

BCC Faculty Council

Minutes of February 15th, 2018

Attendance

At-Large Senators (18)

J. Moghadassi, M. Choi, S. Davis, M. Guishard, J. Katz, L. Lawton, N. Reynoso, J. Molina, F. Moore, S. Mukherjee, H. Papas-Kavalis, A. Vuagniaux, J. Sanabria, C. Maliti, H. Skinner, S. Utakis [16]

Not Present: N. Apostolakis, R. Gouraige

At-Large Alternate Senators (5)

J. (Kyeng) Lee (seated), K. Ojakian (seated), J. Ziegler (seated) A. McInerney (seated). [4]

Not Present B. Rima

Department Senators (16)

R. Ben-Nun, A. Adebola, I. Ghafoor, D. Gonsler, J. Shaddai, M. Pita, V. Walker, S. Offenbach, J. Acevedo, J. Nagloo, A. Ortiz, J. Malinsky [12]

Not Present: A. Durante, M. Miller, W. Guerrier, H. Faradj

Department Alternate Senators (16)

E. Nelson, S. Duncan (seated), S. Moss. I. Horozov [1]

Not Present: A. Ortuno, D. Price, N. Knight, S. Bhaskaran, K. Thomas, J. Athanasourelis, Ted Ingram, C. Tobar, K. Viner, M. Jones, E. Mananga, D. Molina.

Adjuncts (2)

J. Sinanovic

Not Present: M. Stewart-Titus. [1]

CLT (1)

M. Sanchez [1]

CLT Alternate

J. Batiz

HEO (3)

A. Hashim, A. Robinson. [2]

Not Present: J. Paoli

HEO Alternate

D. Sayeed

Registrar (1)

Not Present: K. Thomas

Guests

Octavio Melendez, Carloas M. Rivera, Farnaz Kaighobadi

Faculty Council voting membership: (21 = quorum)

Voting Members Present: 37

Agenda, Announcements & Actions

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 12:16
- 2) M. Guishard appointed temporary secretary.
- 3) Seating of Alternates:
Department S. Duncan (History)
At-Large J. Lee (Biology), J. Ziegler (English), K. Ojakian (Math), A. McInerney (Math).
- 4) Approval of the agenda:
Agenda approved unanimously by a voice vote.
- 5) Approval of Minutes of November 2017:
Minutes approved unanimously by a voice vote.
- 6) Announcements:
 - i) Art Gallery Reception: There will be a reception, at the College Art Gallery in Bliss Hall, on 2/15 at 2pm. The Deputy Bronx Borough President will speak, other dignitaries will be in attendance. The reception is one of many Black History Month's events on campus. All are welcome.
 - ii) UFS Elections for BCC seats: According to Senate records, we need to conduct elections to fill the following:
 - 1 Senator, for full-time faculty, to fill the expiring term of L. Lawton
 - 3 Senators, to represent full-time faculty, to fill vacant seats until 5/2020.
 - 1 additional Senator, to represent full-time faculty. Due to annual reappointment we are entitled to 1 additional delegate to serve until 2021.
 - 1 senator, to represent part-time faculty through 2021, to fill the expiring term of M. Stewart-Titus, who is out on medical leave.
 - Up to 3 alternate Senators to serve until 2019; 2 to represent full-time and 1 to represent part-time faculty.These meetings are held downtown. Members of the FC, who are not officers, were encouraged to consider running and reach out to colleagues in need of service. H. Skinner and L. Lawton discussed the Community College Caucus and Plenary. These elections must be completed by April. Terms will begin on 5/15; the deadline to conclude elections and report results is 4/9. S. Davis requested the formal parameters for the elections.
 - iii) The UFS Spring Budget Workshop: The workshop will be held on 4/13/18 at the offices of the Research Foundation. This is open to everyone.
 - iv) COACHE taskforce recommendations: R. Ben-Nun was asked to obtain a status report on the Faculty Council COACHE Task Force Recommendations that were forwarded to the Senate and BCC administration in May 2017. R. Ben-Nun will ask for a status report at the 2/22 Senate meeting and request a formal response from the administration to track developments. It was noted that J. Paoli, in her role as the interim Chief Diversity Officer, was tracking BCC progress on diversity and inclusion. There was rich discussion about establishing a permanent taskforce or an ad hoc committee. It was agreed upon that it would be worthwhile to jog the memory of the administration about the recommendations. The 3/29/18 Research Focus on Diversity and

- Inclusion Conference at the CUNY Graduate Center was mentioned as an important space to present progress. There was discussion about: continuing the work of the COACHE taskforce, with the pre-existing members, new members, how the membership of the group was populated, how a new group could be recruited, and the danger of allowing the report to become yet another inert document. F. Moore will bring this up at the Senate on 2/22. R. Ben-Nun will write a letter; he will send it to members of the taskforce for editing, and then send it to the administration. F. Moore will put this item on the agenda for the senate meeting. F. Moore noted that: there was good attendance at last year's training for new Senators, participants indicated that the meeting was helpful and that this process can be improved.
- v) Governance Self-Study: There was discussion about the value of formalizing how-to processes, codified guidelines to assist future college officers understand their roles, expectations, etc., of their service positions to alleviate relying on existing officers for education and clarity. There was discussion about the absence of processes during periods of transition between outgoing chairs and new officers. There is supposed to be a biannual report from Governance and Elections to produce these guidelines. This report, to the knowledge of long-serving college officers in attendance, has never been produced. This is on the agenda of Governance and Elections. They will work on actualizing the report.
 - vi) Social Sciences Department position on Experimental Course procedures: discussion was tabled for the next Faculty Council meeting because H. Faradj was not present.

7) New Business

- i) Concern about decreased number of faculty sabbaticals: K. Ojakian shared that recently, in the Math department, 4 faculty members applied and 3 were denied. There is concern about why this happened and the impact of planning of future applications for sabbatical for faculty particularly in large departments. There was discussion about: current and past departmental sabbatical denials, requesting, from IR and academic departments, the data on full year and half-a-year sabbaticals, whether there is a rationale for denials (no rationale is needed), assessing where the denials occurred (at the College P&B or at the level of President, the legality of denials as entitlement to fellowship leave is in the Bylaws and PSC CUNY contract). It was noted that President Isekenegebe has final say on sabbatical applications; this will be discussed at the next labor management meeting.
- ii) Press release from CUNY central about compensation for standalone remedial courses: M. Pita shared the press release, from CUNY Central, about compensation for standalone remedial courses. There was discussion about: how this new language represents a big change to BCC's mission, CUNYStart, whether the administration's goal of eliminating remediation will change the population of BCC students, how this all ties in to the 35 by 65 initiative, and the foundations funding these initiatives.

Adjournment 1:37 PM

Respectfully submitted by Monique A. Guishard