

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

- 1) Introductions and Check-Ins
- 2) Student Alliance Initiatives and Events
 - a. **Expression Session** – this event is tonight, November 21st from 7pm – 10pm in Namaste and will be kicked off by a Drama Therapy Improv Performance at 6pm.
 - b. **Professional Development Series** – Student Alliance and the Dean of Students Offices presents these workshops for students. There will be two this fall and four in the spring.
 - “Academic Writing and Publishing” with Matthew Bronson: November 29th 6:15 pm – 9:00 pm in room 311
 - “Teampay Improv Workshop” with Susan Snyder: November 30th 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm in Namaste Hall
 - c. **CIIS Community Yoga** – The Student Alliance and the Staff Association have co-funded Yoga classes at CIIS. The Hiring Committee has selected two high-qualified teachers to teach Mondays at noon (Restorative Yoga) and Thursdays at 4:30 pm (Vinyasa Yoga) starting December 4th and running for three weeks, and then starting up again the week before classes and running for seven weeks. Student Alliance can then vote to provide an additional \$500, to be matched by the Staff Association, which will fund an additional 10 weeks of classes for the year.
- 3) **Wireless Network** Announcement
 - Coming this spring, CIIS will have wireless Internet! The Mission Street building will go online first, followed by Fox Plaza once the Mission Street network is stable. The IT department held a Wireless Naming Contest. The winner of the contest was Lily Sun for her entry: ‘Awarenet,’ and her prize was an iPod Nano. Congratulations, Lily!
- 4) **New Student Orientation Dinner** – In the fall, the Student Alliance funded a dinner for the new students on their Orientation Day. The Dean of Student Office

has asked us if we would like to fund another dinner this spring. While in the fall there were approximately 300 new students, we are expecting 80 this spring, so the cost will be much less. This is a great opportunity to get new students interested in Student Alliance. The assembly voted to fund \$400 for a spring dinner.

5) Spring Planning

a. Events

- i. **Multiversity** – this Student Alliance and Dean of Student’s Office in-house conference will take place March 31st and April 1st
 - The following people volunteered to help out: Becki Tinsley, Geoffrey Hamilton, and Maite Imaz. Sinem Yilanci will send an email to her program requesting additional volunteers.
- ii. **Professional Development Series** – The following workshops are being planned for the spring: Starting a Non-Profit, Biometric Leadership, Public Speaking, and Starting a Private Practice
- iii. **CIIS conferences** – Sinem Yilanci suggested hosting conferences at CIIS both for the benefit of bringing new ideas and energy to the CIIS community and to promote the presence of CIIS in the greater academic community. She will discuss this idea with her colleges and consider meeting with Kim or Shirley to move the idea forward.
- iv. **Expression Sessions** – these are funded by Student Alliance and run by the CIIS café. There will be more in the spring. Mary will coordinate with Patrick, the café manager, to post these events on the SA website calendar. See saciis.org.
- v. **Istanbul Movie Series** – Sinem and other Turkish students would like to present six Turkish movies with English subtitles to the CIIS community. They would give a brief introductory presentation about each film and prepare a Turkish dinner each night. DVD’s purchased for the series would be donated to the CIIS library, and Sinem has offered to create flyers. SA voted to

spend up to \$500 for the films and food. Mary will book rooms for two nights in February, two in March, and Two in April. Sinem will speak with Kundan about using the DVD player, and keep all receipts for reimbursement.

- vi. **Movement Studio** – Maite suggested the idea of creating a movement studio at CIIS. Ideally, the room would have a dance-floor, mirrors, and bars. The studio could be used for dance, tai-chi, and yoga classes; by the PDT, SOM, and EXA departments; and for events. The group agreed that it would only make sense to create the space if CIIS bought the building, but as this may be a possibility, it would be great to have this on the table early on. Maite will run a preliminary survey to demonstrate student interest, will talk to Dean of Students Shirley Strong, and will follow up with Student Alliance.

b. SA Internal Dates

- i. **First Spring Meeting** – The group agreed to have the first spring meeting during the first week of classes (the week of Jan. 22nd). Mary and Nandi will select a few dates that work for them and will present them to the Student Alliance listserver for a final decision.
- ii. **Spring Proposal Deadline** – This will likely be in the last week of January or the first few weeks of February. Nandi will select a date.

c. Other Projects

- i. **Emergency Relief Fund** – The Dean of Students Office is coordinating and managing an Emergency Relief Fund for students facing difficult times financially. The office is collecting money from various departments in the school and has asked Student Alliance to put forward \$5,000. The group assembled agreed that this is a fantastic idea, and would like a full report and an announcement to the student community, as well as an SA budget

report before voting at the next meeting. Nandi will draft up a budget report for the next meeting.

- ii. **Childcare at CIIS** – A student suggested this idea via email. The group discussed the challenges and implications of hosting childcare at CIIS. The group agreed that it might be a better solution to find a way to establish a grass-roots network of caretakers and parents. Mary will suggest to the student who suggested the idea to create a survey to better understand student needs around childcare.
- iii. **Second Rooftop Garden** – This idea has come up before at previous Student Alliance meetings. The group agreed that it would be best to readdress the issue if and when the Institute purchases the building,

6) **Bike Theft at CIIS: It's Happening, What Can We Do About It?** There have been three recent attempts of bike theft outside of the Mission Street Building. Though the greeters were able to halt two of the attempts, one bike was stolen. Geoffrey offered to talk with greeters and the front desk manager about possible solutions. Mary will send out an announcement warning students and requesting ideas for solutions.

7) **Next Meeting Agenda Topics:** Budget Report, Emergency Relief Fund Presentation and Voting, Yoga Spring Funding Voting, Istanbul Movie Series Check-in, Professional Development Series Check-in, Bike Theft Issue Check-in, Spring Calendar, Setting Spring Meeting Dates. *First Spring Meeting Date will be announced and posted online soon at saciis.org.*