

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 29, 2008
12:15 PM room 425

Mission Statement: Student Alliance is a student-run organization that facilitates communication, sponsors events, and allocates funding to help students and student groups actualize the seven institute ideals. Listening to student voices, we build alliances, cultivate student leadership, and advocate for social change and transformation of existing power structures.

1) **In Attendance:** Sarah Tomastik (SCA), Adam Hudson (SCA), Bindu Mohanty (EWP), Anna Fizyta (ICP, offered to be a program representative), India Harville (IHL Program Coordinator), Shirley Strong (Dean of Students), Erik Schnabel (Student Alliance Operations Coordinator, facilitating), Mary Fries (Student Affairs Manager, taking minutes)

2) **Announcements**

- a. **Mary Fries Transitioning** – from Student Alliance Communications Coordinator to Student Affairs Manager in the Dean of Students Office
- b. **Communications Coordinator** – Hiring is in-progress. There were 7 applicants; three will be interviewed this Friday. The Hiring Committee consists of Sinem Yilanci, Arzu Ozatalay, Erik Schnabel (Coordinating), and Mary Fries (Advising)
- c. **Yoga Coordinator** – Johannah Blackman is taking over for Becki Tinsley. Classes will be every day of the week and begin on Monday, February 4. See below for times.
- d. **POC Jazz Concert Fundraiser** – Thursday Jan 31, 7:30 PM at Hotel Whitcomb, 8th and Market \$10 for students, \$15 for non-students to raise money for the People of Color campus group and their projects.
- e. **Multiversity: CIIS's In-House Conference** – Learn about studies in other departments at this integral event! Deadline for presentation submission is this Friday. The event will take place the last week of February. This is a chance to practice presenting in a familiar and supportive environment as well as an opportunity to share your research throughout the CIIS community.
- f. **Student Multipurpose Space** – Campus groups have had concern about finding spaces to meet on campus. It is hard for students to get access to the room scheduling system, and even when they do they often face competition with classes. Last fall, Student Alliance voted to address this problem by spending \$3,000 to outfit room 218, which had been the Quiet Study Space, for holding meetings as well. Chairs, desks, lamps, back

jacks, bulletin boards, a coffee table, a couch from café, and a storage cabinet have been set up in the space. Campus Group Storage boxes are available in the coffee table and can be reserved in room 401. A room reservation sign-up sheet is also in room 401.

- g. **Call for Student Alliance Representatives** – Student Alliance runs on student support. We are seeking 2-3 Program Representatives from each department and 1-2 Campus Group Representatives from each group to attend Student Alliance meetings and form bridges throughout the institute

3) **Question:** A student asked if it would be permissible to apply for funding in the spring semester for a conference that occurred in the fall.

- a. The answer is yes; according to the Student Alliance Funding Guidelines available online at saciiis.org, students can apply for funding both retro-actively and proactively with a one-semester leeway provided they are enrolled in the semester of application.
- b. The spring deadline for funding is March 12th.
- c. Erik also announced that there will be Funding Proposal Workshops before the deadline to help students understand the Student Alliance process and also how to apply for funding in general.

4) **Budget**

a. **Progress**

1. Historically Student Alliance has brought in \$10.50 per student per semester out of the registration fee to fund our events and projects. In the past funds had been amassing, but in the fall of 2005 three employees were hired to allocate the funds to student-benefiting projects.
2. Since then, incoming funds as well as the accumulated funds have been used to fund campus groups and student conference presentations and attendances, yoga, the building of the rooftop garden, social events, etc.
3. As these funds will be diminished by the end of June, last fall Student Alliance approved the increase of our income from the registration fee from \$10.50 to \$25 per student per semester and the Institute Budget and Planning Committee has approved this change.

b. **Presentation for Input**

1. Erik presented the proposed Student Alliance Budget for the 2008-2009 school year. See the end of this document.
2. The additional funds are being allocated for awards, both for the student conference awards and also for a new initiative: the Social Justice Research Fund (a new fund to be planned more

thoroughly at a later date), for campus groups, for stipends, for a Career Resource Researcher for SCT and a Webmaster, for Community Development and Alliance-Building Initiatives, and for Yoga.

3. The Career Resource Researcher for SCT will work with the Career Development and Field Placement Office to create a database of internships, job opportunities, and resources for SCT students. This information will be available for students on a bulletin board and in a notebook. Both Shirley and Mary are dedicated to posting the database online as well.
4. The Webmaster stipend has been created to distinguish between the Webmaster and the Communications Coordinator who has in the past managed both communications and the website. This is proposed to address the concern that many people who are highly technically proficient may not also have excellent communications skills and visa versa.
5. Another new feature of this budget is the way Student Alliance supports Campus Groups. Each registered Campus Group will be allocated \$200 for the year, and those with consistent representation at Student Alliance meetings (specificities of eligibility to be determined) will receive \$400 total for the year.
6. The Community Outreach Initiative listed under Additional, Special Projects will fund projects similar to this year's emersion trip to New Orleans and be for faculty, staff, and students. The hope is to spark a spirit of community-building and other projects in the future.
7. Items that have been funded in the past, such as the Expression Session Open-Mic night run by the café, meeting meals, employees, social events, new student orientation, are still supported by this proposed budget.
8. The formal instatement of the 2008-2009 budget will occur by vote at the February 20th meeting.

5) Group/Project Funding Proposal: Vagina Monologues – India

- a. The Vagina Monologues are performed across the country to raise money to combat gender violence. The CIIS performance will feature cast of students, and the proceeds will go to organizations working against rape. This year's spotlight monologue will focus on Hurricane Katrina. Namaste is already booked for Friday, February 15th and Saturday the 16th.
- b. The event would require \$75 for food each night and \$75 for printing costs including fliers, programs, and tickets, for a total of \$225.

- c. Three students vote to fund the \$225. Erik abstained. Mary, Shirley, and India did not vote.

6) Multiversity Conference Awards of Excellence

- a. Mary, who will be coordinating the Multiversity conference this year, presented the idea of Student Alliance funding \$300 for three Awards of Excellence of \$150, \$100, \$50.
- b. A student suggested even award amounts of \$100 each, instead. Mary agreed it was a good idea.
- c. A student inquired as to who would decide the winners. Mary offered to coordinate a committee of students and perhaps faculty as well.
- d. A student asked how the winners would be decided.
 - 1. The idea of a presentation evaluation template was well received.
 - 2. Possible categories of awards:
 - 1. Quality of scholarship presented
 - 2. Quality of presentation
 - 3. Audience favorite – though, perhaps complicated by people coming just for one presentation
 - 4. Social Relevance
- e. Three students voted in favor of Student Alliance funding \$300 for the awards. Erik abstained. Mary and Shirley didn't vote.
- f. Sarah might be interested in being on the Awards Committee.

7) Thoughts, Comments, and Ideas

- a. Anna suggested a karaoke event for students. She will come to a future meeting to present the idea.
- b. Sarah shared that some Anthropology students are interested in email addresses. Mary shared a bit about the technical complexities of the situation, and Erik noted that IT has been looking into using gmail to access student CIIS email accounts.
- c. Adam suggested interscholastic dialog between student groups.

8) Spring Events

a. Student Alliance Meetings

Wednesday, 2/20 – 3:30-5:30 pm in room 218 – Budget Approval

Thursday, 3/13 – 12:15-2:15 pm in room 218

Wednesday, 4/2 – 12:15-2:15 pm in room 218 – Proposal Voting Meeting; read Funding Guidelines on saciis.org, if attending

Thursday, 4/24 – 3:30-5:30 pm in room 218

- b. **POC Jazz Concert Fundraiser:** Thursday Jan 31, 7:30 PM at Hotel Whitcomb, 8th and Market \$10 for students, \$15 for non-students
- c. **Multiversity Application Deadline:** Friday, February 1st to multiversity@ciis.edu.

- d. **Spring Funding Proposal Deadline:** Wednesday, March 12th by 5pm.
- e. **Expression Session Open Mic Nights:** contact café manager, Patrick Numair, pnumair@ciis.edu, to perform
 - Tuesday, February 5th – 7-9:30 pm in Namaste
 - Friday, March 7th – 5-9 pm in Namaste
 - Wednesday, April 16th – 7-9:30 pm in Namaste
 - Tuesday, May 6th – 7-9:30 pm in Namaste
- f. **Yoga** – begins Monday, February 4th
 - Restorative Yoga** with Sharanjit Sandhu Mondays 11:45-12:45pm in room 308
 - Yoga Basics** with Jordan Wolfe Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm in room 212
 - Kripalu Flow Yoga** with Johannah Blackman Wednesdays 12:00–1:00pm in Namaste
 - Kripalu Yoga** with Dennis Kiley Thursdays 10:00-11:00am in Room 216
 - Kripalu Yoga** with Zhao Yi (Ripple) Fridays 10:30-11:30am in room 216

Notes: