

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 16 October 2008
3:00 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 (17) :** Anna Benassi, Heidi Rhodes, Margie Lam (Student Affairs Coordinator), Rodrigo Guimaraes, Abby Wheatley, Haleh Zandi, Marni Rothman, Jeremy Zhu, Stacy Simons, Alejandro Alejandro Urruzmendi, Jakie Coates, Ripple, Lindsay Raike, Shantell Herndon, Isac Takino, Maitri Gopalakrishna, Shirley Strong (Dean of Students)*

Minutes in the form of summaries taken by Maitri Gopalakrishna

1) Opening and Introductions

2) Announcements

- a. Student Alliance Coordinator Position: **CALL FOR VOUNTEERS TO BE ON HIRING COMMITTEE**

SA will send out an email to this effect. In the next week or so.

- b. Student Representative to the Board of Trustees is Elijah Nella
- c. Student Alliance Conference Phone open to all student groups. Check out from room 410. Margie Lam
- d. Yoga schedule is up and classes are running!
- e. Student Newsletter out- next issue in end Nov
- f. Next meeting is on Monday Nov 17th 4-6PM

Possibility of time change was announced.

3) Voting on the Proposal Action Team Recommendations

After a brief discussion on the reasons for not veering from the SA guidelines there was a unanimous vote in favor of accepting the PAT recommendations.

4) On campus Event funding proposal

Screening of film “Heavy Metal in Baghdad” at CIIS (Marni Rothman)

Marni gave a brief presentation and showed the trailer of the film. There was a unanimous vote in favour of the SA funding snacks during the film screening (approved budget of \$85). The caveat added by SA was that any leftover non perishable beverages be brought to SA to be used for another event/meeting. Other ideas for this event were discussed such as having a q&a afterwards and possibly contacting the film makers.

5) Project Presentation on Golestan Edible Garden (Haleh Zandi)

Haleh presented her proposal for this community project and showed some pictures of work that she had already done. The majority of SA (with one vote against and one abstinence) that Haleh can receive upto \$500 in funds for this project with the understanding that funds cannot be used for labor costs.

A brief discussion on the appropriateness of SA funding labor costs followed. No conclusive decision was reached as it was seen as a bigger question and therefore placed on the agenda for the next month's meeting. It was also discussed that funding projects outside of PAT had no guidelines and therefore was a muddy process. Starting in the spring, should SA fund projects outside the SJR&CS Grant? If so, what should our guidelines be? This has also been placed on next months agenda.

6) Follow up with the Social Justice Research and Community Service (SJR&CS) Grant Application form team- (Heidi Rhodes, Yonat Mayer and Grace Shalhoub Peterson, Maitri Gopalakrishna)

This topic point brought on a great deal of discussion on the fundamentals of this grant- is this an award as recognition of a person's work or is it to fund a project/research in particular? How do we assert the approach to engaged community work that does not simply replicate existing power structures. There is clearly the need of continued education around these issues in the community. Practically, for us now, the importance of the kind of questions asked and wording of the questions in the application form is paramount.

Some additions to the application form draft were made but it looks like it still needs some more concerted effort on the part of a few students. Alejandro, Heidi and Haleh have agreed to look at the questions again and bring them into the meeting in November where SA will vote on them.

7) Student Alliance Process amendment *

- open up the SA Awards to also include Projects (Heidi Rhodes)
- Adjustment to PAT process or criteria for awards (Heidi Rhodes)
- Adjustment and amendment to guidelines (Maitri Gopalakrishna)

8) Buying a refrigerator for Students* (Maitri Gopalakrishna)

Due to the lack of time, these two agenda points have been moved to the meeting on Nov 17th