

Academic Freedom sub-committee of the Academic Senate of BMCC

Minutes for 9/2/2020 meeting

In attendance: Hollis Glaser, Gerard Clock, Yuliya Shneyderman, Carlos Chaparro, Julio Conte

- Elected Hollis Glaser as Chair (unanimous)
- Elected Yuliya Shneyderman as Secretary
- Hollis Glaser and Gerard Clock will act as co-representatives to the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
- Hollis proposed the resolution (see text below) and it passed unanimously
- Discussed the issue of having student evaluations available before the withdrawal date
- Discussed taking up the issue of academy and industry relations
- Discussed getting individual membership in the AAUP for members of this committee
- Discussed whether there is a policy about requiring students to have their cameras turned on during exams.

Resolution from the Academic Freedom sub-committee of Academic Senate

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.