

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2007

1) Introductions and Check-Ins

Erick, Alejandro, Patrick Numair (café manager), Robert Mullin, Nandi (SA Operations Coordinator), Sarah, Shirley Strong (Dean of Students), Adrian, Maite, Mary Fries (SA Communications Coordinator)

2) Announcements:

Mary announced the new Faculty Council Rep - Meg Van Buren. She will go to the Faculty Council meetings and interface between students and Faculty council.

3) Discussions and Voting

- a. **Queer @ CIIS** – Q@C has been very active this year, and they have used all of the preliminary funds that SA allocated for them. They come now in request of \$115 for a Campus Screening of BOY I AM.
 - Sarah, a representative from Queer at CIIS, presented a proposal requesting \$115 to fund renting this film which follows three transgendered people in NY.
 - There was discussion about renting vs. purchasing the film. Purchasing the film to have on hand permanently at CIIS would cost \$295 plus shipping and handling for a total of \$315.
 - Adrian shared that he felt it seemed like a reasonable expenditure for the school. Many members of the assembly saw the benefit of keeping the film permanently at CIIS.
 - Sarah also shared that many events are being planned by Q@CIIS. Mary spoke about how Student Alliance allocates each campus group \$300 a year. Nandi and Mary have been discussing this and the amount may be changing and will be up for discussion at another meeting.
 - Assembly voted unanimously to purchase the film. \$315. The movie BOY I AM will be showing at Namaste Hall at 6:30 March 30, 2007. There will be discussion following the film.

- b. **Friday Night Social Hour at the Café** – At the last Student Alliance Meeting, the assembly voted to fund half of the amount Patrick requested, \$650 (\$1300 total), for this series of events.
- Patrick spoke about the event. The idea was originally brought to him by two students. From their suggestions, he formulated this concept of having a social hour for students to get together.
 - The budget for the Friday Night cocktail hour is \$1300 for the semester. This includes \$50 a week for drinks and snacks. Patrick would also like to plan on having a paid DJ once a month and a paid student musician paid once a month (\$200 for DJ and musician). Patrick feels that the DJ and the musician may never be utilized due to events in Namaste Hall on Friday nights.
 - Patrick asked about SA having Namaste Hall booked on some Friday nights and if SA having events those nights. Mary shared that Namaste Hall has been reserved but some rooms were moved around and she can check in with him to see if events are actually happening those Friday nights. Adrian shared that it would be important to be sensitive to what is happening at Namaste Hall, but that it seems like it might be possible to find one or two Fridays that would work.
 - Patrick shared that there has not been a lot of expressed interest from student musicians. Mary expressed concern about the selection process. Patrick spoke about using Open Mic as a way to audition prospective musicians. If there was an overwhelming response, he would invite them to the Open Mic or ask for a CD. Patrick felt comfortable with this process.
 - Maite, Mary and Patrick shared that the first event was successful and Adrian shared that it did not seem to interfere with what was happening at Namaste Hall, where he was assisting with AV.
 - Alejandro expressed some apprehension about spending money from the budget on a social event that seems to serve a small amount of the student. He's concern about alliance building and how this serves that

vision. Discussion ensued about this and how this is one aspect of alliance building, in addition to other events and workshops SA would like to sponsor. Maite talked about her experience at the first Friday night event and how she met others from CIIS she wouldn't normally talk to. She likes that there is just a social event. It's free, which is accessible. She suggested there being more non-alcoholic beverages available.

- Patrick said it would be helpful to have the full funds approved so the event can go through the entire semester. But, he also wants other departments to help fund nights. The last event was funded by International Students. This seems like a good possibility for alliance building and having other programs and groups sponsor other nights. Robert saying that the Student Alliance is the students. If other clubs are also promoting the event, then that helps. Adrian asked if without the DJ funding then SA could approve \$350. Patrick said he's be comfortable voting on that as the amount.
- Shirley and Patrick talked about how there is a need for student groups to have a meeting space. It may be possible to offer the back café space as a meeting space for campus groups. There is no scheduling happening there now. Shirley thought this would be great access for students. The café could possibly offer a "meeting tray" groups could purchase from the café for meetings. This would make it easier for campus groups. It may be possible to have a door put on the space.
- SA Assembly voted on funding Patrick \$350 unanimously.

4) **Volunteer Call**

- a. Proposal Action Team Volunteers
 - Adrian, Robert, Alejandro and Erick expressed interest.
 - Nandi will send an email to the student list serve asking for volunteers as well.
- b. Multiversity, CIIS In-house Conference, Planning – Contact: Kim D'Arcy March 31st and April 1st . Maite volunteered to help with this.

- c. Friday Night Social Hour – Please attend and help Patrick put the word out about Student Alliance. Mary encouraged anyone at the event from Student Alliance to say something about Student Alliance at the event to put the word out about SA. Maite suggested making a large sign advertising Student alliance.
- d. Shirley talked about an event 4/9 – 4/4 for Katrina and that there are other schools that will be doing something around that time. Erik suggested connecting with other organizations in the area to do something for people affected by Katrina. All ideas are welcome. Shirley suggested emailing L’esa Guilian if anyone has any ideas about this.

5) **Student Alliance Procedures**

a. **Meeting and Voting Procedures Document Review**

- Mary read the document to the assembly.
- Talk commenced about whether SA meetings should be longer. Group thought that two hours would be better, with an openness to meetings being longer. Mary will change the meeting time to two hours.
- Mary talked about the possibility of student facilitators and other note takers to open up the process to students.

b. **Group Proposals Discussion**

- i. Do collective entities such as Campus Groups and Program-Oriented Projects have to submit proposal applications and wait for the once-semester proposal application process as student applicants do, or should we establish a separate procedure for collective endeavors?
- ii. Will we have an award amount limit for this procedure, as with student proposals?
 - Adrian thought that collective proposals should come to the SA meeting to discuss their proposals. However, there needs to be guidelines for groups to look at. Alejandro shared that we need to be aware of language that we use of individual/group. He

agreed that it would be good for there to be an established collective proposal process, as well as some criterion.

- Mary also shared that there is more to consider in student and collective proposals because of some students coming from a department asking for funds to do something within their own department.
- Shirley talked about cultivating leadership. This proposal process can be a great way to help students learn about more formal proposal processes. There is site online that outlines the grant proposal process. It might be worthwhile to see how this works with our own proposal process in order to help prepare students for writing grant process in the future.

c. **Appointing Student Representatives to Institute Committees** - How do we decide who represents on a given council? This item was tabled until the next meeting

6) **Airing Registration Grievances for Discussion at a Later Date** – Tabled also.

7) **Event Announcements**

a. **Scheduled Spring Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30pm in room 606

Monday, March 26 at 3pm in room 207

Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30pm in room 606

b. **Professional Development Workshops:**

Power Point - Thursday, February 15 at 6:15 PM in room 311

Academic Writing - Wednesday, March 7 at 6:15 PM in room 207

Starting a Private Practice - Monday, March 12 at 6:15 PM in room 311

Public Speaking - Wednesday, March 28 at 6:15 PM in room 311

Excel - Tuesday, April 17 at 6:15 PM in room 311

c. **Turkish Movie Nights:**

"Crossing the Bridge" introduced by Ezgi Icoz

on Thursday, February 22 from 6pm to 9pm in room 311

"Hammam" introduced by Yael Habif

on Thursday, March 15 from 6pm to 9pm in room 311

"Sommersault in the Coffin" by Sinem Yilanci

on Thursday, March 29 from 6pm to 9pm in room 311

"The Juggler" introduced by Cigdem Alper

on Tuesday, April 3 from 6pm to 9pm in Namaste

"The Way" introduced by Ipek Sarac

on Thursday, April 5 from 6pm to 9pm in room 311

"My Father and My Son" introduced by Arzu Ozatalay

on Tuesday, April 10 from 6pm to 9pm in Namaste

d. **Yoga:**

Mondays from 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM in Namaste Hall

Thursdays from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in room 207

8) **Thoughts, Ideas, Comments, and Topics for Next Meeting's Agenda**

- Nandi brought up the possibility of holding SA meetings more frequently. There was discussion about meeting every two weeks instead of every three weeks. Mary is going to add three more meetings to the SA meeting schedule.
- Nandi expressed concern about getting word about Student Alliance and that many students might not be aware of Student Alliance or how important SA is for students. Adrian was concerned about not forcing people to attend SA meetings.
- Mary checked the calendar and noticed that there is Spring break between the 6th and the 26th meetings. She will be scheduling a meeting between now and 3/6 and one between 3/26 and 4/17. The next meeting will be with Leo to discuss Integral Education and help her with her research here at CIIS.
- There is a real concern and strong desire to stay committed to transparency and having students involved, putting out the call for student input and bringing in drafts for ideas, procedures and a creating a vision/mission for Student Alliance. There is also a strong desire to remain collaborative, open and workable.