

Minutes from Academic Freedom Committee Meeting, 10/2/19, Room N780.

Attending: Professors Glaser, Clock, Shneyderman, Jeshmeridian, Glisson.

Absent: Professors Bulley, Sofaini.

The meeting began at 2:10 pm.

- I. The Minutes from 9/4/19 were approved.
- II. Election: Professor Clock was elected Secretary through February, 2020; Professor Shneyderman will then serve as Secretary from February to May, 2020.
- III. We discussed Professor Blake's concern about Academic Freedom because he was asked for an agenda for a Black Faculty and Staff Association Meeting.
 - A. This Committee needs to know what the procedure is for allocating classrooms for events.
 - B. Professor Glaser will reach out to Anita Samuels *vis à vis* policy. We will then discuss at the next meeting.
- IV. BlackBoard Academic Freedom Concerns.
 - A. This Committee received a question about two aspects of BlackBoard.
 1. The requirement for a Banner image that is part of the BlackBoard shell;
 2. The addition of a grade column for the students' BlackBoard Orientation course.
 - a. We discussed these concerns.
 - b. Professor Glaser will ask Christopher Medellin about these aspects of the Black-Board content.
- V. Academic Senate Resolution.
 - A. The Resolution, as follows, will be brought to the Academic Senate for a vote regarding the Academic Senate Chair's presence as a non-voting member of the president's cabinet.

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 shall be a non-voting member of the BMCC Cabinet in order to fully represent and inform the faculty on relevant decisions.

B. This Committee voted to send this resolution to the Academic Senate for a vote.

VI. The meeting concluded at 3:15 pm; the next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Gerard P. Clock, 10/2/19.