



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

Minutes
February 22nd, 2017
Room N451 immediately following College Council

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 2.50pm
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were absent: Nur Ahamed, Sheldon Applewhite, Joao Bila, Alejandro Binilla-Manjarrez, Sharon Brickman, Hector Castellanos, Mahamadou Diawara, Kaoutar Elharchaoui, Joel Evans, Erik Freas, Jun Liang, Marci Littlefield, Ousmane Mbodj, Gloria McNamara, Michelle Murillo, Jonathan Ruiz, Jason Ruiz Quintero, Jason Silva, Brett Simms, Ibrahim Zavery
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from 11.23.16 were approved pending corrections to attendee list.
- IV. HOMAGE: Senate held a moment of silence for Owen Meyers, followed with a brief eulogy by A. Creaco.
- V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following items were unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
 - i. New curriculum: **A.S. Music**
 - ii. Curriculum revision: **A.S. Science**
 - iii. Curriculum revision: **Human Services**
 - iv. Course revision: **CIS 207 – Health Information and Management Systems**
 - v. Course revision: **HIS 275 – History research and Writing Methods**
 - vi. Pathways submission: **PHI 100 – Introduction to Philosophy**
 - vii. Curriculum Revision: **Theatre**
 - viii. Course revision: **ASN/HIS 114 – Asian American History**
 - ix. Course Revision: **SOC 100 – Introduction to Sociology**
 - x. Course Revision: **ANI 401 Introduction to 3D Animation**
 - xi. Course Revision: **ANI 402 3D Animation Projects**
 - xii. Course Revision: **VAT 161 Studio Production I**
 - xiii. Course Revision: **VAT 165 Sound for Performance / Digital Media I**
 - xiv. Course Revision: **VAT 171 Remote Production / Digital Video Editing I**

b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- i. The committee has received approximately 50 applications for the Faculty Development Grant. A call for volunteers to assist in reviewing applications has been sent to all faculty. Interested faculty should contact M. Carson (Modern Languages). Applications will be reviewed by the end of March.
- ii. Joe Doctor: April 26th, 2016 from 11.30-2.00pm in Fiterman. Theme to be determined.

c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- i. Committee is revising its suggestions for student evaluations of online and hybrid courses.
- ii. Committee continues to analyze online teaching survey.

d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE

- i. Committee read and acted on 1049 appeals over the winter break.
- ii. Committee is piloting an online academic appeal form this semester.

e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

- i. Committee is assisting Academic Affairs in recruiting faculty interested in mentoring first generation college attendees. Interested faculty should contact C. Kronen (Teacher Ed.)
- ii. Committee is looking for additional charge – possible assisting with the Early Alert system

f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

- i. Committee met with VP Walleser to work on recruiting students during BMCC's open house sessions.

g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- i. Committee has finalized an informative flyer regarding academic freedom and the charge of the Academic Freedom committee.
- ii. Committee has started attending different departments to distribute the flyer and speak about it.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

a. Governance plan

- i. The President's governance committee met on Feb 21st and discussed several proposed changes to BMCC's current plan:
 1. College-wide P&B should have a role in budget discussions. This charge is in the current governance plan but is not being acted on. Chair plans to revive P&B budget subcommittee (J. Eng, E. Flannery, J. Wolfson,). A detailed budget has been requested for review by the subcommittee.
 2. Under discussion is the possibility of College Council and Academic Senate reverting to a single body format.
- ii. Online/ hybrid classes
 1. Chair requests that departmental Chairs ensure that faculty teaching new online/ hybrid classes are observed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. UFS update: K. Conway

- i. CUNY is trying to increase faculty diversity. Despite efforts to hire, more underrepresented faculty leave CUNY, such that the proportion of underrepresented faculty isn't increasing. CUNY is presenting a pilot program to Provosts to train groups of faculty in diversity issues and have them serve on searches; the UFS had engaged Faculty Governance Leaders (FGLs) in the discussion.
 1. On this point, Professor J. Blake (Counseling) expressed great concern regarding the lack of diversity among faculty at BMCC.
 - ii. The UFS polled FGLs on their governance plans and shared those results at the last FGL meeting. More probing is still needed.
 - iii. The NY Inspector General is continuing its investigation of CUNY – Presidents from some campuses are being interviewed.
 - iv. Budget: The new budget can be accessed through a link on Kay's blog on the UFS website. Major issues:
 1. Gov. Cuomo's proposed Excelsior Scholarship will discriminate against our students as applicants must take 30 credits in an academic year to qualify for it. Few BMCC students would fulfill this requirement.
 2. The NYS budget includes a mandate to increase tuition.
 3. Nothing in the city budget will facilitate a decrease in workload.
 4. Both the city and state budget aren't finalized yet, so changes could still occur.
 - v. BMCC caucus: discussion about possible adoption of the 12-6 academic calendar
 1. In this format, the calendar would be a 12-week session (Fall) followed by a 6-week session (Winter), comprising one semester. This would be followed by another 12-week session (Spring) and a second 6-week session (Summer), comprising the second semester.
 2. Faculty at Kingsborough, where this calendar is currently in place, are required to teach both 12-week sessions but the 6-week sessions are optional. Currently, the 6-week winter session is counted as either an overload or a part of workload; the summer session is not counted as workload but there is a possibility that this could be modified.
 3. Benefits:
 - a. Students would be able to take 15 credits/ semester, which would help those planning to apply for the Excelsior scholarship.
 - b. Students would have greater flexibility in their academic calendar (as would faculty)
- b. An ad hoc committee was elected to look at the implications of changing to the 12-6 academic calendar. Members are:
- i. K. Conway
 - ii. K. Offenholly
 - iii. J. Barker
 - iv. L. Rennis
 - v. C. Wiseman
 - vi. H. Meltzer

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 3.52 pm.