



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

---

Minutes  
September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Room N451

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ATTENDANCE: ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Vincent Cheng, Kathleen Dreyer, Erik Freas, Lane Glisson, Joel Hernandez, Yolanda Medina, Manita Pavel, Mohamed Sofaini, Daniel Torres
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: minutes of meetings from 5.22.19 were approved with correction to attendance and organizational meeting election results.
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
  - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:
    - i. Election results: M. Enrico and L. Rennis – co-chairs; C. Stein – secretary; L. Rennis – representative to executive committee.
    - ii. The following items were approved by the Academic Senate:
      1. **Curriculum Revision:** Business Management (General Management) BEC. Unanimously approved.
      2. **Curriculum Revision:** Small Business Entrepreneurship. Unanimously approved.
      3. **Pathways Course:** COM 100 Introduction to Communication Studies. Approved with one abstention.
  - b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
    - i. Elections: D. Gambs – Chair; C. Kronen - Liaison. No secretary yet.
    - ii. Committee has elected members to act as liaisons to other groups that involve FDC, and will continue to do so:
      1. CETLs (M. Castro)
      2. Faculty publication grant
      3. WAC
      4. Faculty mentoring program (Y. Medina)
      5. Adjunct professional development
      6. Teaching academy (Y. Modina)
      7. Distinguished teaching award

- iii. Faculty Development Day: Wed Dec 4, 10-2 F1306-1073. “Decolonizing higher education”. Topics: Race & Language, Climate issues, Scholar Activism, Social Class, Gender, Ungrading, Decolonizing the syllabus.
- iv. Joe Doctor Colloquium 2020 – committee is open to recommendations for an outside speaker for the event.
- v. FDG awardees did not receive their money over summer. Chair of the FDC was not informed of the delay. Interim President Wilks responded to faculty commentary on the issue by apologizing to the body and stating that such oversight will not happen again.

c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- i. Elections: A. Colapinto – Chair/Liaison; S. Brickman – Secretary.
- ii. Peer Observations of E-learning Classes: committee will disseminate policies for peer observations eLearning decided on last year to various department chairs inviting them to use the policies in the current semester as a pilot. Committee will seek feedback from participants, make revisions, and hopefully roll out college wide by the next semester.
- iii. Student Evaluations of Teaching: committee will continue to work on the effectiveness of these and will prepare a new model that will be more useful.
- iv. Peer Observations of Faculty: committee discussed developing new guidelines for peer observations. Will reach out to department chairs to collect any guidelines and/or forms they may use for peer observation, as a first step to reviewing current practices at BMCC.
- v. Committee discussed how budgetary cuts and cost saving measures have a measurable negative impact inside the classroom.
- vi. Committee is engaged in ongoing communication with E-learning and Digital Education Council.

d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE

- i. Elections: G. Miller – Chair; C. Wiseman – Liaison; C. Priano - Secretary
- ii. Committee read 3046 appeals over the summer – this was a 14% increase over last summer. G. Miller thanked committee for their work.

e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

- i. Elections: M. Matarese – Chair/ Liaison; L. Lomask – Secretary.
- ii. Combatting Islamophobia Event - Kismet: Miss Marvel and the Evolution of the Muslim Superhero. Oct 28 – 12.30 – 2pm. Guest speakers: A. David Lewis (preeminent scholar on Muslim superheroes) and Sana Amanat (editor of novel) also attending.
- iii. Continued discussion on StarFish/ Academic warning form/ BART. Invited Janice Zumo and John Huie to meeting to discuss StarFish, which is going college wide this semester.
- iv. Will continue to work on getting all-gender safe bathrooms and free menstrual products.
- v. Representatives from committee will join Design for Success committees that involve student affairs.
- vi. Re-evaluating academic dismissal policy and possible alternatives (such as early intervention).
- vii. Tutoring – plans to investigate how tutoring is working on weekends and nights.

f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

- i. Elections: B. Powell – Chair; R. Smart – Liaison; S. Tulloch – Secretary
- ii. Open House - Committee plans to work on getting faculty involved. Previously there was a stipend for faculty to give reports on teaching modules. Hope to use the modules again.
- iii. Want to access admission experience among different groups – on a research / fact finding mission right now on student experience.
- iv. Discussed how this committee can be involved in DfS – will have members involved.
- v. Committee will investigate whether departments are getting adequate funding for running their programs.
- vi. Discussed decline in student enrollment numbers and whether we can find out the cause without putting students at risk.

g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

- i. Elections: H. Glaser (Chair/ Liaison); no secretary yet.
- ii. Looked at Primary Responsibilities of the Faculty and discussed the AAUP Statement (below)
- iii. J. Blake expressed concern at being asked for an agenda when requesting a room for a planned Black Faculty and Staff Association meeting. Committee will investigate.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Chair congratulated Maureen Matarese on her election to Chair of the Community College Caucus of UFS. Thanks to Gerard Clock for reporting to me on the first plenary of UFS last night.
- b. Chair stated that a priority will be to improve communication from administrative entities to faculty.
- c. Chair made a brief statement on remedial reform: There is a set change in policy on remediation coming from CUNY Central. Central has always set remedial policy and campuses have had latitude to work out the particulars. This particular policy iteration – (essentially signing onto a national movement hatched in think tanks and foundations) - cuts more deeply than ever into faculty prerogative and student access. It is a done deal and has tremendous impact on the entire University
- d. Chair suggested that faculty can take a nuanced look at what remains under our local control. He recommended that faculty pay attention to issues of access for underprepared students, equity issues affecting both student and faculty – particularly part-time faculty –, faculty workload as all faculty absorb more underprepared students into non-remedial classes, and of course job security for faculty.
- e. Chair stated that with the new Chancellor we are in transition as to what University-wide issues will be arising and as a participant in faculty governance leadership bodies, he will keep Senate apprised.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. UFS update by G. Clock. Complete minutes can be found on the UFS website.
  - i. CUNY Chancellor addressed the body and facilitated a Q&A period regarding upcoming changes at CUNY.

- ii. Status of Faculty Report: focused on COACHE survey report, with discussion.
  - iii. Academic freedom report: Freedom of expression will be an initiative by this committee.
  - iv. Library and Information Technology Report
  - v. Student Affairs Report: focused on examining students' concerns of homelessness and food insecurity. Committee will be looking at concerns of veteran students.
- b. BMCC COACHE survey report – will be discussed at the next session.
  - c. Resolution by L. Rose below. Motion to table the vote on this resolution passed unanimously.
  - d. Motion that the resolution is brought by Senate representatives to their departments for discussion passed unanimously.
  - e. Motion to recommend that B&G bring a plan on possible storage lockers at Fiterman Hall passed with one abstention.
  - f. Resolution by M. Matarese below. Resolution failed (32 in favor, 20 opposed).

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 4:03pm

**AAUP STATEMENT**

“The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty.”

**RESOLUTION (L. Rose)**

"Given the financial shortfall that BMCC reportedly faces, which impacts student learning, and which has been given as a rationale for an increase in class size, elimination of the provost fund for faculty travel, and the delay in faculty development grant payments, we recommend a moratorium on faculty participation in Design for Success efforts until these issues are raised in Academic Senate. We acknowledge the reality that junior faculty may be obligated to participate in these activities, thus we are asking at this time for a pause so that these issues can be addressed in Academic Senate."

**Resolution: Academic Senate (M. Matarese)**

Whereas Designing for Success is a restructuring of the college that impact faculty, coursework, curricula, students, and staff,

Whereas faculty concerns, curricula, and student affairs are the purview of faculty governance,

Whereas Designing for Success committee work has been criticized by some unnamed colleagues who have said that their ideas, suggestions, and critiques have not been heard or considered by the committee,

Whereas many faculty are without the security of tenure and may not feel comfortable coming

forward,

Whereas Designing for Success has an impact on faculty workload and is therefore also the purview of the Union, and that the BMCC PSC has been encouraging open conversation on the decision making process and evaluation of Designing for Success initiatives,

Therefore, be it resolved that a small joint Academic Senate and PSC ad hoc committee be created to develop and implement a brief, anonymous assessment of the experiences of all Designing for Success committee members last year.

Be it further resolved that the results will be shared with the senate body and will inform the newly populated Designing for Success committees as they go forward in this new academic year.