

BCC Committee on Academic Freedom

Minutes of October 7, 2021

Time & Location: 2-3pm, Zoom

Chair: Farnaz Kaighobadi

Secretary: John Ziegler

Present: Irene Delgado, Farnaz Kaighobadi, Shelley Liu, Devin Molina, Seth Offenbach, Jazmin Ramirez, Freddy Sanchez, John Ziegler

Not Present: Angel Anazco, Kenneth Flowers, Charles Maliti

Total Membership: 11 (quorum=6)

AGENDA

- 1) Meeting called to order
- 2) Approval of the Agenda
- 3) Introductions
- 4) Nomination and election of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
- 5) Review of the minutes of 2/23/2021
- 6) Faculty and Staff Survey Results
- 7) Discussion of charges for the academic year
- 8) Next meeting schedule and calendar
- 9) New Business
- 10) Adjournment

ACTIONS

- 1) Meeting called to order 2:08pm
- 2) Agenda was approved unanimously.
- 3) Committee members introduced themselves.
- 4) F. Kaighobadi was nominated for Chair. F. Kaighobadi was elected unanimously. K. Flowers was nominated for Vice Chair. K. Flowers was elected unanimously. J. Ziegler was nominated for Secretary. J. Ziegler was elected unanimously.
- 5) The minutes of 2/23/2021 were approved unanimously.
- 6) F. Kaighobadi explained the inclusion of questions on the Faculty and Staff Survey about whether academic freedom rights are understood and if any violations have been experienced or witnessed. She shared the results. 88% of respondents said that they understood their academic freedom rights and protections, while 12% said that they did not. 8% said that they witnessed or experienced a violation of academic freedom in the past year, and 12% were not sure if they had. F. Kaighobadi shared the written comments for these questions from the survey.

- 7) The committee reviewed the written survey comments and decided that none of them directly qualified as an academic freedom infringement, though it was suggested that it might be helpful to reach out to the Governance and Elections Committee regarding one accusation of a chair preventing faculty members from voting how they wish. F. Kaighobadi proposed reminding the campus community about the committee and its charges. I. Delgado proposed making a short pamphlet to be distributed when the BCC Senate returns to in-person meetings and for inclusion in new hire packets. She further suggested sending a committee representative to the New Faculty Seminar. J. Ramirez asked if complaints can be made anonymously. F. Kaighobadi said no, but anonymity may be preserved in investigation of a complaint, depending on the circumstances. J. Ramirez proposed making a short video to advertise the committee and its charges, and I. Delgado suggested existing BCC Raw Shorts as a model. S. Liu suggested that promotional materials include examples of academic freedom infringements. D. Molina also spoke in support of specific examples. D. Molina suggested that we need to think about ways academic freedom is inhibited if not violated by bureaucratic requirements as well, perhaps producing a statement as a result of such conversation. J. Ramirez added that resulting disjunctions can pose obstacles for students.
- 8) The next meeting will be November 4th at 2pm.
- 9) The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ziegler