

Minutes from Academic Freedom Committee, 2/3/21
Prepared by: Professor Clock, Acting Chair

Attended: Professors Clock, Conte, Chaparro

I. StarFish Email Signatures

A. Professor Clock met with Dean Zummo and the resolution is that there will be a Pilot Program in StarFish where 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.

II. College Grading Memos

A. A question was brought to the Committee in late-December, 2020, about the College Memo on WHEN to assign INC grades. A Faculty member felt the Memo was suggesting (or requiring?) a much too restrictive policy.

1. We discussed the question during our meeting and agreed that a College Memo is GUIDANCE. The Faculty member was free to decide if (s)he would assign an INC Grade.

2. Our discussion led us to the conclusion that IF a Faculty member was questioned about his/her grade choice by an Administrator or Chair, then that Faculty member could seek our Committee's intervention, but a general Memo to the entire Faculty is not actionable by our Committee by itself.

III. Future Work: We will be determining the scope of our Committee within BMCC.

A. We did discuss that our role would have to be a primary one IF CUNY replaces BlackBoard at the end of December, 2021, and seeks to have training on a new Learning Management System. At that point the Academic Freedom Committee should have say in what can and cannot be required vis a vis training and specific use of any new Learning Management System. (There has been no decision yet about BlackBoard's fate; the UFS Committee designated with the responsibility for the decision is still working on it).