

**Student Alliance Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, 30 July 2008**  
**6:00 PM room 218**

**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.

**Present at the Meeting**

Oren Kroll-Zeldin, Aaron Weiss, Bindu Mohanty, Deepti Srivastava, Sarwang Parikh, Kes Wynn, Solitaire, Shirley Strong, Maitri Gopalakrishna

**1) Announcements**

a. Student Alliance Conference Phone

SA now has a conference phone and conferencing abilities so students can in future simply call in to our meetings! This service will be in effect in the Fall semester and can be used by all student groups for their meetings as well.

b. Yoga Coordinator in the fall- Johannah Blackman

Yoga will resume in the Fall as usual with 5 classes per week open to all students, staff and faculty. The schedule of classes will be out shortly.

**2) Recommendations of PAT for Summer Student Alliance Awards (questions & voting)**

Since all the recommendations were within the Student Alliance Guidelines, the **recommendations were passed** without too much of a discussion. Of the 8 students present, 7 voted affirmatively and one abstained.

**3) Proposing consolidating of the two Student Alliance Coordinator Positions into one position for Fall 2008 (Discussion and voting)**

There was a discussion around the pros and cons of such a consolidation and there was a unanimous vote in favor and the motion **was passed**. It was discussed that Student Alliance would hire a replacement coordinator in Nov 2008 so that there is a month of overlap for there to be a smooth transition. Furthermore, the decision to consolidate the position should be reviewed as and when the need came up.

#### **4) Revisions to the SA budget for 2008-09 (discussion and voting)**

After a detailed discussion, all the **revisions to the budget for 2008-09 were passed** unanimously.

#### **5) Student Newsletter (Discussion)**

Sarwang Parikh presented the ideas for the new student newsletter (in partnership with the DOS office). There was a lot of excitement and input offered at the meeting. The newsletter is scheduled to be launched in the first week of September.

#### **6) Brown Bag Greening Committee Funding Proposal (presented by Bindu Mohanty)**

The Brown Bag events are informal film screenings and talks for the CIIS community once a week (at lunch time). Bindu spoke about how this helps build community and requested some funds towards these events (specifically for gift certificates for speakers). The requested amount was \$150. This was seen as a seed money and the plan is to ask the staff/faculty association to match these in the fall semester. Student Alliance approved the funding of the Brown Bag events to up to \$150.