Student Government
General Session February 23, 2009
- Minutes –

1. Convene at 12:45 by Steven Beard
2. Agenda adopted
   1. website proposal / committee report
   2. Paula's Proposal regarding meeting
   3. building task force
   4. status of actions and previous resolution
   5. discussion of absences
   6. Other new business
3. Steven's report from communication agenda
   1. Steven requests that Patrick and paula present on Cuny Academic Commons
      1. Patrick: everyone needs an account, it is CUNY central hosted, no calendar function, social networking "group" adds a forum, and blog functions. It might be useful to have our own group if people start using it. There is no polling function yet.
      2. Paula thinks it might have access to new features as they are added.
      3. Patrick the concern is that it is open to all of CUNY
      4. Paula if there is an intention to share information with people who dont have a membership it is hard to select what is
      5. Suha Why not just use Facebook?
      6. Patrick it is meant to integrate facebook
      7. Paula there is a lot of features that are nice as a social networking system
      8. Nick there are other groups that use more of the functionality
      9. Patrick maybe we could contact the web developers and see if we can use it to do that any time in the future.
      10. Paula – people need to be able to access it without logging in
      11. .....
      12. Stephan Moved to close discussion of cuny common
   2. Communications committee will follow up on the discussion of today
4. Paula sent out an email regarding meeting process.
   1. Can we check in regarding how this is working.
   2. Are these meetings effective.
   3. Latoya asked that we start a twen discussion
   4. Stephan Suggested that people make suggestions rather than criticism
   5. Suha is the issue substance of form. Paula Form
   6. Bright motion (passed) that there be two 5 minute rounds of discussion
   7. Casey – its good we meet more often, but the meeting feel too abbreviated, we need to make the committees more organized and we need to meet on substance and react on major issues based on committee action that
   8. Bright – the main upsides to the current procedure, we are meeting more regularly, and proposals are more detailed and thought out, and those are steps in the right direction, we need to approve projects and have the meaningful deliberation we all want but its not 0. My

biggest issue is that between meetings things arent running the way we need – people need to prioritize that kind of activity.

9. Patrick – we should have two types of meetings, its so packed, if we could have a formal meeting with roberts rules and pass resolutions and vote, and then the alternate week there would be a facilitated discussion that was more open to discussion. It would energize people and get the meetings more useful.

10. Steven – At Hunter on SG when we would have meetings where there was a committee of the whole with open discussion at a given meeting it doesnt need to be specific meetings.

11. Paula – I like alternating discussion and voting meetings. I have no idea what people are working on and bringing into the room. Can we structurally brining into the room like rounds for what everyone is working on. We arent hearing everyone's voices

12. Jamaal – I want to echo Patrick's idea. I am more interested in discussion than the formal procedure. We all need to poll our constituents we talk about things that what they see as a problem. We need to talk to everyone to bring their issues to this body.

13. Suha- I agree with the two session proposal with planning and voting meetings. Working with student groups this seemed like a better way to get things done. Roberts rules is limiting.

14. Casey – that was a good talk.

15. Patrick volunteers to propose a new procedure. Casey, Jamaal, Paula, and Bright also volunteer.

16. Amanda – constraining what if there is nothing to vote on in a biweeekly voting meeting. Roberts seems to work okay

17. Casey – committee report back. We always have things to say.

18. Bright – that is a matter of details there is an escape velocity that this body has come closer to reaching than in previous years and this proposal will hopefully help to break that

19. Paula I think im hearing consensus that we need to increase discussion and the working group will look at ways to do that and come back with a proposal

5. Building Task force
   1. Bright An online polling function is important – we can get a website in like two weeks and it will have a working polling function we can start using
   2. Amanda – competition between classes to finish the academic surveys first.
   3. Casey Motion to and passes unanimously with one abstention to empower the building task force to make decisions.

6. Discussion of abscences – Status quo is twice with no excuse, unlimited excused abscences.
   1. Patrick – question – what is an excused absence?
   2. Bright as whip is the person who determines that there is an excuse, based on the criteria in the constitution. There is no real oversimple of the whip's determination.
   3. Gaby- What is work related? Does it need to be beyond your power? I just get bogged down with work. It can be really stressful to step away from work, and
   4. Steven two options more unexcused absences or more excuses.
   5. Bright – there are many times that I feel like there are things I need to do, I was thinking we could raise the number to 4 per semester from 2
   6. Paula - School work is not an excused absence
   7. Amy – we meet twice as often so we should have twice as many excused, and discuss a
   8. Amanda – we need to live up to the commitment there are 15 weeks if we miss 5 then we're not here a third it should stay as is
   9. Gaby – people should try harder to get here on time
   10. Paula – meetings are at 12:40
   11. Nick – Amanda is right we all need to show up. We need people to come to be efficient.

12. Patrick this is really internally political and we could draft little proposals that we can vote on next semester. There are competing interests and the numbers involved mean that we can have different ideas about what is acceptable.
13. Bright I agree the proposals can be one or two sentences. Constitutional amendments need to be posted two weeks ahead of time.
14. Stephan - we can have an informal process then post it and make it official two weeks after that.
15. Steven – read out the policy for amendment from the bylaws
16. Bright can we have a straw poll. How many people would approve adding exactly one unexcused absence each semester.
17. Gaby – Moved and seconded that we have very brief proposals for next week.
18. Steven Please send them out to all SG members
7. Steven any other business
8. Bright – the problem with the communications committee following up on the issue of the CUNY commons. Can we straw poll how many present support the idea of our stand alone SG website. 6 in favor of proprietary, 1 in favor of Cuny commons,