

Minutes of the Academic Standing Committee of the September 2nd, 2020

The meeting was held via zoom

Everyone was present, except

- Ali Syed.

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 pm by the Chair of the Committee, Professor James Blake

I – Approval of Agenda.

The agenda:

- Election of the Chair, Secretary of the committee, and the representative to the Executive committee.
- Tribute to our beloved colleague Alicia Perdomo who prematurely passed in June, 2020.

The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and approved by the members of the committee.

II – Review of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on June 24th, 2020 were reviewed and approved by the committee.

III – Election of the Officers of the Committee

The committee has elected, respectively as:

- **Chair: Professor James Blake**
- **Secretary: Professor Thierry Agbotouedo**
- **And Representative to the Executive Committee: Professor Cynthia Wiseman**

IV. Consideration of open issues.

The Chair presented a summary of appeals reviewed during summer, appreciated the work done by the entire committee, and expounded the work ahead and to be done for the fall 2020 semester.

The committee discussed

- difficulties associated with appeals on pdf format inaccessible to committee members. And in the end agreed to leave the system of upload as it is now.

- Lift of caps on number of students to be enrolled in a course by CUNY Central without faculty members inputs.
- Push of the withdrawal time to the end of the semester by CUNY Central without faculty-members inputs

A resolution is drafted by Domenick Acocella and attached here:

We members of the Academic Senate write to affirm our position and charge and responsibilities in the college and university as professors and colleagues. We write to express our concern over recent decisions that immediately and potentially negatively affect our work and our standing in the governance of the college and the university.

Recent significant changes were made, over the summer with a global pandemic and mass unrest and overwhelming uncertainty, without this body's input. Such practice is troubling for its disregard for our position in the college and university. We write to insist that our contribution to decisions made regarding such affairs as they concern our pedagogy is not only sought but also respected. We write to insist that the decision to forego course caps should have at least been discussed with this body. We write to insist that our informed input in such matters of protocol for withdrawal deadlines be respected out of courtesy for who we are and the value we hold, as we are told repeatedly by the administrations of BMCC and CUNY Central, for the college and the university. The following specify our concerns:

Whereas BMCC has raised course caps, from the 25 agreed to between the union and Interim President Wilks and Interim Provost Wong during this time of COVID-19 to whatever per class increase to accommodate whatever needs, without faculty consent;

Whereas CUNY Central has changed the date for withdrawal from classes to the very end of the semester;

Whereas...

Be it resolved that faculty must have input in all decisions regarding class size, especially when such sizes have been promised to remain at a certain number because of this unprecedented time of global pandemic that has disproportionately affected New York City and even more disproportionately affected our CUNY community's students, staff, faculty, and administration;

Be it resolved that faculty must have input regarding changes in protocols of withdrawal dates, such as when students can elect to take a W in this specific case that has warranted this resolution.

Be it resolved...

IV – Agenda and Time of next meeting

The agenda and the time of our next meeting will be sent out in the upcoming days.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm by the Chair, Professor James Blake.

Minutes submitted by the secretary, Professor Thierry Agbotouedo

Minutes approved by the chair.