

**Instruction Committee Meeting  
September 2, 2020**

Present: Jean Amaral, Andres Colapinto; Miguel Castro Nunes Fiolhais, Lisa A. Grace, Maureen H. Keenan, Michael J. McGee, Lisa H. Rose, Scott Tulloch

Convener/Past Chairperson Andres Colapinto brought the meeting to order, and first order of business was elections. Professor Colapinto was re-elected Chairperson, and Michael McGee agreed to act as secretary.

Issues that remain for the committee from last year are the SES- student experience survey (formerly instructor evaluations), and guidelines for peer observations of online courses, which has added importance when most courses are online. Regarding the student experience survey, the hope is that some faculty, ideally at least one in each department, will pilot the SES as formative information in mid-semester, and use student feedback for potential adjustments. If BMCC will be using the old format for instructor evaluation for the fall semester, will the language be changed to reflect the fact that most instruction is online?

In the message from José Luis Cruz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, CUNY “requests comments on the usefulness and desirability of implementing one or more of the following centralized support solutions and recommendations” which include creating a role of observer in Blackboard, to facilitate peer observation. The Instruction Committee plans to discuss the observer’s role, and provide feedback.

New issues for the committee include a discussion of class size increases in the move to online teaching and learning, and in writing intensives. There is a concern that the quality of instruction may suffer when more students require more attention from instructors. The committee is seeking to learn how class size varied from the beginning of registration to the end, and for which kind of classes there were the most significant increases. There is a concern that the increases may be most pronounced in introductory courses, where incoming freshmen need more individualized support.

In supporting online instruction for faculty, the committee discussed the value of looking at all processes through the lens of trauma-informed pedagogy. We want to collaborate with CETLS and the Faculty Development Committee to support faculty awareness and capacity for working through this lens, share resources on resilient teaching, and research-based guidance on online instruction, comparisons between synchronous and asynchronous courses, and more student-affirming language in guidance about student cameras being on during synchronous classes.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael McGee