

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

Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Charles Maliti, Franklin Moore, Gabriel Morillo, Grisselle Nadal, Jesus Sanabria, Jonathan Scott, Goldie Sherr, James Webb
Guests: Debra Gonsler, Jose Lai.

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:07 PM by Franklin Moore.
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Agenda was approved unanimously.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. Amendment of the minutes of September 15, 2020.
 - i. The minutes required the addition of a signature.
 - b. Minutes of September 15, 2020 (with the amendment) was approved unanimously.
- IV. **Announcements**
 - a. Welcome to Grisselle Nadal who joined the Committee on Governance and Elections as the new representative of the president's office.
 - b. Debra Gonsler will no longer be presenting on the following two items next week: Non-voting members in the Governance Plan and Senate Committee membership. Neither of these items will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - i. Franklin Moore sent out an email to the chairs of the senate committees for their input regarding senate committee membership. Most chairs were opposed to increased representation.
 - ii. The Committee of Governance and Elections will need to discuss whether it wants to increase its own representation.
 - iii. Since the above items will not be discussed at the next meeting, our committee needs to determine whether to cancel the additional October 13, 2020 meeting and resume with the scheduled November 3, 2020 meeting.
- V. **Action Item**
 - a. Integrity of Department Chair elections
 - i. James Webb proposed that changes be made to the way that department chair elections are conducted in order to protect their integrity. In spring 2020, President Isekenegbe made a recommendation to have a representative from Legal Affairs be involved in the May 2020 online departmental elections. This proposal aims to continue in that path and to have Legal Affairs conduct future department chair elections. As mentioned, department chair elections are very important to all faculty members, especially junior faculty members. Currently, many faculty members have expressed concerns that the system is not set up in a way where they can vote honestly.
 - ii. Jesus Sanabria supports the agenda item but is concerned about the logistics.
 - iii. Charles Maliti supports the motion for a process that would allow transparency to these elections.
 - iv. Debra Gonsler expressed concern with the usage of the word "conduct".

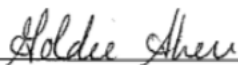
- v. James Webb explained why using the word “conduct” is needed in this case and that using terms like “monitor” or “facilitate” would be too ambiguous. The goal is to have Labor and Legal conduct the elections.
- vi. After further discussion, a formal motion to approve the item was made by Jonathan Scott. Charles Maliti seconded it.
- vii. The motion to approve the item passed with one abstention, 8-0-1. The item will be sent to the senate by the next meeting.

VI. Discussion Items

- a. Amendment to Rules of Procedure – presented by Franklin Moore.
 - i. This proposal aims to establish rules of procedure if someone alleges a violation of the governance plan. Historically, the Committee of Governance and Elections had done this without a formal set of rules. Franklin Moore has now composed a list of rules to standardize the process and make the procedures clear and transparent. The amendment, which was distributed to the committee, was read over and discussed.
 - ii. This item is not actionable today and will come back at the next meeting.
- b. Defining shared governance – presented by James Webb.
 - i. This motion was brought up during the last academic year but was postponed due to COVID-19. The motion aims to establish a clear definition of “shared governance” at BCC, which currently does not have a set definition. The amendment, which was distributed to the committee, was read and discussed.
 - ii. Franklin Moore agrees with the purpose behind the motion but anticipates that if he brings this to the senate, they will question why the committee did not also bring along some drafted language as well.
 - iii. James Webb makes a motion to form a subcommittee to draft the language for the definition of shared governance. Jonathan Scott seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
 - 1. James Webb is nominated and accepts the nomination.
 - 2. Gabriel Morillo nominates himself.
 - 3. Grisselle Nadal is nominated and accepts the nomination.
 - 4. Jonathan Scott is nominated and accepts the nomination.
 - iv. Jesus Sanabria makes a motion to accept all four nominees as part of the subcommittee to define “shared governance”. Charles Maliti seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.
 - v. James Webb will schedule a meeting for the subcommittee.
- c. Franklin Moore asks whether we should cancel the additional Governance and Elections meeting on October 13, 2020. A voice vote is conducted and the decision to cancel the meeting carries unanimously. The next meeting will take place on November 3, 2020.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Goldie Sherr