

Student Alliance Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2009  
12-2 PM Room 218

*Present at the Meeting  
Emiko, Fei, Lil-Milagro,*

*Minutes recorded by Fei Hu*

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

**2. Tai-Chi (Jeremy)**

- Jeremy will be teaching 2 different Tai-Chi classes this semester:  
Wednesday 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Rm. 212 (12 students max)  
Thurs 12-1 p.m. in Rm. 607 (15 students max)
- Classes are cumulative – students should be able to commit to a 8-week series of 1 hour classes
- Student Alliance voted unanimously to officially approve funding for Tai Chi

**3. Student Alliance Laptop**

- The idea of having a Student Alliance funded laptop for SA Coordinators' use was proposed
- Students suggested:
  - looking into a possible laptop donation from IT
  - having a laptop available in Room 218 for Student Alliance Coordinators as well as student groups and general student body when not being used by others
- SA Coordinators proposed setting up a desktop computer and workspace for Student Alliance and student groups in room 218 which could allow for SA drop-in hours and a master calendar with all student group meetings and events

**4. Social Justice and Community Research Grant**

- Heidi, Alejandro and Lil-Milagro have finished writing grant application questions and are getting ready to finalize application and send to student body
- Deadline for submitting application is April 1, 2009
- Information about this grant can be found on Student Alliance website
- We reviewed the mission and vision of this grant with the following important points:
  - The grant used exclusively fund conference attendance, but now is being opened up for various projects
  - 10 students per year awarded \$1,000/year
  - How the money should be staggered between Fall and Spring semesters came into question
- Discussion of whether financial need should be a factor while considering the applications. The following points were raised:
  - a. As of now, the question of what other financial aid are you currently receiving (i.e., scholarships and awards) is on the application

- b. It's important to look at other factors like the projects' needs, etc.
- c. Depending on the number of applicants, is it important to question the student's financial need if there are fewer than 10 students applying?
- Students are expected to report back from conferences to inform us about how the project went
- Discussion of possibly adding a question on the application: how would you integrate the tools you're using or things you're learning in the classroom with your project? This points to CIIS' mission and 7 ideals of integrating classroom material with community work
- Question #5 (Part II) – rephrasing of the question to reflect applicant's history and involvement in communities.
- How would you demonstrate your long-term commitment to the community?
- As of Feb 10, the grant has been revised and posted on SA website.

#### **5. Conference Funding and PAT (Proposal Action Team)**

- Students are generally given \$125-250 to attend conferences
- Students have been awarded up to \$500 if presenting at a conference outside of country
- Proposed deadline for application: mid-march
- The question of whether or not it be helpful to have a workshop about conference application procedures was raised. Students generally agreed that it would be helpful to have a workshop.
- Proposal Action Team – there will be a call for submissions for students to join this team to review both Social Justice and Community Research Grant and conference funding applications. The review of applications will take place the first week of April, and students of color are strongly encouraged to join the PAT.

#### **6. Student Alliance webmistress**

- We are hoping to find a webmistress who can update and maintain the Student Alliance website for a proposed stipend of \$300-500/semester
- We discussed whether or not this could be a work study position, but Shirley Strong confirmed that it cannot be done through work-study.
- As of Feb 10, Student Alliance has found a student willing to be a webmistress for the stipend amount suggested.

#### **7. CIIS Choir**

- The CIIS Choir has been established and plans to begin meeting on Wednesday, February 11 from 7-9 p.m. and every Wednesday thereafter
- The rehearsals will take place in Rm 218
- Flyers will be posted around school

#### **8. Listserv principles of community**

- It has been expressed that the listserv has been a place for inappropriate venting about political issues using attacking language and harmful imposing of beliefs on others
- We discussed how we can create ethical principles of community for CIIS listserv
- The idea of having a moderator that makes sure people are following these community principles came into discussion. The moderator's role is to make sure students feel safe and a person to report any inappropriate behavior
- Lil-Milagro proposed a town hall meeting to address listserv issues, to discuss the idea of a moderator and to implement principles community

**9. Closing/Proposed Future SA Mtgs**

- Student Alliance coordinators will send out an email with time slots that generally work for students to make sure future meeting times accommodate students