

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

Minutes of the Meeting of December 7, 2021 via Zoom

**Members Present: Ekinadose Elizabeth Asemota, Augustin Garcia Flores, Nikole Knight, Charles Maliti, Grisselle Nadal, Seth Offenbach, Jeithy Ofosu-Mensah, Jazmin Ramirez, Jonathan Scott, Goldie Sherr, James Webb**

**Guests Present: Sara Brady, Laurence Brenner, Howard Clampman, Debra Gonsher, Peter Kolozi**

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:04 PM by James Webb.
- II. **Reminder:** Remarks should be addressed to the chairperson to be officially recognized. Please do not use the zoom chat to make formal remarks.
- III. **Approval of Agenda** (approved unanimously)
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes from November 16, 2021** (approved unanimously with amendments)
- V. **Announcements**
  - a. The Fall 2021 special election:
    - i. James Webb thanked Sammy Henry and Mathew Hernandez for all their hard work in helping the election run smoothly.
    - ii. James Webb shared the results of the election.
    - iii. The eballot fingerprint was also shared. The only activity on the fingerprint was the activation of the election polls.
    - iv. James Webb mentioned that there was one issue reported to the committee regarding a voter's submission. VoteNet was contacted regarding this. It was determined that the problem may have occurred due to a browser issue. No other voting problems were reported.
    - v. A motion was made to certify the results of the fall 2021 special elections. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously (11-0-0).
  - b. "Ghost" Governance Plan
    - i. There was a proposal put forth by G&E in 2017 to change the wording of the governance plan. It was approved in March 2017 by G&E and then approved by the senate. However, it was never sent to referendum.
    - ii. James Webb opened the discussion to decide what to do with this legislation.
      1. It was determined that the legislation may have expired. In order to move forward with the legislation the process may need to be restarted.
      2. Debra Gonsher mentioned that this legislation came from CUNY Central and not from BCC.
    - iii. It was determined that James Webb would meet with Roni Ben-Nun and bring this issue back at an upcoming meeting.


## VI. Action Items

- a. Committee on Community Events Voting Members – reviewed by James Webb.
  - i. Currently, the Director of Administrative Services serves without vote (the governance plan states that this member “shall serve without vote”). The proposal aims to remove this phrase to make all members of the committee voting members.
  - ii. The committee discussed the proposal.
    1. The discussion revolved around why there are non-voting members on committees.
    2. It was also determined that changing the non-voting member to a voting member will not help the Committee on Community Events reach quorum any easier.
    3. A point was mentioned that perhaps all changes to the governance plan should be made at once, instead of individually.
  - iii. James Webb made a motion to bring this item back to the next meeting.
  - iv. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (11-0-0).
  
- b. Committee on Budget and Financial Planning as a Standing Committee of the Senate – presented by Peter Kolozi.
  - i. The purpose of this committee is to disseminate information to the college community regarding the college budget.
  - ii. The Committee on Budget and Financial Planning would be a completely advisory committee.
  - iii. The committee discussed the proposal.
    1. The makeup of the committee’s membership was reviewed. It was expressed that there should be representation from each department.
    2. Jazmin Ramirez also requested that the SGA membership on the committee be modified.
      - a. An amendment was made to the proposal.
      - b. The amendment removed the SGA president from the membership and included the SGA treasurer and three additional students.
    3. A motion was made to vote on the proposal. The motion was seconded.
    4. Before voting on the motion, the committee realized that no amendment to also include representation from each department in the committee’s membership was included.
    5. A motion was made to reconsider the previous motion. It was seconded and passed (9-1-1).
    6. A new motion was made to amend the proposal’s membership by replacing “Eight members elected by the Faculty Council from the Instructional Staff at-large” with “One faculty member elected by and from each department.”
    7. The motion was seconded and passed (9-1-1).
    8. A final motion was then made to officially vote on the amended proposal. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously (11-0-0).
  
- c. Integrity of Department Chair Elections – presented by James Webb.
  - i. The purpose of the proposal is to amend BCC’s Governance Plan to codify that all department chair elections be conducted by representatives of BCC’s Labor and Legal Offices.

- ii. The proposed language states that “All elections for Department Chairperson shall be conducted by representatives of the College’s Labor and/or Legal Offices.”
- iii. The committee discussed the proposal.
  - 1. The logistical issue of having only Labor and Legal offices conduct department elections was raised.
  - 2. A suggestion was made to have G&E also help in conducting department chair elections. This point was opposed since if an election would ever be contested, Labor and Legal would be the best office to handle the situation.
- iv. It was determined that this item would come back to the committee before being voted on.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 PM.

VIII. Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Goldie Sherr