



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

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Minutes  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Zoom

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order 4:02 pm
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes of 09.09.2020 unanimously approved.
- III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
  - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:
    - i. **New Course:** ITL 312 Modern Italian Theater  
**Description:** In this course students will read, analyze and discuss selected Italian plays from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The course will address crucial cultural issues across those time periods. No knowledge of Italian required.  
**Presenter:** Maria Enrico  
**Vote:** APPROVED, Motion to approve the new course passed 14-0-0.
    - ii. **Pathways Course:** ITL 312 Modern Italian Theater  
**Description:** This proposal includes ITL 312 in the World Cultures and Global Issues bucket of the Pathways Flexible Core.  
**Presenter:** Maria Enrico  
**Vote:** APPROVED, Motion to approve the inclusion of the course in Pathways passed 14-0-0.
    - iii. **New Pilot Course:** LIN 150.6 Language, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States and Its Territories for ESL 95  
**Description:** This course combines the course content of LIN 150 and ESL 95. Students who pass LIN 150.6 are exempt from further ESL courses. LIN 150.6 may not be taken by students who have passed LIN 150 or ESL 95 or are exempt from writing.  
**Presenter:** Ken Levinson  
**Vote:** APPROVED, Motion to approve the new Pilot Course passed 14-0-0.
    - iv. **Pathways Course:** LIN 150.6 Language, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States and Its Territories for ESL 95  
**Description:** This proposal includes LIN 150.6 in the US Experience in its Diversity bucket of the Pathways Flexible Core.

**Presenter:** Ken Levinson

**Vote:** APPROVED, Motion to approve the inclusion of the course in Pathways passed 14-0-0 pending required changes.

v. **New Department:** Department of Ethnic and Race Studies

**Description:** This resolution would establish a new department at BMCC named the Department of Ethnic and Race Studies. The new department would house the Ethnic Studies program formerly administered by the Center for Ethnic Studies. Ten faculty from the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice will be transferred and appointed to the new department.

**Presenters:** Patricia Matthews, Lissette Acosta, Rigoberto Andino and Judy Anderson

**Vote:** APPROVED, Motion to approve the new department passed 13-0-1, pending required changes.

b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- i. Working on resolution regarding transparency in FDG process.
- ii. Faculty Development Day will be virtual. Committee working with IT department on this. Event will be 90 minutes and will have concurrent sessions.

c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- i. Worked on resolutions below. EC requests some revisions to each. Committee will resubmit.

d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE

- i. Did not meet.

e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

- i. Continued planning student event for November.
- ii. Update from Dean Zummo and John Huie regarding Starfish
- iii. Report from VP Walleser regarding enrollment and EAB

f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

- i. In conversation with L. Kasper on plan to help Senate understand how it can help us in the classroom.

g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE

- i. Resolution (below)

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

V. NEW BUSINESS: E. Wong

- a. Administration concerned about enrollment. Rapid Response Team has been created.
  - i. One of the issues is students who registered but classes were closed. Trying to increase the number of classes/sections to accommodate students next semester.

- Also under consideration is late start programs – start two weeks after regular semester but run for the same time – and increasing the waitlist number.
- ii. Considering certificate programs for quick credentials. Working with Goldman Sachs on microcredential programs such as project management, cybersecurity.
  - iii. In conversation with CUNY central regarding these issues.
- b. Faculty concerned about potential impact of student evaluations and the late withdrawal date. Wong: response rate is low, so unlikely to impact. Also expect that few students will withdraw late in the semester.
  - c. 15 to finish campaign: is online format impacting this and is it a requirement for Excelsior scholarship? Wong: program is successful. Will determine whether COVID impacts it.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**Resolutions from the Instruction Committee of Academic Senate**

**SET Resolution**

WHEREAS many faculty members did not self-select to teach remotely and had very little prior experience and training in remote instruction, and

WHEREAS thousands of students currently in online courses had originally registered for face-to-face learning, and

WHEREAS the transition to online teaching and learning is difficult for both faculty and students, and

WHEREAS the withdrawal date for students has been moved to the end of the semester, after Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) have been completed, contrary to past practices, and

WHEREAS the results of SETs influence decisions regarding reappointment, tenure and promotion, and

WHEREAS the Instruction Committee of the Senate has developed a new instrument to assess student experiences in the classroom,

BE IT RESOLVED that BMCC suspend Student Evaluations of Teaching for the Fall 2020 Semester.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that professors should have the option to use the prototype for a new Student Experience Survey, developed by the Instruction Committee. This would provide formative feedback (for professors' own use only), while creating an opportunity to provide voluntary feedback for the Instruction Committee to refine the new instrument.

**Fall 2020 Observation resolution**

WHEREAS in April of 2020, the Academic Senate passed guidelines for peer observation of online courses that are aligned with the contractual procedures for online peer observations and

WHEREAS a large number of classes have exceeded enrollment of 25, which was agreed upon as the appropriate maximum number of students of for online instruction, and

WHEREAS many faculty members have not elected to teach remotely and have had very little experience training in remote instruction and,

WHEREAS no faculty member can assume instructional or pedagogical expertise in teaching in a remote environment in which students have not elected to learn in a remote environment,

BE IT RESOLVED that during this period where most instruction is remote, all peer observations be conducted in the literal spirit of peer review, focusing on formative, rather than summative evaluative feedback regarding optimal use of technology and pedagogical strategies that support student engagement and learning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these observations not be utilized in decisions concerning reappointment, tenure, or promotion, for both full-time and part-time instructors.

### **Resolution from the Academic Freedom sub-committee of Academic Senate**

#### **Resolution Regarding the Governance Plan**

Whereas in the Academic Year 2017-2018 the President's Cabinet and the Academic Senate decided to change the Governance Plan to its original unicameral structure;

Whereas the Academic Senate's ad hoc Committee to change the Governance Plan met and wrote a Governance Plan in that same year;

Whereas that plan was in its final draft;

Whereas the Interim President decided a new Governance Plan should be submitted by the permanent President;

Whereas BMCC now has a permanent President;

Be it resolved that the original Academic Senate Governance Plan Committee recommence to finalize the draft of the new Governance Plan;

Be it further resolved that the same committee submit the new Governance Plan to the BMCC community during the 2020-2021 Academic Year.