If you are interested in helping, email [studentalliance 'at' ciis.edu](mailto:studentalliance@ciis.edu).

4. Current Projects

Logo Contest: No logo was received, so Mary suggested increasing prize to \$300.

Student Alliance Website: Mary has found a green company to be our provider, sustainablewebsites.com, who buy electricity through a wind-power company. The cost is \$110 per year.

5. Budget

Kim D'Arcy would like to stress that this is a first step to look at how the budget should be categorized. One proposal, at one end of the continuum, is to formalize percentages within which Student Alliance can spend monies. One problem is that there is not very good records for past SA actions, so Kim has concerns that strictly structuring budget percentages (for example, 50% to projects, 20% to student groups, etc.) may not best meet the needs of the student body.

Another consideration is that there are three regularly active student groups who are in need of money: the People of Color Group, Queer at CIIS, and 6X. A possibility is to give each group a certain amount each year rather than request proposals from them. Another possibility is to allocate a certain amount for student groups generally to allow them access to monies without having to go through the proposal process. Sergio noted that in his experience with student budgeting, keep it flexible and do not impose caps since things can change from semester to semester. Another member suggested requesting a tentative budget from those student groups. Another member said stay flexible but create some structure so that the money doesn't go to whoever comes first.

Sense of the meeting is to keep it relatively flexible but putting some forethought and tracking for a record for the future. This is an ongoing process that will be revisited at each meeting.

6. Announcements

WASC Visit Wednesday, March 15th 5:30 PM – President Joe Subbiando would like some students to meet with the WASC delegation. Email Kim at [kdarcy 'at' ciis.edu](mailto:kdarcy@ciis.edu) to reserve a spot.

The Asian Art Museum Tour is March 9th, 12-1:30 PM. Email Indu at [iprasad 'at' ciis.edu](mailto:iprasad@ciis.edu) to reserve a spot.