

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of the City University of New York

COLLEGE SENATE

Minutes of September 3, 2009

Present: C. Aleong, L. Alfred, K. Attitso, L. Augustus, R. Bass, R. Bayor, T. Brennan, L. Broughton, N. Campbell, A. Cancetty, M. Coleman, S. Davis, F. De Naples, L. Dieng, J. Freeman, R. Gouraige, G. Guarnieri, O. Hill, L. Hurley, T. Ingram, M. Jalloh, M. Jones, A. Kheyfits, D. La Blanc, S. Lang, A. Levy, R. Maryks, A. McInerney, M. Mejia, I. Mirsky, J. Molina, L. Montenegro, D. Morris, O. Murray, S. Pessoa, M. Pita, D. Read, P. Read, N. Reynoso, M. Rodriguez, L. Rosario, G. Sanchez, J. Shaddai, R. Shane, H. Skinner, V. Thomas, C. Williams, J. Wilson, A. Wolf

Absent: F. Ahmed, S. Christian, R. Clarke, A. Durante, C. Forbes, T. McManus, T. Roulhac, D. Silverman, M. Tracey

Excused:

Guests: M. Bates, L. Brenner, G. Burghart, M. Fein, A. Fuller, B. Gantt, R. Gillespie, K. Ismail, M. Kirk, M. Lewis, O. Melendez, V. Mishkin, J. Misick, R. Panettier, N. Phillip, N. Posner, L. Rice, N. Ritze, M. Rogan, C. Savage, B. Yarmolinsky

1. **Call to order** 12:30 p.m., R. Bass
2. **Greetings** Members of the body and guests introduced themselves
3. **CUNY Quorum Rules** R. Bass explained that 30 Senate members are required to make a quorum, and 30 votes are needed for a positive majority for passage of items and elections; attendance is important
4. **Agenda** Approved by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Minutes** Accepted by electronic vote: 37—Yes, 0—No, 7—Abstention
6. **Election of Senate Officers**
 - A. **Chairperson: by electronic ballot**

R. Bass	12		
A. McInerney	31	—A. McInerney is elected Chairperson	
 - B. **Vice-Chairperson: by electronic ballot**

O. Murray	15		
M. Jalloh	31	—M. Jalloh is elected Vice-Chairperson	
 - C. **Secretary: by electronic ballot**

	1 st ballot	2 nd ballot	3 rd ballot
F. De Naples	26	24	
L. Dieng	20	22	[withdrew]

F. De Naples is elected by acclamation

6. Election of Three Tenured Full Professors to the Academic Review Committee

P. Read explained the role of the Academic Review Committee

By paper ballot	1st ballot	2nd ballot
M. Bates	22	29
T. Brennan	19	23
A. Finkelstein	12	6
M. Garrido	11	5
J. Malinsky	5	1
D. Morris	17	18
<u>M. Pita</u>	31	
M. Psarelli	7	5
H. Wach	17	12

M. Pita elected.
Balloting continues
for remaining two
seats at October
meeting.

7. Referendum Items

A. McInerney presented five referendum items, amendments to the BCC Governance Plan (see attached). No action possible. 2/3rd majority (39 votes) is required for passage of referendum items.

8. President's Report

C. Williams welcomed members of the Senate back to campus, congratulated the new officers of the Senate, and thanked R. Bass for her many years of service as Chairperson. She also reminded the body that Convocation is Friday, September 11.

9. Announcements and Reports

A. Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Faculty Council Chairperson's Report:

A. McInerney: Thanked R. Bass for 12½ years as Chair of the Senate

M. Jalloh: Highlighted upcoming SGA events.

P. Read: Announced the next Faculty Council meeting: 9/24. Several elections will be held at this meeting. The Faculty Council Student Scholarship has been launched and is accepting donations.

B. SVPs and Deans Report:

G. Sanchez welcomed the body back to campus, and reminded faculty to attend Convocation.

M. Coleman briefly previewed the Human Resources portion of CUNYFirst as well as training for the new system. She also emphasized safety issues regarding pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

B. Gantt thanked the body for its contributions to registration.

N. Ritze thanked the body for its contributions to Middle States.

10. Auxiliary Enterprises:

No Report

11. BCC, Inc.:

No Report

12. Committee Reports

- A. Committee on Academic Standing:** NR
- B. Curriculum:** NR
- C. Governance and Elections:** NR
- D. Instruction and Professional Development:** NR
- E. Space, Facilities, and Physical Plant:** NR
- F. Student Activities:** NR
- G. Student Government Association:** NR
- H. University Faculty Senate:** NR
- I. University Student Senate:** M. Lewis reported that spaces are available on the CUNY float at the West Indian Day Parade.
- J. Vice-Presidents and Deans:** NR

13. New Business: R. Bass reminded the body that a Parliamentarian should be selected. A. McInerney will discuss the Parliamentarian at the Senate Executive Committee meeting and will place the item on the October Senate meeting Agenda.

14. Adjournment 2:00 p.m., A. McInerney

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick De Naples, Secretary

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO BCC GOVERNANCE PLAN

Beginning on p.2 is the text that was passed by the Senate.

**I. Item 1 (Proposed Amendments to Section I(A)(3)) to the BCC Governance Plan)
Definition of Quorum**

Amendments revise language of the section on “Procedures – Rules of Conduct” to bring the Plan into conformity with the New York State Open Meeting laws and the Perez decision. Provides for Rules of Procedure for the BCC Senate.

Passed by the Senate (36-0-0) April 17, 2008.

**II. Item 2 (Proposed Amendments to Section I(B)(1) of the Plan)
Rules of Procedure**

Amendment to provide for Rules of Procedure.

Passed by the Senate (unanimous voice vote) May 1, 2008.

**III. Item 3 (Proposed Amendments to Section I(A) of the Plan)
Alternate Seats to the BCC senate**

Amendments to provide for alternate seats in the BCC Senate: defining the seats, the manner of seating alternates, the number of seats, and the manner in which the seats are to be elected.

Passed by the Senate (33 – 3 – 0) Dec. 4, 2008

**IV. Item 4 (Proposed Amendment to Section I(G)(1)(a) of the Plan)
Functions of the Senate Executive Committee**

Amendments to bring the language on the functions of the Senate Executive Committee into conformity with the amendments previously adopted: in particular, the language regarding quorum and the provision for alternates.

Passed by the Senate (35 – 0 – 2) Feb. 5, 2009..

**V. Item 5 (Proposed Amendments to Section I(E) of the Plan)
Definition of vacancy**

Amendments to define a vacant seat for those seats held by faculty or members of the instructional staff. Student vacancies would be addressed by the SGA Constitution.

Passed by the Senate (unanimous voice vote) Feb. 5, 2009.

Item 1. Proposed Amendments to Section I (A)(3) to the BCC Governance Plan

Resolved that "Section I (A) (3) Procedures - Rules of Conduct" be amended as follows:
(Note: strike out indicates language to be removed, while underlined language indicates language to be added.)

- a. First Elections:
Procedures for the first election of Senate shall be established by the previously existing Committee on Nominations and Elections.
- b. Meetings, Attendance at Meetings and Quorum:
The Senate shall meet at least once a month during the Fall and Spring Semesters. ~~Meetings of the Senate shall be open to all members of the College. Robert's Rules shall be used to determine quorum unless otherwise provided by the Senate.~~ Meetings of the Senate shall be open to all members of the College and public at large. A quorum shall mean a majority of the body as calculated as a percentage of the total number of seats eligible to be filled.
- c. Voting:
Any action taken by the Senate requires a vote of the member present at the meeting. Any matter, for which a vote is required by the College Governance Plan, must receive the requisite number of votes based upon the number of members of the body as a whole.
- d. ~~Robert's Rules- Rules of Order:~~
The Senate and its Committees and subcommittees shall operate according to Robert's Rules of Order (newly revised). The Chairpersons of the Senate, the Faculty Council, and the Student Government Association shall appoint a parliamentarian. The Senate shall adopt Rules of Procedure for itself, its committees and its sub committees consistent with its obligations under law. The Senate, Faculty Council and the Student Government Association shall elect a parliamentarian.
- e. Speaking Privileges:
The privilege of addressing the Senate is reserved for members of the Senate. Non-members may address the Senate only upon the approval of the Senate.

Item 2. Proposed Amendments to Section I (B)(1) of the BCC Governance Plan

Resolved that “Section I (B) (1) “Functions of the Senate” be amended as follows:
(Note: underlined language indicates language to be added.)

1. The Senate shall have legislative power with regard to:
 - a. Academic affairs, including curricula, degree requirements, admissions and grading structure.
 - b. The protection of the academic freedom of students and instructional staff.
 - c. The adoption of Rules of Procedure for itself, its committees and its sub committees.”

Item 3. Proposed Amendments to Section I(A) of the BCC Governance Plan

Resolved that Section I(A) be amended as follows: A New Section I(A)(4) to be added to insert the following language:

4. Alternates

(a) Provision for alternates

When called for by this plan, Alternates are individuals elected to fill a temporary absence or vacancy by a Senator or committee member. Alternates are entitled to and expected to attend all meetings of the Senate or committee, although they shall only vote when seated for the meeting. A seated alternate shall be counted for the purpose of quorum and may vote on any manner with no distinction between alternate and regular seats.

(b) Seating of alternates

In the case where an absence or vacancy occurs at a meeting of the Senate or one of its committees, the chair shall seat alternates to fill the vacant seats. Alternates may only be seated from within a delegation. In the case of multiple alternates in a delegation, such seats shall be filled by ranking as determined at the time of election in the manner specified below. After seating, such alternate shall be seated for the entirety of the meeting, without regard to the late arrival of any member.

(c) Number of alternates

Alternates shall be elected in a number according to the manner in which the seat they are covering is designated:

Departments shall elect an alternate for departmental seats to the Senate. They may elect alternates for the seats on Senate committees.

There shall be **at large** alternate seats to the Senate elected by and from the various Senate constituencies in the following number:

Full-time Faculty: Five (5) alternate seats

Adjunct Faculty: One (1) alternate seat

Higher Education Officers: One (1) alternate seat

College Laboratory Technicians: One (1) alternate seat

Alternates for **student seats** shall be defined in a number set forth in the SGA Constitution.

There shall be no provision for alternates for ex officio seats of the Senate or any of its committees.

(d) Election of alternates

Departmental Alternate Senators and committee members shall be elected at the same time and manner as that of the Departmental Senator or committee member. The name of the Alternate Senator shall be communicated to the Senate or committee at the time of the election.

At-large Alternate Senators shall be elected by and from each delegation in a number provided for above in an election held at the same time and manner as the election for the regular Senate seats. In the case that more than one alternate seat is being elected, the seats shall be ranked by the number of votes received as First Alternate, Second Alternate, etc.

Students Alternate Senators shall be defined in a manner set forth in the SGA Constitution.

Senate and Faculty Council Representatives to Senate Committees: The Senate or the Faculty Council may elect up to one alternate for any committee to which it elects members to serve in the event of an absence or vacancy. Such an election shall take place at the same time and in the same manner as the election for the regular seat. The name of such alternate shall be communicated to the committee at the same time as the result of the regular election.

Item 4. Proposed Amendments to Section (E) of the Governance Plan

Resolved that Section I(G)(1)(a) "Executive Committee Functions" be amended as follows:

G.1.a.4 Call the Senate into special session by a vote of two-thirds of ~~those present~~ provided there is quorum the total membership, as provided in Section I(A)(3)(c).

G.1.a.8. When no alternate is available for seating, appoint replacements when vacancies occur in the at-large faculty membership of the Senate and of the Senate Committees and vacancies in the Student Government Association and student committee membership to serve the balance of the uncompleted term.

Item 5. Proposed Amendments to Section (E) of the Governance Plan

Resolved that Section I(E), "Qualifications For an Length of Service in the Senate and on Senate Committees," be amended as follows:

7. Vacancies

~~a. Any Senator absent without excuse from three regularly scheduled consecutive Senate meetings shall be removed from office by the Executive Committee. The quorum shall be adjusted in the event of vacated seats. Student senators shall be removed from office for failure to maintain an index of 2.00.~~

~~b. All vacancies shall be filled in accordance with article 1.G.a.(8).~~

A vacancy in a Senate seat held by a member of the faculty or instructional staff shall only occur when the elected holder of the seat resigns the seat or is no longer employed by Bronx Community College. A vacancy in a Senate seat held by a student shall be defined in accordance with the SGA constitution.