

Student Alliance Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2010
12 pm – 2:30 pm
Room 607

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:

Lil Milagro

Elisa

Beth

Emiko

Sarah

Maureen

Jocie

Erin M.

Adam Hudson

Late:

Kentyah F.

Brian

Heidi R.

Christina M.

1. Welcome/Ice breaker – Lil Milagro Martinez–Cornejo
2. Child-care initiative – Beth
 - a. To initiate a pilot program for childcare assistance for CIIS students. This program will cover the following four areas:
 - Funding would allow for access to a specific child-care facility for children of CIIS students. It would provide greater access and availability for students attending classes, studies and advancement toward their degrees.
 - Individual grants for those students who have children who are too young or old for this child care facility (i.e. before/after care, baby sitters, possibly other child care facilities).
 - The development of student guidelines and a process to receive funding for childcare. Working in conjunction with Student Alliance and the Dean of Students Office. We will have proposal forms and guidelines prepared and ready for Fall 2010 semester.
 - Public space within the institute for a bulletin board in which students can post child care services they want to offer or can refer for other students with
 - b. (see attached documentation).
 - c. We are requested \$250/child for \$10,000/year in order to fund 20 children a semester. As an example, a student who has 2 children can apply for \$500 total per semester, where in which we would ask to see paperwork of their child(ren)'s enrollment in some form of child care program. This will be a need-based stipend based on student's financial assistance, and will be a pilot program within Student Alliance.
 - d. **Amount Requested: \$10,000**
 - **Passed unanimously.**

3. Brazilian Music: The Sound of Bossa Nova – Jose Silva
 - a. The aim of this proposal is to inform the CIIS community about the Brazilian music Bossa Nova using multiple ways of knowing (rational and emotional)
 - b. This event will take place at CIIS somewhere b/w mid-March to mid-April.
 - c. (see attached documentation).
 - d. **Amount Requested: \$500**
 - **We did not discuss this item as Jose was not present.**

4. Jamaican Film Festival – Kentyah.
 - a. Host the US debut of the Jamaican Ministry of Culture supported Jamaican Film Festival, at CIIS, with special guests Mutaburuka and Barbara Hanna (see attached documentation). Blake. Muta is, as previously set forth, a well known Jamaican dub poet, Rasta intellectual and acclaimed radio show host who has performed around the world and been a featured speaker at many prestigious universities. Barbara. Hanna Blake is the first Rastafarian woman elected to the Jamaican Senate and was the first black female newscaster on BBC television in 1970. Barbara is also an award winning writer and documentarian who has been honored by the government of Ethiopia, the UN and many other noteworthy organizations. Barbara Blake's Jamaican Film Festival is an annual film festival held in Kingston JA every April that has never had the opportunity to grace US soil. Kentyah Fraser would like to do two days of film programming highlighting films that explore political, cultural and spiritual issues relevant to the Jamaican community. Coupled with this he would like to have a dialog/public discussion between Muta and Barbara about the state of Caribbean and African politics, the past, present and future of Rastafari, the current state of feminist initiatives in the Caribbean and other important and wide ranging issues. Additionally, as apart of the over all program, Muta will do a poetry reading as a finally for the two days of activities. This event will serve to provide a deep counterpoint to the aforementioned festival activities and shortcomings, which will be in full swing in late July, and will afford those in the CIIS community and beyond insights that can help to provide a context for the "entertainment" that many will enjoy through out the summer festival season. If granted funding this would take place in mid to late July over the course of a weekend in, ideally, Namaste Hall. All equipment needed for this event is available via A/V. The primary people involved (Muta and Barbara) have agreed to participate and the booking will be handled through the reputable booking agency Royal Artist Management.
 - b. **Amount Requested: \$500 x 4 = 2000**
 - c. **Unanimous approved. Granted provisional funding until dates are made official. Students also requested that there be made available receipts of any money earned that will be donated to the artist and/or licensing company.**

5. Mental Health and Racism proposal – Maggie
 - a. (see attached documentation).
 - b. **Amount Requested: \$500**
 - **We did not discuss this item as Maggie was not present.**

6. Indigenous Permaculture event – Lil Milagro
 - a. This proposal would like to bring out Guillermo Vasquez, of Indigenous Permaculture (I.P.) and Don Pascual, a local Mayan medicine man to host a talk around issues affecting Indigenous communities in Sonsonate, El Salvador and the Pine Ridge reservation. They will also talk about the uniqueness of both locations and strategies and techniques that they've used and developed through working with local community members in order to conduct work that is with and not for communities. They will also be discussing their upcoming trip to El Salvador to work with Nahuat communities around ecological sustainability and food justice. There will be space for students to participate in the upcoming trip planned for the summer if they so wish.
 - b. (See attached documentation)
 - c. **Amount Requested: \$500.**
 - **Approved. Granted provisional funding until dates are made official. Students also requested that there be made available receipts of any money earned that will be donated to the organization as it is a fundraiser for I.P.**

7. Health-care – Jocie, Beth and Lil Milagro
 - a. Student Alliance in conjunction with the Dean of Students office has been in conversations with different health-care service providers since the summer in order to offer YOU the best health care plan that we could find. Student Alliance hosted healthcare meetings on campus on two separate occasions in order to gauge student response and student interest in offering an alternative comprehensive healthcare plan for Fall of next year.
 - b. Please note that nothing is set in stone yet and that your voice will be an important factor in whatever decisions are made. Also please note that rates are subject to change as we narrow in on the plan and coverage that we would like to offer students.
 - c. After 4 healthcare meetings throughout the semester that have been open to all students, Student Alliance and the students present decided to chose one specific Kaiser plan to be offered as optional to students next semester.
 - d. Please note that this plan is NOT mandatory for students but represents simply a different healthcare plan that students can chose for next semester.
 - e. **The financial details of this plan are still not finalized. As such, Student Alliance chose to withhold this item from the agenda until further notice.**

8. VIII. Library Update – Lil Milagro
 - a. Student Alliance would like to get this project going as soon as possible and so, as such, will make ten to fifteen minutes available at the beginning of the Student Alliance meeting to hear an update of where the project is at, what needs to be done for its completion, a timeline for when this project will be completed as well as an itemized budget with the money that will be spent and the money that will be remaining, if any, after this project is completed. As with all agenda items that will be discussed during a Student Alliance meeting, we also respectfully request a short description of these four items in writing in order to properly prepare the agenda for this new agenda item as well as to continue the documentation and archiving of agenda items for

the sake of transparency. We can also electronically add that to the Student Alliance website so that students can read directly what you have written in regards to this project.

- b. Lise came and talked to Student Alliance about the project update. Amongst other items, she brought up that the library will not be moved for next semester. She also stated that this order is part of a larger order that she will be making at the end of the fiscal year. She stated that she would wait to charge Student Alliance until after the books are purchased as she will be purchasing books even if the list that Student Alliance provided costs more than the \$10,000 that Student Alliance donated. She stated that the books will be purchased by mid-June although she indicated that not all books will be purchased and that some books have already been purchased.
 - c. Lise asked what type of financial oversight will be necessary on the part of Student Alliance. In response, SA requested the final cost of this project as well as which books will be purchased individually and how much those books costs. Lise stated that she would make the records available for SA to review but she will not put together an independent proposal for SA outside of the total cost of the materials.
 - d. Lise expressed concern about what she felt like was the 'oppositional' character of the meeting. Students stated that what was required was transparency and better communication. The Student Alliance coordinator requested that when a request was made that Lise send back a response no later than 3 to 4 days – even if that response is just that the library director is busy. Lise expressed that she could get back to Student Alliance emails in roughly a 2 week period.
9. Construction Meeting Representative – Space Planning – Emiko or Beth
- a. I (Tristen Davis) proposed that the student body have a representative present at some or all of the construction meetings that take place between the facilities department at CIIS (Jonathan Mills), and the architects and contractors. The purpose of a student representative at these meetings would be to essentially report back to the student body information about the designs taking place, the construction process timelines and effects the construction will have while continuing to exist in the building during construction. This could also serve as a space of intervention into the decision making that is occurring without student input into the space changes and construction modifications to the building. Having experience in the construction industry I (Tristen) would be willing to attend these meetings, and anyone else
 - b. **Tristen was nominated and elected to this position. Adam will accompany and help Tristen in whatever capacity is needed.**
10. Subcommittees and bylaws: Jocie & Abbey
- a. A proposal to change the SA bylaws, as will be discussed at the Subcommittee for Subcommittees meeting on Wednesday. – Sarah & Jocie
 - Subcommittees (Communication/Zine, Space, Healthcare, Childcare Finances) to be officialized
 - How this will give us more credence
 - How this will help with sustainability and transparency
 - b. Proposal of new bylaws

- c. Discussions and questions.
- d. Bylaws to include methods for students to evaluate administrators.
- e. How this could work, how this would make administrative offices more accountable and transparent, how we would want to implement this.

11. Revamping of SA website

- a. Each subcommittee and student group can have a statement, a contact person, and a list of upcoming events
- b. Comprehensive calendar
- c. Archives of SA meeting notes, committee meeting notes, etc.
 - **The SA coordinator stated that she would post the last two meeting note agendas no later than this weekend.**
 - **It was also decided that a group of students would meet with Steve around revamping the website. Those students are: Erin, Jocie, Heidi and Adam.**

12. Viewbook: Elect a student to serve on Viewbook committee, as suggested by Shirley's/Jim's email below. (Jim forwarded the email below to Shirley, who passed it on to Lil Milagro and Erin. We decided it would be better for SA to elect representative.) – Erin, 7 minutes

- a. The note from Jim: “The CIIS viewbook is nearing completion—it has now been sent to program chairs for review, and we will be compiling comments and revising copy during the next two weeks with the plan to get this to the printer by the end of the month. Before that happens, however, I would like to go through the book with you all so we can discuss how we are representing ourselves in this piece, and also to ensure we have chosen images that show the current diversity of the institute without over- or under-representing any group or groups of people. I would also like to include a discussion of how we represent those who identify as Queer (LGBTQQII), which can be challenging because this is not always something one can pick up from an image
- b. Also, do we want to include a student in this meeting (and all meetings), and, if so, has a student come forward who can commit to meeting regularly? So far it is only about 4–5 meetings a year and I don't anticipate us needing to meet. Please let me know if these dates work, and which you would prefer. To save time, I am happy to meet in Shirley's office again—up to y'all.
 - Wednesday, April 21, Noon–1:30pm
 - Friday, April 23, Noon–1:30pm
 - Monday, April 26, Noon–1:30pm”
- c. **Mauro was nominated for this position and will present a report-back of this meeting at the next SA meeting.**

13. Letter to Jonathan Mills: Students are working on a letter to Jonathan Mills based upon concerns left unanswered or accounted for from the April 8th Campus Master Plan Meeting. 15 min, Erin

- a. Debrief from Campus Master Plan Meeting
- b. We will send drafts of the letter to SA at the SA meeting, and if voted upon, we would like to send the letter from SA to Jonathan Mills and possibly other administrators. (This will be finalized by Wednesday

evening. I will forward it to SA then, and we can make copies for people to see/read.)

- c. **There was a subcommittee set-up to discuss this letter in greater detail.**

14. MA in Queer Studies – Erin: Judie Wexler wants to meet with students interested in such a program to discuss possibilities. This will be proposed to Queer@CIIS as well, but if other students want to be part of this, they are welcomed to. We are thinking of meeting on a Friday morning between 10am and 11:30, later in April 30th. 5 min – Erin

- a. Letter from Judie: “As I mentioned when I saw you today I have been considering the possibility of CIIS offering an MA in LGBT Studies. Before it goes further, I would like to talk with some students about the idea and some possibilities. I am hoping that you can help me bring together some students to talk about this. Initially, I would like a small group that could share ideas and then perhaps bring it to a discussion with a larger group. I don't know how big Queer@CIIS is and so I don't know if it would make sense to talk with the members, or a subgroup of members, or some other grouping of students.
- b. I look forward to talking with you about this.”
- c. **It was decided that more information was needed about this item as there were both exciting spaces of possibility as well as problematics that need to be addressed. Interested students could attend the meeting but should check in with Erin.**

15. Letter to Judie Wexler and Chip Goldstein – Jocie

- a. **It was decided that there would be a group of students who would be working with Jocie to send out this email as a follow up to the meeting with Judie and Chip earlier in the semester.**

16. May 7th Breakfast with the President, – Erin, Jocie, 7 min

- a. What admins do we want to invite?
- b. Should we focus upon the Strategic Plan and the Campus Master Plan as they might both be voted upon at the May 15th Board Meeting?
- c. Other options: Dan Gurler, Judie Wexer, Public Programming folks..
- d. **It was decided that it would be a good idea to have Ken, the Controller, present as well as potentially Judie Wexler to address questions of faculty diversity evaluations.**

17. Additional Items:

- a. It was also noted that Elisa Haro is stepping down from her position. Student Alliance will decide convene a committee over the summer to review what are possibilities for this position but will not make any official decisions until school starts again in Fall 2010.
 - Lil Milagro will also compile a list of her job description and post it up on the website so as to examine the areas where there can be improvement and where an additional person can be needed.
- b. For more information, please visit our website at www.saciis.org or contact us at studentalliance@ciis.edu for more information.

