

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
City University of New York
Academic Freedom Committee meeting – Wednesday 25th of August 2021

Meeting commenced at 2:05pm

Minutes from Academic Freedom Committee Meeting, 11/4/20.

Present: Professors Glaser (Chair), Malekar and Conte

Absent: Professors Ndiaye, Sofaini

The Committee elected Hollis Glaser as chair, Shamira Malekar as representative to the EC and as Secretary. (Prof. Malekar subsequently realized she had a class at 4:00 on Wednesday and couldn't attend the EC meetings.)

- I. There was a discussion of purview of Academic Freedom Committee Prof. Glaser proposed to ask the administration to formally respond to the resolution below from September 2020. The senate twice voted unanimously for this proposal

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.

- II. Prof. Glaser shared the link to the central shared governance document of the AAUP (American Association of University Professors).
- III. We will be determining the scope of our Committee within BMCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm

Respectfully submitted

Shamira Malekar