

CIIS Student Alliance Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

MINUTES

1. Introductions

2. Student Comments and Concerns

- a. **Board of Trustees Meeting** - Simmy Makhijani attended her first board meeting as the Student Representative to Board of Trustees. She was asked to speak about the need for increased diversity at CIIS and was well received. She also reports that CIIS is fiscally stable and has crossed the threshold of 1000 currently enrolled students.
- b. **Student Emergency Fund** - Simmy is still interested in establishing a Student Emergency Fund. Indu suggested a SA funded pre-loan. With this program, students could receive funds before their financial aid goes through which would then be deducted from their FinAid to replace the SA funds when their aid came through. This fund could be used in other ways as well, based upon student approved criteria and management. Please email Simmy at [smakhijani 'at' ciis.edu](mailto:smakhijani@ciis.edu) if you are interested in collaborating on an emergency fund proposal.
- c. **Center for Equal Opportunity** - Lèo Bellina shared information on the national trend to discontinue diversity based scholarships as the Center for Equal Opportunity has deemed them discriminating. She hopes to see CIIS take an active stand against this trend, and is willing to be the point person on this issue.
- d. **CIIS scholarships** - Simmy understands that CIIS takes an advocacy position on need based scholarships, and raised the point that merit-based scholarships may preference those with varying degrees of privilege (ie. those not dependent on employment etc.) who can focus exclusively on schoolwork.

3. Announcements

- a. **Revision Action Team (RAT)** - The Proposal Action Team (PAT) has received a number of proposals, such as for parties, student-led classes, and other student initiatives, which do not fit the existing Proposal Guidelines which are primarily structured for conference attendance proposals. The RAT is forming now with hopes of meeting before April 10th when the PAT will receive the next round of proposals. Please see the 'Next Meeting' section at the end of this document to see further developments in this process. Contact Sergio Rodriguez-Castillo ([seroca 'at' gmail.com](mailto:seroca@gmail.com)) to join either RAT or the PAT.

- b. **The Integral Education Council (IEC)** - The IEC is seeking a student representative from the School of Professional Psychology to reflect on the integral nature of the school. Mary Fries has volunteered to be the representative from the School of Consciousness and Transformation. The group will meet once in May and then monthly starting in the fall. Contact Kim D'Arcy ([kdarcy 'at' ciis.edu](mailto:kdarcy@ciis.edu)) for more information.
- c. **Student Representative to Faculty Council** – This voluntary position begins next year.
- d. **Diversity Action Team (DAT) Liaison** - DAT and SA are seeking a student to attend both the SA and DAT meetings. Currently DAT is meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 3:30-5 pm. SA meetings for this year are: 4/5 12-1:30 (tentative), 4/18 6:15-7:45, 4/25 6:15-7:45. The previous Liaison, who is no longer able to attend the meetings, found this work very inspiring.
- e. **Library Reserves** - Brendan Collins, the current faculty chair, agrees that it is a great idea to post student readers on ERes. Since this is such a time intensive process, it is possible that it may become a student position. More discussion will ensue after the break with hopes of having this information regularly available online by fall semester.

4. **Student Alliance Positions for next year.**

Student Alliance has grown considerably this year as a result of the decision by former members to create three paid positions to coordinate the group. These positions only run to the end of this year, and we have three meetings left to agree on the coordination structure for next year. It was suggested to hire three people so as to reap the benefits of discussion, but to lower the hours each week from 10 to 5. The current Communications Coordinators will reflect on their work this year and come up with suggestions for next year's positions. The other members of Student Alliance will also reflect in preparation for discussion.

5. **Budget Suggestions**

- a. **Student Groups** - Lèò, who has extensive experience with student organizations at Naropa University, suggested including student groups in the budget and clearly defining what kinds of student groups SA funds. The assembled expressed concern over the delicate issue of what groups should be funded.
- b. **Student Emergency Fund** - Simmy urged that this be included.

6. **Next Meeting**

Many of the students present felt that the proposal guideline provisioning process is a fundamental and defining part of Student Alliance. Mary Fries suggested

using the next meeting to hash out these guidelines after the RAT has had a chance to organize and articulate their experiences and challenges. The assembled voted in favor of this. As the mid-day time slot of this April 5th meeting does not work for many students, Mary will contact the Student Alliance to propose meeting at 6:15.