

Student Alliance Meeting  
Monday, October 5, 2009  
12:30 – 2:30 pm  
Room 218 - (Student Multi-Purpose Room)

Attendance:

- Lil Milagro Martinez-Cornejo – SCA
- Frank STrona – TID Student Group
- Margie Lam – Dean of Students Office
- Lindsay Kauffman – SCA
- Beth Weiman – SCA
- Claire Pierce – BAC
- Emiko Yoshikami – SCA
- Annabelle Niebel -
- Bisola Marignay, Transformative Studies
- Alejandro Urruzmendi, SCA

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.

I. Welcome/Ice breaker – Lil Milagro Martinez-Cornejo

**II. Opening up of SA budget to student-led discussion – Lil Milagro facilitating the group-led discussion**

We will be discussing is the \$67,000 SA budget and what changes to it need to be made to potentially refocus the scope and work that SA wants to engage within different communities. Within this, I want us to think about what our budget needs to look like in terms of issues and accountability to our student body. Important items are around opening up conference funding to workshop training, increase perhaps the money that is available to social justice led projects, campus group funding and Multiversity.

- Conference funding was opened up to workshop training starting officially in Spring of 2010.

**III. Potential presentation by past Student Alliance Members**

In order to think present commitments to transformation of existing power structures and to advocate for social change as well as to recognize places of student legacy and work, SA is considering having a meeting in which students who have been part of Student Alliance or UNITE! in the

past (since 2005 at least) can present around some of the issues and struggles which have existed previously. As such and in order to remain relevant to students' lives, SA would like to think whether this is a recognizable need within the CIIS student body. If students would be interested in talking with students around these issues and to receive an in-depth history of institutional memory here at CIIS, please let me know and I will begin to outreach to these peoples.

- Students were excited about this as a possibility and are looking forward to how it can look.

**IV. Update on the Student Emergency Loan Fund – Lil Milagro**

We will review the questions/concerns that students raised at the last Student Alliance meeting and check in as to where the process is at and what students need.

**V. Conference funding questions**

General time for questions around conference funding.

- We discussed this issue in greater detail under the budget portion of the agenda.

**VI. New Student Groups – See attached documentation**

**a. Transformative Inquiry Department Student Advisory Group – presented by Frank Strona**

The TID Student Advisory Group acts as an integrated and collaborative, sustainable voice for students enrolled in the TID distance program within CIIS. Its mission is to coalesce and provide CIIS administration, community and faculty with an open-society based framework that allows the distance student to be heard and actively participate in the academic experience while at CIIS. TID Student Advisory group envisioned a group would address issues of department needs, support to student concerns to the ability to participate in the running, hosting and planning at the intensives as a service opportunity to support the department.

The results ended up in that we wanted to see the establishment of a CIIS distance group that would exist to be present at meeting of other student groups, and/or be a unified voice when concerns are present with the TSD cohorts.

**b. Coniunctio- presented by Annabelle Niebel**

Coniunctio is dedicated to the support and growth of an astrological community of learners through the facilitation of peer mentoring and learning, with a view to fostering an approach to the discipline of astrology which is creative, imaginative and intellectually rigorous. Our primary focus is on archetypal astrology although not to the exclusion of

other well-grounded, empirical approaches. We collaboratively develop resources to assist learners, with students receiving a chance to develop research and presentation skills and receive feedback. Coniunctio also encourages and supports engagement with the wider astrological community as well as the general public.

Meeting times: Thursdays, 6pm—8pm starting on October 15th, October 22nd, November 12th, December 10th, January 21st,

## **VII. Letter of solidarity to UC schools – Group-led discussion**

We want to look at why these issues are important and why they affect us here at CIIS. What are issues around transparency and governance that need to be addressed within a letter as well as what are our commitments within a private institution in higher education to education and what do we want to do and what would be politically relevant for us to do to stand in solidarity with the students at UC schools. Some issues to discuss are around transparency, accountability and financial debt that students' accumulate during the course of their education. If students have a UC contact then they can check if a statement is necessary now or if there is something else that's relevant – perhaps a teach-in? For more information, check out one website: <http://ucfacultywalkout.com/>

UC Demands:

1. No furloughs or paycuts on salaries below \$40,000.
2. The immediate institution of the Academic Senate Council's July 29 recommendation regarding the implementation of furloughs.
3. Full disclosure of the budget.

## **VIII. Dia de los Muertos presentation – presented by Professor Pachecho**

- a. See attached documentation.
  - Students unanimously approved this item with the suggestion that space be considered as it will be happening in the Student multi-purpose room.

## **IX. Description of Student Diversity Assistant Position – Elisa Haro**

- See attached documentation.

### **Additional items . . .**

Please visit our website at [www.saciis.org](http://www.saciis.org) or contact us at [studentalliance@ciis.edu](mailto:studentalliance@ciis.edu)

Can't physically make it there but still want your voice to be heard? No problem, call in: 866-866-2244 (access number 2333585 and host number 810477).