



Borough of Manhattan Community College  
The City University of New York  
Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Minutes  
Minutes October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019  
Room N451

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 3:13 pm
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Hussein Abdulla, Mohammad Azhar, Joel Barker, Melissa Butler, Arthur Cain, Andres Colapinto, Anthony Creaco, Abraham Dasney, Noor Earpy, Deborah Gambs, Abdoul-Hanane Gbadamassi, Lane Glisson, Joel Hernandez, Talibah Khwaja, Michael McGee, Kaddy Monoh, Abel Navarro, Atef Osamah, Alicia Perdomo, Fred Peskoff, Lesley Rennis, Gilles Ghislain Tanke Seuilo, Ching-Song Don Wei, Abubakar Yussif, Emily Zheng, Tahir Zogaj
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from 9.25.19 unanimously approved.
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
  - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following items were unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
    - i. **Course Revision:** ENG 101  
**Description:** This revision changes the course pre-requisites to comply with the new CUNY admissions policies and changes to multiple measures of reading and writing proficiency for placement into courses.
    - ii. **Course Revision:** ENG 121  
**Description:** This revision changes the course pre-requisites to comply with the new CUNY admissions policies and changes to multiple measures of reading and writing proficiency for placement into courses.
    - iii. **Curriculum Revision:** Honors Program  
**Description:** This revision changes the number of courses required to graduate as an Honors Program Scholar from 5 courses to 4 courses.
  - b. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
    - i. Update on *Kismet, Ms. Marvel* event. Event for Islamophobia has been moved to November 4<sup>th</sup>. Room N451, 12:30 – 2. Flyers this week. Speakers:
      1. Ameena Ghaffa-Kucher (University of Pennsylvania) – What’s “new” in Islamophobia?
      2. A. David Lewis (MCPHS University) – The evolution of the Muslim superhero.

Chair thanked Muslim Student Association and various faculty for assisting in getting the vent organized.

- ii. Still don't have all gender access restrooms in Fiterman. Committee will follow-up with J. Yafar.

c. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- i. Call for papers for Faculty Development Day has gone out: "Decolonizing Higher Education".
- ii. Faculty Development Day updates were discussed, and the process and deadlines outlined.
- iii. Faculty Development Grant (FDG) coordinators and the grant process were discussed, including getting the FDG proposal application online.
- iv. Possible speakers, date and location for the Joe Doctor Colloquium were discussed. The committee is still requesting suggestion for speakers to present at the Joe Doctor Colloquium – contact D. Gambs.

d. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- i. Guidelines for peer observation of online courses were sent to departmental chairs. The committee has not received any feedback yet.

e. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE

- i. Continued discussion with VP Walleser about getting the appeal process online.
- ii. B. Haas urged action on changing the language of the appeal documents to be less punitive.

f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

- i. Nothing to report.

g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

- i. Committee investigating two complaints, and will bring resolutions to the body at the next meeting
  - 1. Request for an agenda when booking a room for a meeting
  - 2. Unauthorized change made to an online instructor's course
- ii. Resolution (below) – approved unanimously with amendment shown in red.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Remedial policy: The new policy does not end remediation but removes a barrier to progress for students. By embedding remediation in corequisite courses, students satisfy their remedial obligation if they pass the class. The result is that fewer total hours are spent in remediation – thus speeding up students' programs and cutting professors' workload; this follows the elimination of high stakes testing which was an additional obstacle to students' progress. Students would no longer take the same remedial class several times until they reach the skill level – they just need to pass the class.
- b. Commodification of higher education: in terms local and national trends in assessment, performance statistics and the like. The chair suggested that faculty apply our unique, professorial vision of teaching and learning to a set of concrete initiatives drawn up by the committees of this body, as a strategic and empowering move on our part. He referenced the Designing for Success response as an example of how the process itself

came to define the issue instead of focusing our efforts on defining our vision of what education is, what the purpose of the classroom is, how we teach underprepared students, ensure access, enhance diversity and engage students in inquiry and deep learning. He suggested a systematic approach with the governance authority that we have.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. UFS report (G. Clock) – no UFS meeting prior to the AS meeting.
- b. COACHE – brief report on survey given by C. Mata. Full report can be found online.  
[COACHE Report](#)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 3:58pm

**Academic Freedom Committee Resolution**

Whereas, the AAUP's document "On the Relationship of Faculty Governance to Academic Freedom" states: "the faculty's voice should be authoritative across the entire range of decision making that bears, whether directly or indirectly, on its responsibilities."

Whereas the same document further states that "academic freedom of faculty members includes the freedom to express their views... on matters having to do with their institution and its policies...."

Whereas in order for faculty to express their views, they must be informed about those policies.

Whereas a significant portion if not the entirety of BMCC's institutional policies are established in the Cabinet meetings;

Whereas, decisions purportedly related to budgetary constraints, have been made without consultation with faculty and outside of college governance (i.e. class size cap raised from 35 to 37)...

Whereas the AAUP's central document on shared governance (The Statement of Government of Colleges and Universities) states that "Agencies for faculty participation in the government of the college or the university should be established at each level where faculty responsibility is present."

Whereas the faculty of the university are represented on the Board of Trustees by the University Faculty Senate president as a non-voting member;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Senate Chair **or a designee** shall be a non-voting member of the BMCC Cabinet in order to fully represent and inform the faculty on relevant decisions.