

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes  
Dec 12, 2008  
12-2 PM

*Present at the Meeting (9)*

*Amico, Tina, Jess, Alejandro, Jessica, Issac, Fei, Shirley (Dean of Students), Maitri*

*Minutes recorded by Maitri Gopalakrishna*

**1. Icebreaker (fun!)**

**2. Yoga Report**

The Following Report by Yoga Coordinator, Johannah Blackman was read and there were no major questions. The report was received with general enthusiasm from students present.

*YOGA REPORT by Johannah Blackman*

*The yoga program really took off this semester, with higher attendance than any other semester during the three that I have taught and/or coordinated at CIIS. WE began the semester with five teachers, one on each day of the week. We work to ensure that each teacher offers something unique. One of our teachers dropped out after slightly over a month. It was her final semester and she was writing a thesis and very overwhelmed. This made me think it would be good, going forward, to remind teachers, especially those who are in their final semester or in practicum, that agreeing to teach is a serious commitment, especially since there are others who would like that teaching slot.*

*We found that our noon classes had the largest turnout by far, with an average of eight participants per class, sometimes as many as fifteen. Our evening class was the smallest by far, with only a couple of participants. We were asked by many people, both students and staff, to offer more noon classes; this seems to be the best time for both students and staff. Therefore, all our classes for next semester will be in the middle of the day. It is always easier to schedule rooms at that time of day.*

*Students also seemed to greatly enjoy our teachers; I received a lot of warm feedback about each teacher.*

*For next semester, we already have four teachers signed-on, and have their times and rooms booked. We are hoping to fill the fifth spot with T.J. Alton, who would like to teach Nia, which is a form of yogic dance that many have expressed interest in.*

*During the spring semester, I would like to establish a process for "auditioning" teachers, both current and those who are interested in teaching, in order to ensure that*

*we have the best teachers possible. I would also like to ordering straps and a few extra mats with the money that was not used since one of our teachers quite part-way through the semester, and was consequently only paid for the classes she did teach.*

*I also seem to have established an effective system for finding subs for teachers. Teachers are currently allowed to miss teaching one class without their pay being affected, but beyond that, they will not be paid for each missed class, and I definitely stress attempting to find a sub. Communication between yoga teachers grew this semester, which helped that cause greatly.*

*Finally, we continue to have a large number of staff at each class. At least half of our students in yoga are staff members. It is unfortunate that the Staff Association cannot provide funding. However, I understand, and we continue to be happy to serve the CIIS staff who work so hard for us.*

*Thank you all! I'm sorry I could not be there for this meeting.*

*Johannah Blackman  
Yoga Coordinator*

### **3. Refrigerator**

We discussed the possibility of Student Alliance buying a refrigerator for student use. All present thought this was a good idea. The question of who will maintain the refrigerator still stands. It was felt that a discussion with facilities and café staff should be had. SA voted unanimously in favour of \$1000 being spent to purchase a refrigerator yet maintenance is still a question.

The possibility of a kitchenette for student use in the future was also put forward. It was suggested that this be brought forth to Debbie Stone from the Strategic Planning committee.

### **4. Budget Review 2008-09**

The budget along with actual expenditure in the Fall semester were presented and discussed at the meeting.

- it was suggested that the budget be posted on the website.
- The first meeting of next semester may also include projected expenditure for spring semester
- Multiversity - changing format. Suggestion to send past Multiversity programs to Interdisciplinary Dialogue Group.
- Emergency Loan is one of the most valuable things SA is funding and we as a group want to make sure students can continue to have access to it. Shirley mentioned some financial stability concerns that the controller has brought up which includes the decision of the size of the float we put up. The idea of the institute matching, SA's collateral was also mentioned.

There was a discussion on the issue of class at CIIS and how through the strengthening of the Emergency Loan Program, we can take the opportunity to educate faculty and staff to the reality to students situations here- who the students here are. It connects to the larger issue of diversity. There was an important discussion of the importance of continuing the focus shift that has started for SA form spending its money on facilities etc to spending its money to empower student voice and promote social change at CIIS and beyond.

### **5. Social Justice Research and Community Service Grant**

We discussed the second Draft of the Application form created by Heidi and Alejandro.

- questions 6 and 7 (academic status and grades & scholarships and financial aid awards)

The questions that needed some looking at were question 6 and 7. Are transcripts and information around financial aid awards required? How is the review panel going to use this information. If these questions are asked, then we must provide clear guidelines on how the information is used. Furthermore, can we ensure confidentiality of this information?

- Add a bibliography section
- Will this grant be taxable? Shirley and Fei will look into this
- The form is good to go with these points looked at an a language re-read.

Now that the application form is ready, do the guidelines need any work?

### **6. Protocol form and guidelines for funding**

#### **a. Conference funding guidelines & proposal form**

It was agreed to make the following changes to the proposal form

- Change the multiversity requirement checkbox to a checkbox with a sentence that reads something to the effect of- "If granted funding, I agree to share my work with the CIIS community. I will be in touch with SA coordinators to determine the manner in which this can be made possible"
- Add a question that reads something to the effect of- "How much funding have you received from Student alliance in the last 2 years with a brief description of the purpose."

The following additions and edits need to be made to the guidelines

- Students are eligible to apply once every semester. In the case of excess applications, the number of times you have received SA funding in the past will be taken into consideration.
- the guidelines are detailed but cumbersome to read. A full read through and edit of the guidelines are required.

b. Post-event protocol form will be presented at the next meeting.

c. Funding Independent projects in the future

The question was raised of whether SA will fund independent projects in the future. It was determined that the projects must be required to have a Social Justice focus. If this is the case, would they not come under the banner of the Social Justice Research and Community Service grant? What is the purpose then in having independent projects in addition. The fact that the Social Justice grant as it stands now happens only once a year is a reason to keep the Independent Project option. Could the Social Justice Grant happen twice a year? If the Independent Projects are kept in place, protocol and guidelines must be made. The application form of the Social Justice grant is a great starting point for this.

The long and short:

- more discussion is required. Continue conversation when Lil is here
- it is possible to suspend all independent projects for the spring since we will have the social justice research and community service grant and students can apply for that.