

BCC Committee on Academic Freedom

Minutes of November 27, 2018

3:00pm, Colston Hall 311

Chair: Farnaz Kaighobadi

Secretary: John Ziegler

Present: Roni Ben-Nun, Irene R. Delgado, Yanilly Heras, Farnaz Kaighobadi, Seth Offenbach, Carolina Valenzuela, John Ziegler

Not Present: Emakoji Ayikoye, Momodou Jallow, Sharmila Mukherjee, Roxane Nieves

Total Membership: 11 (quorum=6)

- **Agenda**

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. Approval of minutes of October 22, 2018
3. Deliberation on academic freedom-related complaint
4. Meeting Schedule and Calendar
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

- **Actions**

1. Meeting was called to order.
2. The minutes of October 22, 2018 were approved unanimously (6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions [the seventh member present arrived after this vote]).
3. The complaint brought by Nikos Apostolakis at the previous meeting was summarized and additional information on the grant related to the complaint was presented. The committee discussed whether the letter from the President that spurred the complaint was “asking” or “telling” the faculty member what class to create, as well as whether that letter should have first gone to the department chair. Ultimately, all members agreed that any pressure involved did not go beyond the norm and did not rise to the level of an infringement of academic freedom. The committee will create a report on this complaint and the committee’s decision, and the report will be filed and copies sent to the complainant and the chair of the Math Department. Additionally, I. Delgado and R. Ben-Nun agreed to informally communicate feedback to the President regarding the letter in question.
4. The committee will not meet until the next semester, and in the meantime, members will be asked to provide times when they are unavailable in the spring so that a fixed meeting time can be established.
5. Meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 3:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ziegler