



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

Minutes
February 24th, 2021
Via Zoom

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 3:07 p.m.
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Warren Benfield, Sharon Brickman, Arthur Cain, Cheryl Comeau-Kirschner, Marva Craig, Corinne Crawford, Junia Doccy, Erik Freas, Hollis Glaser, Quintasia Harris, Lalitha Jayant, Xinyu Ke, Fred Peskoff, Josiah Ramesar, Mohamadou Sawadogo, Achraf Seyam, Mohamed Sofaini
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from the meeting of 01.27.2021 were unanimously approved.
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following items were unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
 - i. **New Course:** MES 160 World History of Animation
Description: This course introduces students to seminal works of animation across time and cultures and through the lens of technical innovations, socio-political contexts and aesthetic movements. Students will study works ranging from large productions to independent and experimental shorts, and the influence of different international productions and authors on one another.
 - ii. **New Pathways Course:** MES 160 World History of Animation
Description: This course is being proposed in the World Cultures and Global issues Pathways Flexible Core bucket.
 - iii. **Curriculum Revision:** Community Health Education
Description: This revision updates the major to include Health Communication as one of the Areas of Study. This will better align the major with health communications B.S. programs, and broaden students' ability to focus in an area of interest to them. With the addition there will be five possible areas of study.
 - a. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 - i. The committee finalized organization details regarding the Joe Doctor Colloquium. Invited speaker will be Dr. Django Paris.
 - ii. The due date for FDG applications will be 03.12.2021. Faculty Development Grant subcommittee will revise the application.

- c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
 - i. Resolution unanimously approved.
 - ii. The Student Experience Survey will be tested by invited faculty in March. Feedback will be requested and inform any revisions. Input will also be requested from students in two Zoom meetings to learn if the questions are clear and how long it takes to complete.
- d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
 - i. Committee continues to read appeals.
 - ii. Reviewing online appeal process.
- e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
 - i. "Teaching in Crisis" memo was sent out.
 - ii. Starfish early alert template changed per faculty concerns about emails being sent to students without faculty knowledge.
 - iii. Planning a workshop to assist students with active participation in online classes with/without camera use.
 - iv. Resolution withdrawn.
- f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
 - i. Discussion regarding slow response time from Advocacy and Resource Center.
- g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
 - i. Met with Dean Zummo regarding pilot program in StarFish in which Faculty can craft their own emails to students within the StarFish Alerts. This will allow faculty to customize what they want to say in the Alert.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Informative purpose: Resolution Governance of the Curriculum (below). We need to be proactive in insisting that governance is followed, and that faculty are involved in all curriculum decisions.
- b. Chair plans to give a presentation on the event that have impacted BMCC: HIV/AIDS, 9/11 and COVID-19.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Credit for prior learning: CUNY Central currently discussing the issue. BMCC will have a point person on this.
- b. UFS
 - i. The Community College Standing Committee was approved for creation.
 - ii. Reopening: CUNY campuses have different plans, guided by both CDC and CUNY guidelines. There is concern about self-screening and insufficient COVID testing for campus entry.
 - iii. Medgar Evers and York Colleges will open as mass vaccination sites. The UFS will be discussing the safety of those employees and students who are already on campus due to such large numbers of people entering for vaccinations.
 - iv. The debate of the wording-changes for Article II of the UFS Charter were approved; now there must be a final vote for full approval at the March meeting. The changes will improve clarity about Adjunct Faculty participation in the UFS.

- c. J. Blake thanked the body for supporting African Heritage month, noting in particular Dean C. Shults and students for their roles.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 4:07 pm.

BMCC: Academic Senate Instruction Committee

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE N/C GRADE

WHEREAS BMCC's current NC policy converts earned letter grades of C- or below to an NC for students who have opted in, and

WHEREAS CUNY policy requires that only earned F grades can be converted to NC,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that BMCC's NC policy should read as follows. (The relevant change is to item #5 only).

- 1) All degree programs may opt-in, opt-out, or adapt the NC grade option for individual classes within their department, subject to the approval of the BMCC Academic Senate.
- 2) The option to take a course as NC will only be offered to freshmen.
- 3) A freshman is defined as a student who has earned 30 credits or less, including transfer credits. Non-credit bearing remedial classes will not be included in these 30 credits.
- 4) A freshman may apply to take a maximum of 8 credits, or 2 classes, as NC.
- 5) A student who requests and is granted the NC option, and earns an F grade, will receive an NC grade instead. A student who requests and is granted the NC option, and earns a grade of D- or above will receive their earned grade.
- 6) Students should be encouraged to consult with their instructor when requesting the option of an NC grade, ideally via a pop-up or certification on the NC application form.
- 7) Students who opt for an NC grade can participate in the student evaluation process.

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK FACULTY
COUNCIL**

**Resolution Governance of the Curriculum Committee on Undergraduate
Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree
Requirements**

February 16, 2021

Whereas, Article II of the Brooklyn College Governance Plan establishes faculty responsibility for the curriculum, awarding of college credit, and granting of degrees, and

Whereas, the Bylaws of the City University of New York, section 8.11, states: "The provisions in duly adopted governance plans shall supersede any inconsistent provisions contained in this article" concerning duties of the faculty; and,

Whereas, the Brooklyn College Governance Plan was approved as amended by the CUNY Board of Trustees on September 24, 2012; and,

Whereas, university decision-making on an extension of the credit/no credit policy was inconsistent with the process described in the Brooklyn College Governance Plan,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Faculty Council of Brooklyn College reminds the administration of Brooklyn College and CUNY that the responsibility for the curriculum, awarding of college credit, and granting of degrees rests with the faculty.