

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

Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 2021 via Zoom

Present: Gabriel Morillo, Grisselle Nadal, Jazmin Ramirez, Jesus Sanabria, Jonathan Scott, Goldie Sherr, Christopher Soto, James Webb
Guests: Howard Clampman, Debra Gonsher

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:11 PM by James Webb.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** (approved unanimously)
- III. **Approval of the Minutes** (approved unanimously with amendments)
- IV. **Announcements**
 - a. Election calendar
 - i. On May 11, 2021, the membership of the current university faculty senate members will expire.
 - ii. According to our current election calendar the voting for the vacant UFS seats will not end until May 13, 2021 and the results will not be certified until May 14, 2021.
 - iii. James Webb explains that our committee may want to consider adjusting the calendar so that the newly elected UFS members can attend the UFS meeting on May 11, 2021.
 - iv. It is determined that the original election calendar was set based on the two-meeting rule for referendum items. We therefore need to wait until after the senate meeting on April 29, 2021 to begin voting.
 - v. It is collectively agreed upon that shortening the voting window to less than 10 days would not be ideal.
 - vi. Debra Gonsher suggests having a special election for the UFS candidates.
 - vii. James Webb makes a motion to have a special election for the vacant UFS seats. The motion is seconded and carries unanimously by a voice vote.
 - viii. The calendar for the special UFS election is set.
 1. The broadcast dates for nominations will remain the same as the regular election and will be on March 24, 2021 and April 5, 2021.
 2. Nominations for all candidates (including those for the other elections) will close on April 16, 2021.
 3. Candidates will be certified on April 20, 2021.
 4. A town hall will be held at Faculty Council on April 22, 2021 for the nominees to campaign.
 5. Voting for the UFS seats will occur from April 23, 2021 to May 2, 2021.
 6. The UFS election results will be certified on May 4, 2021.
 - b. Broadcast Announcement
 - i. James Webb shares the draft language for the broadcast announcement regarding the election nominations.
 - ii. The committee discusses the presented language. Minor edits are made.

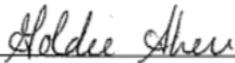
- iii. Debra Gonsler suggests that there be a noticeable difference regarding the broadcasts for the regular elections and the special UFS elections.
- iv. James Webb states that he will make sure that the two elections appear distinct in the broadcasts.

V. **Action Items**

- a. Resolution to define “shared governance.”
 - i. James Webb shares the revised version of the shared governance definition.
 - 1. The statement includes the scaffolding that was suggested by Jesus Sanabria.
 - 2. The last sentence of the statement has been changed to “In such cases, where faculty and students hold primary responsibility and the President’s final decision overrules their advice or recommendations, the President, out of mutual respect, shall communicate his/her reasoning with transparency.”
 - ii. The revised definition is discussed. Many members and guests express their appreciation and approval of the changes.
 - iii. James Webb makes a motion to adopt the shared governance definition. The motion is seconded. It carries unanimously, 8-0-0.
- b. Proposed Amendment to the Governance Plan abolishing the Committee on Vice Presidents and Dean
 - i. There is uncertainty as to who the first responsibility of the committee will be given to. The two current options are Faculty Council or Senate.
 - ii. James Webb makes a motion to tentatively have a meeting next week on March 23, 2021. He suggests tabling this item until we can gain clarity as to who the committee’s first responsibility will be given to. The motion is seconded and carries, 7-0-1.

VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting is adjourned at 1:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Goldie Sherr

Bronx Community College’s Statement on Shared Governance:

At Bronx Community College, shared governance means that deliberate and systematic efforts have been made to consult and engage all College stakeholders in decision-making processes.

Shared governance calls for the dutiful involvement of all essential constituencies: administration, faculty, students and staff. These stakeholders engage in multiple methods of collaboration and channels of communication to exchange ideas, information, advice, and recommendations before reaching final decisions.

As delegated by the CUNY Board of Trustees and articulated in the CUNY Bylaws and Manual of General Policy, the powers of shared governance are expressed as follows:

- The President, serving as chief executive officer, “shall have the affirmative responsibility of conserving and enhancing the educational standards and general academic excellence of the college” (CUNY Bylaws, Article XI, Section 11.4).
- The Faculty, serving as guardians of academic quality, “shall be the primary body responsible for formulating policy on academic matters ” (CUNY Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 8.6), such as curriculum, subject matter, methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process.
- The Students, having primary responsibility of student activities, “should have primary control and decision-making authority in these areas ” (Manual of General Policy, Article II, Policy 2.08, Section 3.3).

Subject to the Board of Trustees and the Chancellor’s directives, the President has final decision-making authority.

In such cases, where faculty and students hold primary responsibility and the President’s final decision overrules their advice or recommendations, the President, out of mutual respect, shall communicate his/her reasoning with transparency.