



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

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Minutes  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Via Zoom

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 2.40 pm
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Hussein AbdullaI; Warren Benfield; Horace Brockington, Irons Burgos, Anson Cheng, Chizara Chibueze, Anthony Creaco, Salimatou Doumbouya, Mariama Faye, Everett Flannery, Monica Foust, Erik Freas, Deborah Gambs, Orlando Justo, Irving Mitchell, Emmanuel Paki, Colin Persaud, Fred Peskoff, Jessica Roman
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for the meeting of 4.22.2020 were unanimously approved.
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
  - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following item was unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
    - i. **New Course:** COM 150 Introduction to Digital Communication and Culture  
Description: This course introduces students to the major critical methods, policy issues, and creative forms involved in contemporary digital media in the US and the world.
  - b. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
    - i. Discussed concerns regarding online teaching.
    - ii. Prepared “Guidelines to Working with Students in Crisis” document (below).  
Chair thanked all involved the work.
    - iii. Year End report to follow.
  - c. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
    - i. Faculty development grant winners will be alerted in the next week.
    - ii. Chair thanked committee members.
    - iii. Year End report to follow.
  - d. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE:
    - i. Discussed BMCC’s policy concerning courses that are scheduled to meet in person in Fall 2020 but must be taught online in the case of a continuing public health emergency due to COVID-19. Made three recommendations (below).  
Motion to accept the recommendations unanimously approved.

- ii. Continued work on preparing resources for Trauma Informed Pedagogy. Chair acknowledged support of IP Wilks and Dean Berg for this initiative.
    - iii. Year End report to follow.
  - e. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
    - i. Year End report submitted.
    - ii. Chair thanked committee members; 6184 appeals read during this academic year.
  - f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
    - i. Chair thanked committee members.
    - ii. Year End report to follow.
  - g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
    - i. Finalized report on issue of student's recording of lectures. Made two recommendations (below). Motion to accept recommendations with amendment unanimously approved.
    - ii. Year End report to follow.
- V. CHAIR'S REPORT
  - a. Congratulated body – BMCC was the first CUNY school to hold institutional meetings via Zoom.
  - b. Thanked outgoing senators for their contribution.
  - c. Thanked outgoing parliamentarian Glenn Miller for his many years of service.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. UFS report
    - i. M. Matarese (ALL) elected as a member at large.
    - ii. Discussed budget and how CARES funds will be used.
    - iii. Resolution from Academic Freedom Committee of the UFS: To resolve that we ask the Chancellor and the Board to Trustees to abide by the principles of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at CUNY, as expressed in their own By-Laws and as expressed by the UFS, and as affirmed by the AAUP. The resolution passed, with 92% in favor.
- VII.
  - a. Resolution (below). Motion to accept resolution passed unanimously.
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT: 3.22 pm

## **Instruction committee Recommendations**

- i. Professors who choose to maintain a “synchronous online” designation should be able to reduce the number of online synchronous teaching hours to a pedagogically appropriate amount. These types of decisions may be subject to departmental guidelines, but should not require review by the College, beyond the requirement that the professor be approved to teach online.
- ii. Professors who would like to switch to a fully asynchronous class, or to re-list their class as a hybrid class, can do so with approval of their chair. Criteria for when this is appropriate--e.g. how close to the beginning of the semester, or with how much student consent--should be determined at the department level, and the decision should not require further review by the College, beyond the requirement that the professor be approved to teach online.
- iii. Under no circumstance should faculty hold online teaching hours during times that fall outside their posted teaching schedules.

## **Academic Freedom Committee**

- I. Final Report on Students recording the classroom
  - A. In summary, our Report notes that Accessibility issues require compliance with all student needs.
  - B. Other than necessary accommodations required for accessibility, faculty have the legal right to set policy on students recording the classroom. This policy should be in the syllabus. BMCC should let all faculty know that they have this right.
- II. AAUP
  - A. The AAUP has many articles and a book that investigates the relationships between universities and private corporations.
    1. This is becoming increasingly relevant.
    2. Faculty should be aware of these relationships and the recommendations from the AAUP.

## **BMCC Academic Senate Resolution May 13, 2020**

### **No Layoffs, No Non-Reappointments: A Resolution of the BMCC Senate in Defense of CUNY Workers**

WHEREAS the COVID-19 crisis has caused unprecedented physical, emotional, and economic hardship for the students, faculty, and staff of the university, many of whose families have been thrown into chaos due to layoffs, illness, or both, and

WHEREAS enrollments and revenue across the university are uncertain and the governor has been granted the right to make executive cuts to the CUNY budget, and

WHEREAS adjunct faculty, who teach the majority of classes at CUNY, have faced decades of unstable work and low wages that have left many financially unprepared for this crisis, and

WHEREAS many adjunct faculty in particular rely upon a minimum number of courses per year to retain their health benefits, which they absolutely need in the midst of this pandemic, and

WHEREAS the well-being of the faculty and staff are inextricably linked to the well-being and success of the students who attend the university and the quality and quantity of the research performed therein,

WHEREAS an usually high number of non-reappointments of adjunct faculty are already occurring on the BMCC campus, be it

RESOLVED that the members of the BMCC Academic Senate demand that the college and university place an immediate and indefinite moratorium on all layoffs, furloughs, and non-reappointments, and be it further

RESOLVED that course enrollment minimums and maximums be adjusted across the college to ensure that all faculty have a sufficient number of students for their classes to run and that they are granted the time and support necessary for online teaching.