

Student Alliance
Meeting Agenda Notes
Wednesday, June 17th 2009 3 – 5 pm

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.

Introduction: Lil Milagro Martinez -

Review of 2008 – 2009 School Year – Lil Milagro, Fei Hu & Shirley Strong

- Social Justice and Community Research Grant – There were 8 applicants for the SJCR Grant, and all 8 applicants were awarded \$1,000 each for their projects. Student got a chance to view applications and become informed about their work.
- Conference funding – We received 3 applicants who applied for conference funding, and decided to award all 3 applicants funding to support them with their projects.
- Student Emergency Loan Fund – We have decided to make this fund more accessible for students, as many of them do not realize they have this option. We discussed various situations in which students can opt to apply for emergency funding; e.g., students who encounter life issues that impact their financial situation. In the past, we have supported a student who was facing terminal illness to allow her to take a class at CIIS.

Budgetary Review Presented by Lil Milagro w/ help from Shirley Strong

- Students were handed a printout of the 2008-2009 Budget with breakdowns of how Student Alliance spent our funds. A complete copy of the Budget can be viewed on the SA website.

Update on Current SA Initiatives

- Student Leadership/Diversity Assistant Position – Student Alliance is currently hiring a student to work with Shirley Strong, Director of Diversity, in partnership with SA who will serve as a student organizer and liason between activist student groups on campus, and working with faculty to push for institutional change and diversity on campus. The full job description is available on the SA website. This position was approved by a unanimous vote by Student Alliance.
- Health Resources – Presented by Lil Milagro – SA is currently looking into alternative and affordable forms of health care in order increase access for the entire student body.
 - a. We have looked into partnering with schools in the area with free clinics; e.g., City College. We have thought about potentially donating up to \$10K to their free clinic in order for students to receive health care at their clinic.
 - b. Lil Milagro and Shirley Strong are currently meeting with the Director of the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) to discuss ways to partner up and look into reduced and alternative health care plans.
 - c. We have thought of tapping into CIIS students as a resource, and outreaching to students to contribute their ideas about health care via the listserv, as many students are equipped with expertise and knowledge in alternative forms of healing.
 - d. We are open to students' feedback regarding different ideas to improve our Health Care options.

Proposed Student Groups with presentations on how the group will benefit the CIIS community

- **Nierika Platform – Adrian Villasenor-Galarza**

- **Mission Statement:** Create a space in which to explore participatory learning by facilitating multiple ways of knowing from an intuitive, creative and heart-centered perspective to deepen our CIIS integral.
- **Transition Movement – Adam Hudson**
 - **Mission Statement:** To begin discussion and practical facilitation of a multi-faceted approach to the transition from a fossil fuel based economy/economy to post-peak oil society
- **Integral Ecology – Elizabeth mcAnally**
 - **Mission Statement:** To cultivate a CIIS-based community of inquiry and practice around the idea of Integral Ecology
- All 3 student groups have been approved by SA to be recognized as a student group.

Yoga Update: (Report by Johannah Blackmen – Presentation by Lil Milagro)

Yoga this past semester went well, although numbers were down a little bit from past semester. We scheduled most of our classes at noon, and those were the classes that did the best. Staff are the highest percentage of attendees, and they really appreciate the classes being at noon. We noticed that Friday classes do not bring in much of a turn out, and I am curious if we want to just have four teachers in the fall and classes only on Monday through Thursday. The class attendance for the spring ranged between booming classes of 12 and small classes of three.

Our teachers all carried their load wonderfully, and I received very positive feedback on all the teachers.

It seemed to work well to have a monthly schedule up on the SA bulletin board with the rooms and times for each day - that way students were able to keep up with room changes even if they were not able to check their email.

I am resigning as the yoga coordinator, as my schedule is too busy to allow for the job. It looks like Jordan Wolfe might be the new coordinator - he was the first to express interest. If he does not take the job, Isaac, another of the current yoga teachers, will be taking over, as he was the second to express interest. I have full faith that either of these two gentlemen would do a wonderful job. I will meet with whoever takes over to train them, with the exception of the room booking - they will need to be trained by a tech person for that portion of the job and will need to have a CIIS ID set up.

Additionally, both Dennis Kiley and I will no longer be teaching. Dennis has graduated, and I, again, do not have time to teach. Therefore, new teachers will need to be found - one new teacher if we only want four classes a week, and two new teachers if we want two classes a week. I have at least one person who is interested and who I know to be a very good teacher.

To sum it up: a new coordinator will be trained, and will need to find a new yoga teacher or two. I recommend continuing to have as many classes at noon as possible. I also recommend continuing to post a monthly schedule. A decision will need to be made as to whether we want to have four classes a week or five.

I have enjoyed serving as coordinator, and hope the yoga program continues and takes off with someone who can give it the time that I am no longer able to give it.

Thank you all!

Johannah

Refrigerator – Presented by Lil Milagro

- The new refrigerator is now located in the back room in the cafe you will see a brand new refrigerator, brought to you by popular student demand. We had originally allocated \$1000 for the purchase of the fridge but Jonathan Mills was able to purchase one for 669.98. We ask that if you use it, you do not leave things in the refrigerator for more than two days otherwise it will be thrown away. This being said and living in the privileged United States, most of us have probably lived in that environment where roommates, family members, partners, ourselves have left food in the refrigerator for way to long leading eventually to a new house guest in the form of moldy food or stains that we assure ourselves that we will clean despite precedent set time and time again.
- SA has hired Genesee Herzberg, a CIIS student, to maintain cleanliness of the refrigerator. Student Alliance has voted to approve the amount of \$200/semester for the Refrigerator maintenance position, which is approximately \$12/hour (tax-free) for roughly 1 hour per week, which is about \$50 per month for 4 months in a semester. We've decided to match the rate of a work-study position.
- Funds Approved by SA: \$200 per semester.