

BCC Committee on Academic Freedom

Minutes of February 27, 2018

2:00pm, Loew Hall 200

Chair: Farnaz Kaighobadi

Secretary: John Ziegler

Present: Emakoji Ayikoye, Philip Bredu, Irene R. Delgado, Dapo Ibrahim, Farnaz Kaighobadi, Seth Offenbach, John Ziegler

Not Present: Erica Arcelay, Roni Ben-Nun, Mary Martinez, Sharmila Mukherjee

Total Membership: 11 (6 required for quorum; 7 present)

- **Agenda**

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Review of Minutes
3. AF Statement Review and Discussion
4. Issue of Social Media Personal Accounts
5. Reporting to the Senate and Publicizing AF Committee to the College Community
6. Meeting Schedule and Calendar
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

- **Actions**

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.
2. The agenda was approved unanimously.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
4. It was announced that E. Arcelay would no longer be a member of the committee and the SGA would determine a replacement .
5. Discussion was held about presenting to the Faculty Senate the committee's document defining academic freedom and the procedures for reporting violations to the committee. It was decided that the Chair of the Senate and the Office of the Counsel be contacted for guidance. F. Kaighobadi reported that the necessary paperwork had been filed to create an email address for the committee, which would then be publicized via BCC broadcast. What to include in the broadcast was discussed, and it was decided to include the sections on procedures in the email and provide a link to the full document, which also includes the definition and history of academic freedom and the committee's charges and which F. Kaighobadi will request be housed on the BCC website. A draft of the broadcast will be sent to committee members via email for review before the broadcast is sent to the college.
6. The aforementioned document, which was circulated prior to the meeting via email, was revised and discussed. Minor revisions were suggested, the most significant being to specify that reports

- produced by the committee in response to complaints will be sent to the Faculty Senate and any other relevant bodies. The revised document will be circulated to the committee members via email so that they can review it before it is presented to the Faculty Senate, ideally at its March meeting.
7. F. Kaighobadi reported that she had located a CUNY Legal Affairs guide that touches on academic freedom, as well as a 2005 statement by the Chancellor, and requested that committee members inform her if they encounter any further relevant documents.
 8. A brief discussion took place about whether the committee's purview extends to personal social media accounts, with the agreement to return to this topic at a later time.
 9. The next two meetings were set for March 27, 2018 at 2pm and April 24, 2018 at 2pm. Loew Hall 200 is the anticipated location. Working on a form for complaint submission and inviting Jessenia Paoli from the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Diversity to a future meeting were set as upcoming goals.
 10. No new business.
 11. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ziegler