

The City University of New York
Bronx Community College
Committee on Governance and Elections

Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Susan Fiore, Charles Maliti, Franklin Moore, Gabriel Morillo, Jesus Sanabria, Jonathan Scott, Goldie Sherr, Pricilla Tokor, James Webb
Guests: Debra Gonsler, Jose Lai.

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:07 PM by F. Moore
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. New item added by J. Webb regarding proposed Governance Plan amendment to protect integrity of department chair elections.
 - b. Agenda, with new item added, approved unanimously.
- III. **Introductions**
 - a. All members introduced themselves.
 - b. One student member seat is still vacant.
- IV. **Action Item**
 - a. Election of secretary
 - i. Goldie Sherr elected unanimously as secretary by voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions.
- V. **Review of Items from Prior year**
 - a. There were a number of items remaining from last semester that were postponed to this semester.
 - b. The plan for today's meeting is to schedule each of the items and when they should be presented this semester.
 - c. F. Moore proposes that the Committee on Governance and Elections meet more than once a month for the Fall 2020 semester. This is to ensure that any referendum items that needs to be presented to the Senate will be done by February 2020.
 - d. The following items need to be addressed this semester
 - i. Amendment to Rules of Procedure
 - ii. Resolution to define "Shared Governance"
 - iii. Powers of the Senate Executive Committee
 1. Ambiguous language: "appoint vs "elect"
 - iv. Non-voting members in the Governance Plan
 - v. Request to look at and increase adjunct representation
 - vi. Request from Roni Ben-Nun to take a comprehensive review of the Governance Plan for clarity, consistency and format
 - vii. Possible Senate referral regarding Senate Committee Membership reform
 1. F. Moore will send an email to all the chairs of the Senate committees for their input.
 2. Dr. Gonsler will start the discussion on this item.
 - viii. New item by James Webb for proposed Governance Plan amendment to protect the integrity of department chair elections.

1. Proposal that department chair elections should be run by legal or labor executive instead of self-run.
 - ix. Issues with VoteNet and whether we want to move forward with using them.
 - e. F. Moore suggests having Governance and Elections meetings every other week this semester and that we should agree in advance which items need to be presented on which days.
 - f. Currently, the scheduled Governance and Elections meetings for the semester are:
 - i. October 6, 2020
 - ii. November 3, 2020
 - iii. December 1, 2020
 - g. The committee unanimously decides to add October 13, 2020 to the list of meetings.
 - h. A formal motion was made that on October 6, 2020, F. Moore will present on the Amendment to Rules of Procedure and J. Webb will present on the resolution to define "Shared Governance". Additionally, if time allows J. Scott will discuss the ambiguous language of "appoint" vs "elect". The motion was seconded and there was a voice call vote. The motion passed with one abstention: 8-0-1.
 - i. For the October 13, 2020 agenda, J. Scott will be scheduled to give his presentation if he was unable to present on October 6, 2020. D. Gonsher will be scheduled to present on non-voting members in the Governance Plan.
 - j. F. Moore will send an email to Howard Clampman regarding adjunct representation in the senate since he initially made the suggestion.
 - k. D. Gonsher will also be scheduled to discuss membership on senate committees.
 - l. F. Moore will send out an email to put the October 13, 2020 meeting on the calendar.
 - m. A formal motion to approve the October 13, 2020 agenda was made. The motion passed with one abstention: 8-0-1.
- VI. J. Webb discusses the proposed amendment of changing BCC's Governance Plan to codify that all department chair elections be conducted by representatives of the college's Labor and Legal office.
- a. J. Webb mentions that President Isekenegbe recommended outside assistance for department chair elections requested by department members.
 - b. J. Webb makes a motion to consider amending the governance plan to reflect the new language and to move forward with discussion on department chair elections. The motion was seconded.
 - i. J. Scott questions using the word "conduct" with regard to the Legal and Labor office "conducting" the meeting. Perhaps instead it should be changed to "monitor". D. Gonsher agrees with J. Scott about the wording.
 - ii. S. Fiore questions the need of this amendment, stating that the President originally recommended outside assistance in response to confidentiality issues with electronic voting. Now that everyone is more knowledgeable about the online voting platform it is not an issue anymore.
 - iii. J. Webb mentions that multiple constituents have come over to him stating that they want this change. F. Moore has also been approached regarding these concerns.
 - iv. This item will come back at the next meeting as a potentially actionable item with discussion.

VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Goldie Sherr 