

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 24, 2007  
11:45am room 606

- 1) Opening and Introduction- Attendance- Shirley, Mary, Erik, Bisola Maringay-SCA, Sonya Brewer- Somatics, Maite Imaz-EXA, Simmy Mahkijani- SCA, Sarwang Parikh, ICP  
Student Emergency Fund- Shirley sent flyers around about the new fund, which will allow a loan of \$500 for students in emergency situations. Thank you to Student Alliance for support on this.
- 2) Volunteer Call
  - a) Student Alliance Representatives
  - b) Proposal Action Team
  - c) Faculty Council Student Representative
- 3) Board of Trustees Update  
Student Life Committee- current members will be Sarah Noyes, TLD, Sarwang Parikh, ICP, Sonya Brewer, Somatics. Members of this committee work with the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees (among other Trustees) to be able to prepare a report and information on student life issues
- 4) Meeting Process Documentation Revision  
Mary discusses that there were concerns in the past about implementing this document through formal process. There have since been changes in this document, on basic procedures involved for meetings.  
Much of the conversation focuses again on the process of bringing proposals from a campus group, which is now different then before. But since it is different now, then people need to be prepared and have a thorough proposal to bring to a meeting. People need to come with a clear idea about a space and the event details, but they don't have to wait for the PAT process to be able too get funding. Another issue has been that in the past SA used to have to vote for each expenditure of SA, even food or little things. There have been some changes to procedures to make it easier for the basic expenditures that SA needs to function. The conversation moves into discussions about the transparency of the process and also privacy concerns. Eventually it is decided we need to put the budget online for a clearer sense of what the SA budget expenditures are.  
From there, the discussion moves into how to be more inclusive with the SA meetings. Mary discusses how there is now a video chat for distance students. Simmy suggests that maybe this should be open for everyone to attend this way, it may help get more students to participate.
- 5) Budget for 2008-09 Proposition  
The discussion is put forward about what potentially could happen with the budget process for SA in terms of resources for students. Currently Student Alliance is funded at a rate of \$10.50/per student. A budget is brought forward for

what it would mean to increase this. Past surplus of SA has been spent out already. So now what would it look like if there is funding available for SA at a rate of \$15/ student or \$20/ Student. Budget projections are provided on what this would look like, including more money for awards for students in different areas- for proposals to be at conferences, for campus groups, for events among other options.

Simmy discusses how this coincides with ideas that were discussed recently at the Board of Trustees meeting, especially in terms of funding for student resources, possibly through outside resources. There is definitely a priority from many sectors for greater student support. This support could also extend to scholarships especially in relation to increasing student debt.

#### 6) Student Groups Support Guide Input Request

Mary is creating a guide for campus groups to help people through the process of running a campus group. This guide will also include support for groups that are current and active on such resources as how to get funding, where to go for support on campus, who to connect to, etc.

Shirley discusses how in many other places groups need an advisor and if we could do that here. There is currently a faculty/staff contact, but we could list it as an advisor/resource (employee of CIIS). This may help for more support and facilitate linkages between staff, faculty and students. Erik suggests that it may help students get over some of the concerns that faculty aren't as involved. Bisola suggests that maybe there is a conflict of interest with some faculty, and that campus groups provide a space to facilitate a space when mediation is needed. Staff often are the ones that help mediate and so having staff support this is key to this. Is the word advisor important? The word is not important but the intent is so maybe listing it as advisor/resource could be a good idea. Many students feel isolated and have concerns about professors, departments, and curriculum so the link with an advisor shows how maybe there is larger support from people on campus. Maybe staff and administrators might be better to have there as the official person. Shirley suggests it is important to spread around in many ways among staff and faculty, especially since some of the faculty have research interests that could be really key to helping to support people. Shirley suggests that it is also key to break down the isolation between people and to also possibly invite faculty to events, especially since both faculty and students often do things separately. Key to the whole concept is this idea of support and Shirley suggest ushering in a cultural change at CIIS to facilitate better support structures for people. By having faculty/staff it may help people in general to be more open. Other suggested title for this contact person could be Faculty/Staff Advocate, which doesn't get much support. Eventually the language becomes the Faculty/Staff Resource person.

The discussion moves into ideas for how to get better about reaching out and supporting campus groups. Erik discusses his idea of continuing to go around to groups and talk about SA and also discusses the processes for groups. Bisola asks what facilitating communications means to SA. Mary discusses that there are

things on the website about groups and processes on how to facilitate what the groups are. Also someone from SA can come to talk about what we do and how to support groups. Sonya (who has just arrived) asks about the proposal process. Mary reiterates that campus groups don't have to go through the process- that they get \$200 for the year, and then can reapply for another \$200 by asking Student Alliance. Groups just need to make a presentation at SA that is more formal to ask for more funding. Bisola talks about the idea of getting \$500 for funding for work on issues that divides People of Color by doing a series of workshops and to bring in people to talk about this idea. Some of this work could be done in house from CIIS people; other resources are needed from the outside. So POC wants to do a fundraiser at CIIS, a jazz concert, to help raise larger funds that would help get funding for this workshop series. Namaste Hall is booked though December, so it will have to be an opening event for the next year. Money from this concert will then be used by POC. People will also contribute donations of food to sell food. Mary asks the group to figure out a date for when the proposal could be brought forward to SA. The group will see if they can present at the 11/29 meeting.

Sonya brings up that she would like to get on the agenda for the 11/29 meeting about that CIIS Community Process Group, a new group. She will bring a proposal for that meeting for use of funds. Sonya explains that it would be a space for process-based focus on campus issues, where people can bring things on the issue. The Somatics program had brought a facilitator last semester on this very thing and they found it incredibly helpful. So they want to take it to the larger community. The group may have to charge people for facilitation, but they would like to subsidize it from SA funds.