

# **BCC Faculty Council**

Minutes of February 16th, 2017

**At-Large:** T. Brennan, L. Cummins, S. Davis (abs), R. Gouraige, J. Katz, L. Lawton, A. McInerney, J. Molina, F. Moore, H. P. Kavalis, M. Pita, J. Sanabria, R. Shane, H. Skinner, S. Utakis

**Department:** R. Ben-Nun, S. Khan, I. Ghafoor, A. Durante (exc), D. Gonsher, T. Johnson (abs), J. Athanasourelis, N. Reynoso, S. Offenbach (Exc), D. Genova, M. Miller (abs), J. Pineiro, W. Guerrier (abs), A. Ortiz, A. Lal, P. Kolozi

**Adjuncts:** M. S. Titus, D. Pearson (abs)

**CLT, HEO, Registrar:** L. Rosario, A. Robinson, S. Ramdath (abs)

**Alternate adjunct:** J. Sinanovic

**Alternates at large:** C. Maliti (abs), S. Mukherjee (abs), K.Ojjakian (abs), B. Rima, J. Zeigler

**Alternates (Dept.):** R. Bass (exc), K. Lee, N. Knight, S. Bhaskaran (seated alternat), E. Nelson, J. Shaadi (abs) M.C. Aquino (abs), V. Rodriguez, S. Duncan, J. Acevedo, C. Tobar (abs), P. Laul (abs), K.Viner (abs), M. Jones (abs), B. Grossman (abs), M. Guishard

**Guests:** O. Melandez, H. Clampman, L. Brenner, F. Kaighobadi, H. Faradj, L. Amowitz, M. Lazda

**Faculty Council Voting Membership:** 41 (21 = quorum)

**Total Voting Members Present:** 28

1. Meeting called to order at 12:10
2. Seating of Alternates- S. Bhaskaran was seated for the Chemistry Dept.
3. Approval of Agenda: approved with minor addition.
4. Approval of Minutes of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting: Approved.
5. Announcements:
  - a. R. Ben-Nun asked F.C. members to participate in the Reappointment & Promotion Guideline Survey.
  - b. R. Ben-Nun encouraged tenure-track faculty to volunteer for various service opportunities such as Middle States, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary preparation, Distinguished Alumni Initiative, etc.
  - c. M. Lazda reminded F.C. of the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to submit proposals for the "Diversity" themed 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BCC Faculty Day on Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2017. Keynote speaker will be Professor Eboni Zamani-Gallaher from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership.
  - d. S. Utakis gave a sanctuary campus (approved by Senate last semester) update: there are two events taking place regarding that: PSC CUNY is holding a rally to oppose illegal immigrants arrest and secondly, the Division of Academic and Student Success Office of Judicial Affairs is offering a workshop on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> Lower Level Colston Hall titled: U.S. Immigration Law and Policy Series: Trump's Executive Orders - Know Your Rights.
6. Discussion/Elections – New Governance Plan: Due to approved changes in BCC's Governance Plan new seats were created in the senate (3 at-large faculty and 2 HEO's) and in the senate exec. (3 members of F.C.) After some discussion, a show of hands was used by the chair to decide whether to proceed with

elections or postpone them to the next meeting (11 yes: 8 no). The floor was then opened for nominations. Three members were nominated as follows:

1. J. Sanabaria
2. L. Rosario
3. M. Guishard

All three were elected by acclamation with one abstention (26 yes: 1 abstain).

7. A discussion regarding the membership of the SERC Committee (Student Election Review Committee) took place. F.C. decided to open the nominations to the entire instructional staff via a Broadcast rather than hold elections at present. The committee meets before student elections to approve ballots etc. and then as needed. F. Moore pointed out that the SGA constitution is not clear regarding the membership of this committee and it should be addressed.
8. A Committee for Academic Freedom (a standing committee of Senate with an advisory role) has been created under the new governance plan. After discussion it was decided that a call for nominations will be sent via broadcast and elections will be held at the next F.C. meeting.  
The functions of the committee are as follows:  
The Committee on Academic Freedom studies, reports and makes recommendations to the Senate concerning any condition within or without the College which, in its judgment, may affect the academic freedom of the college community. Academic freedom is the freedom from duress or sanction aimed at suppressing the intellectual independence, free investigation, and unfettered communication by the academic community – including but not limited to members of the Instructional Staff, students, and guests.  
11 members serve on the Committee on Academic Freedom:
  - a. The Chairperson of the Faculty Council.
  - b. The President of the SGA, or his/her designee.
  - c. Five members of the Instructional Staff elected by the Faculty Council.
  - d. Three members of the SGA, elected by the SGA.
  - e. One member designated by the President from among the Vice Presidents, Deans and Directors or their assistants.
9. New Business:
  - a. H. Skinner asked for the F.C. participation in the “Dream Team” for the upcoming 10K event. A resolution to sponsor the event was passed unanimously.
  - b. Three at large faculty and two HEO’s will be elected at the upcoming BCC senate meeting.
10. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 1:35

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Shazia Khan