

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

November 18, 2019

2:15 – 3:30 PM

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, LANGUAGE HALL 27

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Report from the Chairperson
5. Report from the President
  - a. Budget Report
6. Report from Faculty Council
7. Report from SGA
8. Approval of the Agenda for the November 21, 2019 Senate Meeting
9. Strategic Plan (Dean Nancy Ritze):
  - a. Special SEC Meeting for Strategic Plan: Nov. 25
  - b. Special Senate Meeting for Strategic Plan: Dec. 19
10. New Business:
  - a. Meeting time adjustment
  - b. Paperless Senate
  - c. Shared Online Repository (Dropbox/SharePoint)
  - d. Voting app
  - e. Committees Meeting Times
11. Adjournment



## **BCC College Senate Executive Committee**

### ***Minutes of November 18, 2019***

**Chair:** Roni Ben-Nun

**Secretary:** Iris Cortes

**Location:** President's Office, Language Hall 27

**Members (16):** R. Ben-Nun, Q. Berry, J. Caldwell, I. Cortes, I. R. Delgado, H. Faradj, K. Ellis, T. Isekenegbe, C. Maliti, L. Montenegro, J. Sanabria, M. Sanchez.

**Not Present:** M. Guishard, A. Lake, S. Reader, L. Rosario

**Guests:** D. Gonsher, N. Ritze, K. R. Williams.

**College Senate Executive Total Voting Membership: 14 (8 = quorum)**

**Voting Members Present: 12**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 2:17 pm by R. Ben-Nun.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with an amendment by a unanimous voice vote. Budget item has been moved to a subcategory of the President's report.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 28, 2019, were accepted with amendments by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Report from Chairperson:** R. Ben-Nun stated that according to the chair of Governance & Election, the quorum for SEC is 8 voting members. The Committee on Governance & Election is evaluating the issue of appointments versus elections. The committee did not seek to overturn the recent appointments to various committees made by the SEC.
5. **President Report:** The President appointed N. Hwang to BCC Auxiliary Enterprises Board and D. Lazarus to BCC Association, Inc. The President, along with seven other CUNY presidents, met with the University Provost to express their concerns regarding the proficiency index. The University Provost created a subcommittee that will review the financial models for institutions that will adopt the co-requisite course structure being implemented in Spring 2020. L. Montenegro, N. Ritze, and K. Ellis have been appointed to the subcommittee. The President reported that the proficiency index and the remedial changes have enrollment and financial implications. The President received the notification regarding the vote of no confidence in VP Ellis from the Faculty Council, and he is requesting a meeting with C. Maliti and R. Ben-Nun to discuss the issue.

- a) **Budget:** The President mentioned that the BCC Association, Inc., BCC Auxiliary Enterprises, Inc., 5Y Capital Plan, and final financial plan submitted to CUNY would be part of the Senate President's report. R. Ben-Nun stated that according to the Governance plan, the President must review the budget with the SEC.
6. **Faculty Council Report:** R. Ben-Nun reported the vote of no confidence in VP K. Ellis (23 yes, 3 no, 3 abstentions). The SEC discussed the vote of no confidence, and a question was raised if the budget and the vote of no confidence should be presented together at the next Senate meeting. R. Ben-Nun clarified that the vote of no confidence must be presented at the next Senate meeting. Some members of the SEC expressed that departments could create a bill of particulars to assist the administration in resolving the issues that have led to the vote of no confidence.
7. **SGA Report:** J. Caldwell reported that the SGA is collaborating with College Discovery and Single Stop to have a Friendsgiving Event on November 21. The SGA will be hosting the Fall Fest party on Friday, November 22. J. Caldwell mentioned that NYPIRG would host a town hall meeting regarding the budget cuts. The NYPIRG town hall meeting will take place at the quad on November 21.
8. **Approval of the Agenda for the November 21, 2019, Senate Meeting:** The Senate agenda for November 21 was approved unanimously by voice vote.
9. **Strategic Plan (Dean Nancy Ritze):** N. Ritze reported that the findings from the Middle State Self-Study will be used to develop the Strategic Plan. N. Ritze expects to have the Strategic Plan completed by the Spring semester, and she will present it to the Senate for approval.
- a) **Special SEC Meeting for COACHE and Strategic Plan:** November 25 at 2:15 pm
  - b) **Special Senate Meeting for COACHE and Strategic Plan:** Motion to approve an additional Senate meeting on December 19 at 12:15 pm to discuss COACHE and the Strategic Plan passed unanimously by voice vote. Such a motion requires 2/3 of the SEC membership, which amounts to ten members.
10. **New Business:**
- a) **Meeting time adjustment:** The SEC will continue to meet at 2:15 pm.
  - b) **Paperless Senate:** The SEC discussed providing tablets to Senate members to discontinue the printing of documents. The SEC secretary will continue to print a reduced number of minutes and agenda.
  - c) **Shared Online Repository (Dropbox/Share Point):** R. Ben-Nun will research a shared online repository.

- d) **Voting app:** R. Ben-Nun mentioned that the clicker technology used by the Senate is obsolete. The SEC will research the use of an application for voting purposes.
- e) **Committees Meeting Times:** R. Ben-Nun urged the creation of a standardized time for all committees of the Senate.

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm

Respectfully submitted by Iris Cortes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Iris Cortes".

**Faculty Council Resolution  
of No Confidence in Kay W. Ellis,  
Vice President of Administration and Finance**

Whereas, for the past three years, VP Ellis has shown a failure of oversight and forethought in the execution of her duties, leading to a **widespread lowering of morale** amongst the faculty and staff at Bronx Community College.

Whereas, **failure to communicate properly and openly** have occurred all too frequently, with a spontaneous and continuously shifting narrative regarding facility issues, e.g., lack of lighting in Meister hallway outside of the Biology Department first attributed to no bulbs in stock but subsequently changed to conversion to LED lighting; nonexistent heating throughout October first attributed to a six-week transition period that was then changed to issues of faulty pipe installation; a parking plan that was rolled out with little research or consultation, leading to its quick withdrawal; repeated claims of sufficient PPS, Engineering, and Public Safety staffing that are undermined by the reality of a multitude of health and safety issues.

Whereas, **repeated issues of lack of transparency in budgetary reporting** have been common, e.g., failure to share budgets with BCC faculty in a timely manner. Information that has been disseminated has been constantly changed or verifiably inaccurate; Departmental Budget Requests are either incorrect or lacking relevant information; budgets are not shared in a way that would allow for input; masses of information are literally dumped on faculty.

Whereas, **budgetary mismanagement** has brought about a budget crisis that has forced Academic Affairs to make poor choices, e.g. reduction in course sections, raising caps on class sizes, cutting of full-time faculty lines, all of which will exacerbate retention issues; the Colston catastrophe which occurred due to a reduced number of engineers and PPS employees, along with a lack of temperature tracking and prophylactic measures; no planning as to lighting needs on campus, thus timers were not reset to accommodate shorter daylight period in October.

Whereas, VP Ellis' **attitude and treatment of staff and faculty is unacceptable**, e.g. continuing intimidation of staff; in the last year, dozens of staff members in her area of oversight have left the college, including the campus superintendent, head of Campus Security, Purchasing Manager, and the campus Architect; disparaging comments made by VP Ellis regarding our students and where they reside, e.g., when confronted with requests to test for mold in the aftermath of the Colston catastrophe, VP Ellis responded, to paraphrase: "This is the Bronx"; telling a faculty member concerned about the cold temperatures in offices and classrooms to "Wear a sweater."

We, the members of the Faculty Council, vote NO CONFIDENCE in Kay Ellis, VP of Administration and Finance at Bronx Community College.