

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
City University of New York
Academic Freedom Committee meeting – Wednesday 6th of October 2021

Meeting commenced at 2:05pm

Minutes from Academic Freedom Committee Meeting in August

Present: Professors Glaser (Chair), Malekar, Newfield and Conte
Student Rayon Chan

Absent: Professors Ndiaye, Sofaini

- I. We welcomed Prof. Newfield as a member who joined the committee. There were discussions on the statement developed as described below:

Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities

This statement was jointly formulated in 1966 by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).

<https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities>

In 2017 the AGB issued a statement reiterating their commitment to the Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities.

https://agb.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2017_statement_sharedgovernance.pdf

The statement recognizes that colleges and universities operate most effectively when there is a mutual and joint effort among its components. It then delineates the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders of colleges and universities—the Governing Board, the President, the Faculty and the Students.

The statement reads:

“The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process.”

Informed by this statement, the Academic Freedom Committee maintains that CUNY’s central administration’s mandate regarding the percentage of instructional modality is outside of its purview and is a violation of the principles of shared governance that has guided higher education for over 50 years. These principles of shared governance continue

to be vital to the ongoing successful functioning of academic institutions and must be honored.

II. The committee is curious and concerned about Hy-flex and will gather some information about this new teaching modality this semester.

III. The committee asked the chair to request that the explanation of the Academic Freedom Committee in the Governance Plan be stated on our Academic Senate's web page. Glaser agreed to ask the Senate's secretary to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm

Respectfully submitted

Shamira Malekar