

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the
October 18, 2023 General Meeting
5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Vice President Ronald Jackson, Vice President Todd Michael Galitz, Executive Legal Consul Sarah Luke, Dean Peter Toliass, Dean Qing Hu, Dean Stephanie Jensen-Moulton, Dean Philip Napoli, Associate Dean James Eaton, Executive Director Renita Simmons (Alt), Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Joseph Entin, Professor Beth Evans, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mona Hadler, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor James Lynch, Professor Tim Shortell, Professor Malka Simon, Professor Patricia Antonello (Alt), Professor Brian Sowers (Alt), Noam Abrahams (USG), Shannon Dyett (USG), Carrie Ebbin (USG), Cynithia George (USG), Royta Iftakher (USG), Taseen Islam (USG), Joan Joseph (USG), Dylan Karlowski (USG), Yisroel Shulman (USG), Milada Sirota (USG), Abby Melbye (GSO), Nairobi Otero (GSO).

Absent: Provost April Bedford, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Professor Sophia Suarez, Ajadah Simms (USG), Darla Moise (USG).

Non-voting: Sadiya Hoque, Jesus Perez, Aharon Grama, Dana Babayev, Michael Morris, Robert Echevarria.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. President Anderson addressed previous formal request for PACS (Presidential Advisory Committee on Staff) to vote and delegate members to the Policy Council Standing Committees. PACS was pleased to participate, leading to empowering PACS as a representing body of staff to engage in governing work on the College.
3. President Anderson requested a representative for the Calandra Institute for Italian-American Faculty and Staff. Professor Patricia Antonello volunteered for the position.

4. President Anderson addressed school structure and whether or not schools should be consolidated to merge two or more schools. Requested if the Policy Council body wanted to make a recommendation on either position before the calendar year. The topic was on the floor for any committee to address and bring back to body. Governance and Policy Standing Committee would be the most appropriate committee to deliberate further on a recommendation.
5. President Anderson mentioned that the topic was addressed during Faculty Council and Fiscal Review Advisory Committee (FRAC) last academic year. Previously asked the Deans of the different Schools, Visual Media and Performing Arts (VMPA), Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and Natural and Behavior Sciences (NBS), to lead a dialogue at the school level, to provide a short recommendation of their preference. Robust dialogue ensued to advocate for the presence of students and faculty members during discussion of school structure.
6. President Anderson provided another suggestion to dialogue with the entire body instead of sending to a specific Standing Committee, in order to ensure proper representation during the discussion. Professor Douglas Cohen agreed and advised to take time to address this issue, with intention, with the entire body.
7. President Anderson requested to address the agenda items and then start dialogue on school structure, time permitting – general agreement by acclamation.
8. Executive Legal Consul Sarah Luke provided an oral report on Governance and Policy. Committee met on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 and discussed the possible revision of Bylaws to more accurately reflect the participation of administrators who serve on the Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee. Current Bylaws include administrative titles that may not exist at the College anymore. Governance and Policy Committee is conducting research to see if the positions listed in the Bylaws match with current positions and reviewing history of Bylaws to determine if the drafters wanted specific representation for the Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee. Governance and Policy Committee also discussed the development for a statement on academic freedom, which was addressed during the previous Policy Council meeting. The committee agreed that the proper body to draft a statement on academic freedom would be the Faculty Council and the relevant Standing Committee to engage on that work. Lastly, the

committee had a brief discussion about the possibility of using Ad Hoc or Standing Committees to address special issues that are new and were not thought of when the Bylaws were originally developed, for example, IT, WIFI hotspots, etc. No specific proposal was drafted on this matter but a concern that would be addressed.

9. Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert provided a written report on behalf of the Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee.
10. Yisroel Shulman (USG) moved to approve September 13, 2023 minutes. SVP Gilbert seconded. Unanimously approved.
11. Associate Dean James Eaton provided a written report on Faculty/Student Relations.
12. Professor Brian Sowers (Alt) addressed item 4 on previous meeting minutes and deferred 'faculty presence on campus' to Faculty/Student Relations Committee.
13. Professor Mobina Hashmi requested the Faculty/Student Relations Committee to facilitate conversation to build bridges between different groups of students and faculty in response to the discussions held via Faculty Council the day before.
14. Carrie Ebbin (USG) addressed faculty's participation on providing student support. Clarified where USG stands with handling student issues and that USG would like to play a bigger role in providing student support. Requested that faculty should encourage students to go to USG to ensure flow of conversation and inclusion amongst student body. Professor Namulundah Florence supported Carrie Ebbin's request, advised that students with concerns are normally referred to Student Affairs.
15. Consensus amongst all regarding methods of handling students' concerns/issues.
16. Vice President Todd Michael Galitz provided a written report on External Relations.
17. Robust dialogue arose to discuss current socio-political situation and was followed by discussions on how the Brooklyn College community can provide support to its members.
18. Dylan Karlowski (USG) suggested creating spaces for faculty and students to build connections outside of the classroom setting. Recommended student-faculty mixers. Joan Joseph (USG), current USG Events Director, requested to organize collaborative events with different departments and to reach out to her if anyone is interested in organizing events with USG.

19. President Anderson advised faculty members to use Navigate EAB and reminded that the platform can be used to communicate with students. Encouraged faculty members to use more frequently and create more engagement with students.
20. Professor Malka Simon referred back to Carrie Ebbin's point about when student events occur. Requested a mechanism for faculty members to get informed of USG events. Associate Dean Eaton clarified that USG events were previously posted on the school's public calendar and then recently changed to be visible only on the club connect calendar.
21. President Anderson referred concern of engagement and communication to Faculty/Student Relations.
22. Professor Simon suggested to use the space of the Center for Teaching and Learning to host the mixers, in collaboration with USG. Emphasized the importance of building relationships with Brooklyn College community members.
23. Professor Joseph Entin pointed out that the majority of classes taught at Brooklyn College are by adjunct instructors, who are paid by the class. Advised to be aware of the structural reality when requesting for more faculty engagement with students.
24. Carrie Ebbin requested to delegate organizers for the Faculty/Student mixer, suggested a sub-committee to plan and organize these types of events for the campus.
25. President Anderson referred organizing mixer to Faculty/Student Relations.
26. President Anderson provided an update with new business, WIFI enhancements in Boylan Cafeteria. SVP Gilbert explained long term WIFI changes. Currently in conversation with the University to use capital funding by CUNY to continue WIFI enhancements.
27. President Anderson postponed discussion of the merch store.
28. President Anderson referred back to the discussion of school structure, advised committees to discuss the matter of school structure. Appreciated the meaningful discussion between faculty and students.
29. President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
Policy Council Standing Committee on Fiscal, Infrastructure, and Planning
Friday, October 13, 2023, 2:00 P.M.

1. Introductions
2. Committee Discussion
 - Health and Safety
 - a) Buttons for ADA accessible doors are not always working and need to be checked.
 - i. Elevators need to be monitored regularly to make sure they are running. New vendor is conducting assessment of all elevators to make necessary repairs and adjustments.
 - b) Health and Safety Committee will be a forum to collect and address concerns about ongoing problems.
 - c) Asbestos in older buildings is only dangerous when exposed.
 - i. Checked for and removed in all repairs and construction.
 - Facilities
 - a) Clarify method for students and campus community to report issues (ex. BC Fix-it).
 - Academics
 - a) How does CUNY online tie into academic planning process along with our infrastructure?
 - ITS
 - a) Wi-Fi access needs to be added and expanded in key locations.
 - Funding
 - a) Focus on Capital Budget to help fix campus-wide infrastructure problems (ex. Wi-Fi).
 - b) Difficult to proceed as community of educators and students when we do not have funding we need.
 - i. Problems will only be solved by increased funding and budget requests to CUNY and State to capture our needs
 - c) Working to increase revenue through Auxiliary Services (ex. Theater).
 - Collaboration
 - a) Open Budget Forum in November to discuss solutions for budget challenges.
 - b) Greater education about infrastructure problems and priorities needs to occur.
 - c) Create a repository of information for campus community to learn from and use.

Faculty/Student Relations Committee Report

Subcommittee Meeting on September 27, 2023

Open Items from Previous Meeting

1. Classes Scheduled during Common Hours

The committee recognized that there are discussions occurring in several fora within the college, including Faculty Council and CAP – the former passing a resolution to voice support for the USG’s letter on this topic. We reviewed and discussed the fall 2023 semester data (similar scale of “incursions” as found in spring 2023) and the fact that scheduling activities for the spring semester have begun. We were unanimous in the position that scheduling classes during the Tuesday and Thursday Common Hours should not happen. However, the committee also recognized the need for the traditional “flexible common hours” on Thursdays to accommodate *limited exceptions* for long duration courses and those with facilities limitations that preclude scheduling outside common hours.

Action: Continue to monitor progress of discussions about implementing a solution to this problem.

New Items of Concern/Interest

1. Course Repetition Limits / Tracking of Prerequisite Failure / Dismissal Policy

Concerns were raised with regard to the consistent enforcement and related mechanisms for reattempting a class after they failed. Students have voiced concerns that inconsistent application of the policies and/or inconsistent communication has become a source of anxiety and uncertainty regarding the ability to continue their degree, financial aid issues, and so on.

Action: Refer concern to the appropriate Faculty Council committee, such as *Course and Standing*.

Policy Council External Relations Committee Report

October 18, 2023

- The External Relations Committee met on October 13.
- Following member introductions, the committee discussed priorities for 2023-24, which include admissions recruiting and the college's strategic plan.
- Admissions Recruiting: Admissions continues to be a top college priority, and the committee will consider recommendations for enhancing the institution's reputation with prospective students from Brooklyn. The committee noted the importance of the upcoming Open Houses and ongoing campus tours to area students and their families.
- External Relations in Strategic Planning Process: As the college begins work on a new strategic plan, the committee offered its assistance, as needed, on topics related to strengthening Brooklyn College's reputation in the borough. Members also considered potential external stakeholder groups that might offer useful insights as part of the interview phase of planning.
- Working with External Organizations: The committee discussed the importance of building strong relationships with external organizations as an engagement opportunity for the college. Members suggested identifying and amplifying existing connections with Brooklyn-based cultural organizations as one avenue to explore. The committee also expressed an interest in learning more about productions planned in The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts that may engage more audiences from Brooklyn communities.
- The committee plans to meet again in early November.