

**Student Alliance Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, March 13 2008**  
**3:30 PM room 218**

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Minutes taken by Maitri Gopalakrishna*

**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) Opening and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves

Present

India Harville, Elisa Audo, Toni-Joan Alton, Johannah Blackman, Debbie Stone, Paula Pulizzi, Joe Subbiondo, Shirley Strong, Erik Schnabel, Maitri Gopalakrishna, Dan Scharlak

Brief Welcome to Joe Subbiondo, President of CIIS by Erik

**2) Announcements**

- a. **New Communication Coordinator- Welcome to Maitri Gopalakrishna**  
Brief response “hello” by Maitri
- b. **Student Multipurpose Space** – Room 218 has been outfitted by Student Alliance for continued use as a quiet study space and now also as a place for campus groups to meet. A reservation sign-up sheet is in room 401.
- c. **Call for Student Alliance Representatives** – 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
- d. **Proposal Action Team** – deadline for proposals and proposal workshop, the deadline just passed for PAT proposals, March 12 by 5pm. We had a proposal

workshop to prepare on March 4 from 6-8pm. Need people to volunteer to serve on PAT

- e. **Yoga Coordinator** – intro of Johannah Blackman – Classes every day of the week begin Monday, February 4.

**Restorative Yoga** with Sharanjit Sandhu Mondays 11:45-12:45pm in room 308

**Yoga Basics** with Jordan Wolfe Tuesdays 2:00-2:45pm in room 212

**Kripalu Yoga** with Dennis Kiley Wednesdays 12:00–1:00pm in Namaste

**Kripalu Flow Yoga** with Johannah Blackman Thursdays 10:00-11:00am in Room 216

**Kripalu Yoga** with Zhao Yi (Ripple) Fridays 10:30-11:30am in room 216

Johannah gives an overview of yoga this semester.- There is lots of interest in yoga. Referred to the fact that staff association has pulled out funding (we return to this point in later in the meeting- agenda point #3. She also spoke as to why yoga is important in the context of CIIS and how the classes here are quite unique.

In addition, there seems to be a real problem with regard to space. She proposed a **Yoga space** that could be multipurpose which would make it possible to offer classes at more convenient time and could be used for other extra-curricular and by some programs.

Joe responded and said that the space might be a possibility and something we should pursue. He also let SA know that a the Faculty board just passed a proposal by Public Programs to offer a **Yoga certificate beginning in the fall** and perhaps this space could be shared by the course AND perhaps there could be connections with the course (discounts to CIIS students and such)

Debbie asked to know more about the remodel process. Joe gave a little background (Bought the building last year, Still have tenants, some spaces already spoken for) BUT **Basement is a space with potential**. Hasn't been spoken for. Debbie is a professional interior architect and designer and volunteered to serve on the remodel committee (if there is such a thing). Joe directed her to speak to Jonathan Mills, Facilities Manager

### **3) Student alliance taking over yoga funding from staff association**

CIIS staff association paid half towards yoga and has now had to pull out their funding. Student Alliance is now at a spot when it has to cover that half at least till the end of this semester in order to honor our contracts with the current teachers. Can student alliance pick up funding for the rest of the semester? Can we still allow staff to come?

Brief question by Debbie on what is the student alliance budget? Erik answers quoting an Approximate figure of \$29000 for the year and a surplus of \$13000 from previously.

Elisa asked if students were polled on times for yoga. Johannah answered affirmatively and said that their hands were tied due to room constrains. She intends to poll student again at the end of this semester and make sure that room requests are put in as early as possible. However, it is also a fact that yoga as a low priority item gets displaced often when a class needs a space.

Shirley thanks Johannah for her commitment

We also agree to revisit how the funding is split up for a more fair division of funding towards yoga teachers for the Fall semester and beyond.

Erik calls for a motion for Student Alliance to take over formal funding of the \$1000 for Yoga funding that the Staff Association could no longer fund. This would be for the Yoga funding for the Monday class. Erik also reiterates that we should continue to invite and include staff in yoga as well as other events on campus, regardless of contributing funding for it.

Vote is Unanimous

#### **4) Group proposals for funding**

**NIA classes at CIIS-** T.J. Alton

TJ introduces herself and the principles and origins of Nia briefly. She spoke to the inclusive and integrative nature of Nia and the specific benefits of it.

Shirley asks the question: Do we have an appropriate space?

TJ responds that she has worked on different types of floors, including carpeted ones and has the experience to tailor the class to the specificities of the space. We determine that Namaste, 207 or 607 would be the best spaces. TJ will present a formal proposal and budget at the next meeting to be voted on by SA.

We agreed that it was a great use of student funds to support student provided services to the community. Perhaps we should have a budget point for this kind of thing.

**Big Mind/Heart-** Adam Shemper

Since Adam was not here, SA was not able to vote on this. But he will be at the next meeting on 4/2.

#### **5) Discussion on Student Involvement- Student Alliance and Campus Groups**

Discussion with Joe about how we can facilitate student involvement on issues at CIIS with faculty, staff and administration. Ideas- past, present and future.

Joe begins by asking the question

- How do we get a greater sense of what students want to do with the fees?

A discussion follows where we come to the conclusion that there needs to be multiple ways of gathering information regarding what students want and on disseminating information on what SA is an what we are doing.

Ideas included:

- Online survey and a paper survey with a menu of possible areas where SA spends its money to ascertain where students most want to place their money.
- A student newsletter and chat space to keep transparency and share information.
- Making it possible for students to call in to the meetings even if they can't be physically present
- Continue to send SA meeting minutes, agenda etc to listserve and to the program coordinators in order to reach student that are not on the listserve.
- SA can add a question on the Student Satisfaction Survey and a question on the end of teacher evaluation form info on the effectiveness of the class schedule.

Joe ends his part of the meeting by asking if he could come back to discuss what students want. He left at 5 PM.

Though there was a fruitful discussion, we realized that students at the meeting did not get a chance to ask Joe the questions they had for him since he had guided the discussion. This realization sparked important leanings about such meetings in the future to make sure that SA holds the reigns of a meeting and present as a group. SA also needs to revisit our mission to establish who we are, what we do and how we do it.