

# BCC Committee on Academic Freedom

## Minutes of October 22, 2018

12:00pm, Colston Hall 311

Chair: Farnaz Kaighobadi

Secretary: John Ziegler

Present: Emakoji Ayikoye, Yanilly Heras, Farnaz Kaighobadi, Roxane Nieves, Carolina Valenzuela, John Ziegler

Not Present: Roni Ben-Nun, Irene R. Delgado, Momodou Jallow, Sharmila Mukherjee, Seth Offenbach

Total Membership: 11 (quorum=6)

- **Agenda**

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes of April 24, 2018
4. Election for Vice Chair
5. Faculty Survey
6. Hearing an academic freedom-related complaint: presented by Nikos Apostolakis
7. Meeting Schedule and Calendar
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

- **Actions**

1. Meeting was called to order.
2. Committee members introduced themselves. Student members were given an opportunity to ask question regarding the charge of the committee or the manual created by the committee in the previous academic year.
3. The minutes of April 24, 2018 were approved unanimously (6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions). The question of following up on an item from these minutes, the potential creation of a social media policy, was raised.
4. Roxane Nieves was nominated to stand for Vice Chair and declined the nomination. Yanilly Heras was nominated to stand for Vice Chair and was elected unanimously (6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions).
5. Suggestions were made for further revisions to the questions proposed as additions to the Annual Faculty and Staff Survey, including that one question should include the definition of academic freedom adopted by the committee. Suggestions were made as to which of the eight questions were most important should we need to put forward a smaller number. It was determined that the conversation would continue over email so that the draft questions could be sent to the chair of CIPD before its meeting on November 6, 2018.

6. Nikos Apostolakis brought a complaint to the committee regarding a letter sent to two faculty members by President Isekenegbe requesting that a corequisite course being developed be a statistics course. N. Apostolakis felt that because the faculty receiving the letter are not yet tenured and because there is ambiguity in a statement of “expectation” that the course will be approved departmentally, the communication could be seen as exerting inappropriate pressure. He provided a copy of one of the letters in question, and the committee told him that it would be contacting him for some clarifications before it wrote a recommendation. It was also decided to contact the Curriculum Committee regarding the details of the President’s power in determining whether experimental courses can run.
7. A poll regarding the next meeting date and time will be sent via email.
8. A question was asked about faculty giving sufficient notification for extra credit events or including them on the syllabus, and F. Kaighobadi suggested that this was a matter to take up with the faculty member in question and, if necessary, the department chair.
9. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 1:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ziegler