



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

Minutes
October 25th, 2017
Room N451

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 2.28pm
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Aleksandra Artyfikiewicz, Melanie Aucelio, Mohammad Azhar, Khadeja Baldeh, Joel Barker, James Berg, Peter Bratsis, Marcelle Edinboro, Juan Garcia, Joel Hernandez, Dana Johnson, Lucille Menzies, Rime Nakhlawi, Alicia Perdomo, Silvia Roig, Malika Sabirova, Erica Seidel, Brett Simms, Andre Simon, Kiberwossen Tesfagiorgis, Cynthia Wiseman
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes unanimously approved
- IV. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following items were unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
 - i. Course Revision: ECO 202 Microeconomics
 - ii. New Course: COM 100 Introduction to Communication Studies
 - iii. Course Revision: COM 255 Intercultural Communication
 - iv. New Course: CRT 100.6 Critical Thinking for ESL 95
 - v. New Course: CRT 100.5 Critical Thinking for ACR 95
 - vi. Course Revision: BUS 104 Introduction to Business
 - vii. Course Revision: GIS 325 Geographic Information Science Internship
 - viii. Curriculum Revision: Geographic Information Science
 - b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:
 - i. Faculty Development Day: November 15th, FH conference room, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm.
 - c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
 - i. Reformulated recommendations for NC grade.
 - ii. Committee requested that Chairs of all departments affected by NC grade email G. Stevenson about it.
 - d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
 - i. Read and acted on appeals.
 - ii. Discussed ramifications of NC grade.

- e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS:
 - i. J. Zumo attended meeting and discussed early Alert System (Starfish). Joined by A. Bishop (Library) and H. Harris (LRC). Faculty with students in programs such as ASAP will be asked to evaluate students. Starfish still not rolled out.
- f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE:
 - i. Faculty vignettes: clarified goals of video vignettes. Committee will work with M. Romero on this.
- g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM:
 - i. Proposal for Senate (below). Senate voted unanimously in favor.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. A task force will be initiated for electing an eLearning co-chair. R. Rusmin and L. Rose will collaborate with Instruction Committee to work on process of peer feedback on online/ hybrid classes.
- b. Board of trustees statement – policy to go on website. Will be left to departments to discuss.
- c. ePermits
- d. UFS requests a senate member to be part of CUNY enrollment management committee. Stephanie Laudone Jones (SOC) volunteered for, and was accepted to, position.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Registrar Alam – INC grade form
 - i. New form will be available on BMCC website, and must be completed for all INC students. Form will be included with grading instructions sent to faculty, as well as online.
- b. UFS update
 - i. Prof. Conway provided an update on issues from the most recent UFS plenary. The Oct. plenary included two guest speakers: the new University General Counsel Loretta Martinez and the SVC for Budget, Matthew Sapienza. Ms. Martinez relayed that she is working with the Inspector General's office and hopes they will issue their final report by Thanksgiving. SVC Sapienza spoke on the New Economic Model portion of CUNY's Strategic Framework. This was a continuation of the discussions at the Sept. plenary with EVC and Provost Rabinowitz on the other aspects of the Framework. Faculty volunteers are welcome to work on the Strategic Framework teams. In terms of the budget, CUNY has requested 300 new faculty lines over the next four years, which equates to only two or three per campus. This will be insufficient to greatly change the diversity of CUNY's faculty, an area of concern. Further lines might be available if there are retirements, but both NYC and Albany are projecting deficits, which does not bode well for CUNY funding. CUNY also

recently change the funding model for sabbaticals and the UFS Budget Advisory Committee is working on this issue with SVC Sapienza's office. More details on plenaries, as well as the UFS blog, can be found on the UFS site: <http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/>

c. Student statement was read (below).

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: 4.01pm

ACADEMIC FREEDOM PROPOSAL

Whereas the “Statement on Governance of Colleges and Universities” (SGCU), written by the American Association of University Professors, the American Council on Education and The Association of Governing Board of Colleges and Universities clearly states that 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” (<https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities>);

Whereas the CUNY by-laws state that “The faculty shall be responsible...for the formulation of policy relating to the admission and retention of students including health and scholarship standards therefor, student attendance including leaves of absence, curriculum, awarding of college credit, granting of degrees. It shall make its own bylaws, consistent with these bylaws, and conduct the educational affairs customarily cared for by a college faculty.” (Article VIII, Section 8.5)

Whereas the SGCU further states that there should be faculty representation on any committee related to those primary responsibilities of the faculty;

Whereas the SGCU states “faculty representatives should be selected by the faculty according to procedures determined by the faculty”;

Therefore, the academic senate determines the method by which faculty representatives are chosen for any committee related to the primary responsibilities of the faculty.

Furthermore, when the administration would like to initiate a committee related to the primary responsibilities of the faculty, they will inform the academic senate that a committee is being considered so that the academic senate may determine the process by which faculty will be chosen for that committee.

To: Members of the Academic Senate

I am a BMCC student and a senator in the Student Government Association. My religion is Islam. I am concerned about the mockery and false representation by my classmate concerning the religion of Islam. My concern arises from an incident in my English class. It left me feeling hurt, offended and dismayed. The incident involved an assignment given to non-Muslim students to portray themselves

as Muslims. In doing so, the students made fun of the Hijab (scarf) which in Islam is an example of modesty and humbleness. They said it was “Hot” and the Hijab was thrown around and eventually ripped off their heads and replaced with a “Hoody.” The students made offensive jokes about Islam. They pretended that Muslims drink alcohol and used supposedly liquor bottles to give the impression that all Muslims drink and are alcoholics.

As a Muslim, this was very offensive. The use of the alcohol and other intoxicants are prohibited in Islam.

As the only Muslim in the class, I was hurt and upset by the negative manner and behavior by the students toward my faith. I expressed my feelings to the professor. She dismissed my concerns and did not correct the students but appeared to approve their behavior. Because I felt her behavior was discriminatory towards Muslims, I complained to the Diversity Office and I also shared my concerns with Vice President of Student Affairs, the College President and the chairperson of the English Department. They all dismissed my concerns and told me that what happened was for “educational purposes.” I was disappointed; since when is mockery of a person religion defined as educational? I believe there is freedom of speech. However, freedom of speech must not include discrimination and hate against students regardless of their religion.

BMCC must treat its students equally. The college must increase awareness and sensitivity to its students, faculty and staff. The college must be strong in disavowing the mockery or misrepresentations of a person’s religion.

Finally, the purpose of education is to build tolerance, understanding and communication between people. Contrary to what the college administration said, this experience was not educational, but the kind of misrepresentation that leads to increase intolerance and division.

I have sought help from all college officials at BMCC but to no avail.

The Academic Senate is my last hope to address my complaint.

I humbly request that you submit my statement in the minutes

Thank you

Badr Alhyani

Student Government Association