



Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York
Academic Senate

Agenda
October 28th, 2020
Via Zoom

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
- III. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:
 - i. **New Course:** ITL 312 Modern Italian Theater
Description: In this course students will read, analyze and discuss selected Italian plays from the 18th to 20th centuries. The course will address crucial cultural issues across those time periods. No knowledge of Italian required.
Vote: APPROVED, Motion to approve the new course passed 14-0-0.
 - ii. **Pathways Course:** ITL 312 Modern Italian Theater
Description: This proposal includes ITL 312 in the World Cultures and Global Issues bucket of the Pathways Flexible Core.
Vote: APPROVED, Motion to approve the inclusion of the course in Pathways passed 14-0-0.
 - iii. **New Pilot Course:** LIN 150.6 Language, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States and Its Territories for ESL 95
Description: This course combines the course content of LIN 150 and ESL 95. Students who pass LIN 150.6 are exempt from further ESL courses. LIN 150.6 may not be taken by students who have passed LIN 150 or ESL 95 or are exempt from writing.
Vote: APPROVED, Motion to approve the new Pilot Course passed 14-0-0.
 - iv. **Pathways Course:** LIN 150.6 Language, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States and Its Territories for ESL 95
Description: This proposal includes LIN 150.6 in the US Experience in its Diversity bucket of the Pathways Flexible Core.
Vote: APPROVED, Motion to approve the inclusion of the course in Pathways passed 14-0-0.

- v. **New Department:** Department of Ethnic and Race Studies
Description: This resolution would establish a new department at BMCC named the Department of Ethnic and Race Studies. The new department would house the Ethnic Studies program formerly administered by the Center for Ethnic Studies. Ten faculty from the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice will be transferred and appointed to the new department.

Vote: APPROVED, Motion to approve the new department passed 13-0-1.

- b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE – resolutions (below)
- d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
- e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
- f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
- g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE - resolution (below)

IV. CHAIR’S REPORT

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Resolutions from the Instruction Committee of Academic Senate

Resolution Concerning Student Evaluations of Teaching for Fall 2020

WHEREAS many faculty members did not self-select to teach remotely and had very little prior experience and training in remote instruction, and

WHEREAS thousands of students currently in online courses had originally registered for face-to-face learning, and

WHEREAS the transition to online teaching and learning is difficult for both faculty and students, and

WHEREAS the withdrawal date for students has been moved to the end of the semester, after Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) have been completed, contrary to past practices, and

WHEREAS the results of SETs influence decisions regarding reappointment, tenure and promotion, and

WHEREAS the Instruction Committee of the Senate has developed a new instrument to assess student experiences in the classroom, which can be offered to professors for their own private use this semester,

BE IT RESOLVED that BMCC suspend Student Evaluations of Teaching for the Fall 2020 Semester.

Resolution concerning Peer Observations of remote teaching during pandemic

WHEREAS in April of 2020, the Academic Senate passed guidelines for peer observation of online courses that are aligned with the contractual procedures for online peer observations and

WHEREAS a large number of classes have exceeded enrollment of 25, which was agreed upon as the appropriate maximum number of students of for online instruction, and

WHEREAS many faculty members have not elected to teach remotely and have had very little experience training in remote instruction and,

WHEREAS no faculty member can assume instructional or pedagogical expertise in teaching in a remote environment in which students have not elected to learn in a remote environment,

BE IT RESOLVED that during this period where most instruction is remote, all peer observations only be used “formatively,” for the benefit of the observed professors; and that these observations not be included in decisions concerning reappointment, tenure, or promotion, unless it is the expressed preference of the observed faculty member.

Resolution from the Academic Freedom sub-committee of Academic Senate

Resolution Regarding the Governance Plan

Whereas in the Academic Year 2017-2018 the President’s Cabinet and the Academic Senate decided to change the Governance Plan to its original unicameral structure;

Whereas the Academic Senate’s ad hoc Committee to change the Governance Plan met and wrote a Governance Plan in that same year;

Whereas that plan was in its final draft;

Whereas the Interim President decided a new Governance Plan should be submitted by the permanent President;

Whereas BMCC now has a permanent President;

Be it resolved that the original Academic Senate Governance Plan Committee recommence to finalize the draft of the new Governance Plan;

Be it further resolved that the same committee submit the new Governance Plan to the BMCC community during the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

