



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

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Minutes  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Zoom

- I. CALL TO ORDER 4:02pm
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from 5.6.2020 unanimously approved
- III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
  - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: L. Rennis
    - i. **New Course:** ITL 205 Italian Cinema in Context
      - 1. **Description:** Taught in English, this course provides a historical introduction to Italian cinema, first concentrating on examples of iconic genres and movements, such as the classics of neorealism, and *autres* of the 50's, 60's and 70's.
      - 2. **Presenter:** Maria Enrico
      - 3. **Vote:** PASSED. Motion to approve the new course passed 15-0-0.
    - ii. **Pathways Course:** ITL 205 Italian Cinema in Context
      - 1. **Description:** This proposal includes ITL 312 in the World Cultures and Global Issues bucket of the Pathways Flexible Core.
      - 2. **Presenter:** Maria Enrico
      - 3. **Vote:** PASSED. Motion to approve the Pathways course passed 15-0-0.
  - b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: J. Longley
    - i. Elected officers
      - 1. Rifat Salam - Chair
      - 2. Joanna I. Giza – Secretary
      - 3. Jennifer Longley - Liaison
    - ii. Several tasks:
      - 1. Fac. Dev. Day – virtual. Will focus on faculty experiences – sharing strategies etc.
      - 2. Joe Doctor Colloquium – discussed possible guest speakers.
      - 3. FDG issues – will clarify with Dean Berg about how much money/number of grants this year. Will look at review process to make it as equitable as possible.

- c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE: A. Colapinto
  - i. Elected officers
    - 1. Andres Colapinto – Chair/ Liaison
    - 2. Michael McGee – Secretary
  - ii. Ongoing issue of student experience surveys; are they happening this semester?
  - iii. Course caps issue – which classes were impacted and by how much?
  - iv. Will continue work on video/ recording of classes issue.
  - v. Will continue with trauma-informed pedagogy work.
  - vi. Will continue work on peer observation guidelines.
  
- d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE: C. Wiseman
  - i. Elected officers:
    - 1. James Blake – Chair
    - 2. Cynthia Wiseman – Liaison
    - 3. Thierry Agbotouedo – Secretary
  - ii. Prepared resolution - below
  
- e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS: C. Jacknick
  - i. Elected officers
    - 1. Laurie Lomask – Chair
    - 2. Christine Jacknick – Secretary/ Liaison
  - ii. Discussed \$18 class change fee. Some students are misplaced through our error – those fees can be waived by the registrar, but committee suggests something is built into CunyFirst.
  - iii. Planning series of online student forums:
    - 1. Housing insecurity
    - 2. Financial insecurity
    - 3. Career forum
    - 4. Registration process
  
- f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE: B. Powell
  - i. Elected officers
    - 1. Ben Powell – Chair
    - 2. Orlando Justo – Secretary
  - ii. Discussed purview of committee for new members who are unfamiliar.
  - iii. Read through and shared report of 2019-2020 committee.
  - iv. Discussed and will work on enrollment numbers/ time issue.
  - v. New admissions app: seems redundant (Starfish)
  - vi. Plans to follow up on tracking students taking “blended classes” – whether at BMCC or at other schools.
  
- g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE: H. Glaser
  - i. Elected officers
    - 1. Hollis Glaser: Chair/ Liaison
    - 2. Yuliya Shneyderman: Secretary
    - 3. Gerard Clock: Liaison
  - ii. Resolution - below

#### IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Election committee – two seats need filling.
- b. Remembering Alicia Perdomo

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Pres. Munroe
  - i. Introduction and welcome
  - ii. Discussed disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on NYC and on certain communities.
  - iii. Discussed the 12% in enrollment at BMCC, a \$4-5 million loss to the school.
  - iv. Reviewed numbers of students who were advised but did not register at BMCC this semester, reflective of social justice and access issues.
  - v. Highlighted the balance between access and excellence; BMCC will not compromise on academic excellence but will focus on improving access to all students.
  - vi. Pointed to a lack of communication throughout the college, which affects its running.
  - vii. Currently in conversation on going forward; creating a Rapid Response Enrollment Taskforce to continue work on this issue. EC Chair requested that at least one faculty representative be included, which Pres. Munroe confirmed.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT: 5:48pm

#### **Academic Standing Committee Resolution**

We members of the Academic Senate write to affirm our position and charge and responsibilities in the college and university as professors and colleagues. We write to express our concern over recent administrative decisions that immediately and potentially negatively affect the work of faculty and the standing of faculty in the governance of the college and the university.

Recent significant changes were implemented over the summer during a global pandemic and mass unrest and overwhelming uncertainty without faculty input. Such practice is troubling for its disregard for our position in the college and university.

We write to insist that our contribution to decisions that impact pedagogy be sought and be honored. We maintain that the decision to raise course caps should have been discussed with the Academic Senate, the body that represents faculty.

We write to insist that our informed input in decision to extend withdrawal deadlines be sought and honored out of courtesy for who we are and the value we contribute to BMCC and CUNY.

Whereas BMCC without faculty consent raised course caps from the 25 agreed to between the union and Interim President Wilks and Interim Provost Wong during this time of COVID-19 to a per class increase to accommodate administrative needs;

Whereas, research has shown that larger class size, particularly for online modalities, impacts the chances for academic success;

Whereas, faculty in the classroom can attest to the negative impact of larger class size on the academic performance of students in classes at BMCC;

Whereas, CUNY Central without the input of faculty or faculty governing bodies has changed the date for withdrawal from classes to the very end of the semester;

Whereas, an early deadline for withdrawal fosters accountability and agency, in that it requires that students assess their performance during the semester and make a conscious decision regarding withdrawal from a course;

Be it resolved that the BMCC administration should honor the prior agreed-upon course cap and that in the future, faculty and the Academic Senate, the body that represents faculty, must have input in all decisions regarding class size, particularly during these unprecedented times in the midst of a global pandemic that has disproportionately affected New York City and even more disproportionately affected our CUNY community's students, staff, faculty, and administration;

Be it resolved that faculty must have input regarding changes in protocols of withdrawal dates, such as setting deadlines for students to elect to take a W.

#### **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.