



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

Minutes
November 29th, 2017
Room N451

- I. CALL TO ORDER: 3.17pm
- II. ATTENDANCE: A quorum was achieved. The following senators were marked absent: Aleksandra Artyfikiewicz, Melanie Aucelio, Khadeja Baldeh, Horace Brockington, Loreisy Bueno, Anthony Creaco, Veronica De La Cruz, Judy Eng, Juan Garcia, Joel Hernandez, Dana Johnson, Lucille Menzies, Rime Nakhlawi, Phillis Niles, Malika Sabirova, Brett Simms, Andre Simon, Chris Stein, Hao Tang, Kiberwossen Tesfagiorgis, Cynthia Wiseman
- III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: minutes from 10.25.17 unanimously approved.
- IV. MOTIONS
 - a. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE. Resolution presented by committee (below). Motion unanimously supported by the body. Committee chair requested that SVP Wilks respond to this motion, and those previously approved by Academic Senate.
 - b. Prof. James Blake: Move to amend agenda to include discussion of “Islam: Opportunities and Challenges for BMCC students, faculty, and administrators.” Motion did not pass.
 - c. Prof. Kay Conway: motion to move UFS report up on the agenda - unanimously approved.
- V. UFS REPORT (Prof. Kay Conway)
 - a. Prof. Conway encouraged senators to visit the UFS Blog on the CUNY website for current information on various topics.
- VI. 12-6 proposal (Prof. Kay Conway)
 - a. BMCC is in early exploration stage of the 12-6 semester structure.
 - b. Profs. Kara Cronen and Joel Barker will co-chair a committee investigating the proposal.
 - c. The BMCC Cabinet has an internal report on 12-6 that it will share with the co-chairs.
- VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE: The following items were unanimously approved by the Academic Senate:
 - i. Curriculum Revision: Community Health Education (COH)

- ii. Curriculum Revision: Public Health (PHE)
 - iii. Course Revision: SBE 100 Entrepreneurship: Product & Service Creation
 - iv. Pilot Course: MUS 207 16th Century Counterpoint
 - v. Course Revision: LIN 101 Introduction to Linguistics
 - vi. New Course: CRT 150 Critical Thinking and Scientific Inquiry
 - vii. Pathways Course: CRT 150 Critical Thinking and Scientific Inquiry.
 - viii. New Course: CRT 196 Critical Thinking: Inquiry through Queer Theories
 - ix. Pathways Course: CRT 196 Critical Thinking: Inquiry through Queer Theories
 - x. New Course: MAT 206.5 Intermediate Algebra and Precalculus
 - xi. Course Revision: MAT 56 and MAT 56.5
 - xii. Course Revision: MAT 301
 - xiii. Course Revision: MAT 200 and MAT 214
 - xiv. New Course: CRT 120 Critical Thinking and Social Justice
 - xv. Pathways Course: CRT 120 Critical Thinking and Social Justice
- b. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- i. Faculty development a success: 52 people attended the event.
 - ii. The application for the next round of Faculty Development grants to be distributed in mid-December.
- c. INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
- i. Presentation of proposal on NC grade (below). Resolution passed almost unanimously -1 nay vote.
- d. ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE
- i. Read and acted on student appeals.
- e. COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
- i. Faculty involved in Starfish pilot reported that the system worked. Starfish to be rolled out on a larger scale next semester.
 - ii. Panther Partner program - faculty interested in participating in this mentoring program should email Prof. Margaret Carson for more information.
- f. ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
- i. Planning videos focusing on faculty from low enrollment classes.
 - ii. Have also approached chairs for volunteers to help increase enrollment in these classes by promoting the programs.
- g. ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE
- i. Resolution
 - ii. Committee met with SVP Wilks and new eLearning director to discuss involvement of eLearning staff in checking student attendance in online/hybrid classes. Current procedure is not acceptable, as indicated by FERPA guidelines. Committee is investigating alternative ways to check attendance in these classes.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

- a. Request for nominations for the next Distinguished Teacher award to be distributed.
- b. No AS meeting in December.
- c. SVP Wilks: Equity and Inclusion

- i. The college has initiated a task force with 31 people, more than 50% of who are faculty.
- ii. Task force vision is that BMCC will be known as a leading college in equity and inclusion. The group will address current practices and policies, and will also make recommendations to President Perez.
- iii. Questions, ideas and comments should be sent to SVP Wilks, who will update the body at the February meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolutions (below).

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 4.10pm

BMCC: Academic Senate Instruction Committee

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE N/C GRADE

WHEREAS: BMCC's current NC policy is available to First Year Freshmen ONLY and formulated so that if a passing grade is earned (A through D-), the student will receive the grade earned which will carry the designated GPA but if a failing grade is earned (F), the student will receive a grade of NC which does not affect the GPA.

AND

New CUNY regulations regarding the NC grade are:

- a. Students must opt-in
- b. Students must opt-in by the withdrawal deadline
- c. Students need to continue attending the class, complete all assignments, and take the final exam to qualify for the forgiveness grade.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1) All degree programs may opt-in, opt-out, or adapt the NC grade option for individual classes within their department, subject to the approval of the BMCC Academic Senate.
- 2) The option to take a course as NC will only be offered to freshmen.
- 3) A freshman is defined as a student who has earned 30 credits or less, including transfer credits. Non-credit bearing remedial classes will not be included in these 30 credits.
- 4) A freshman may apply to take a maximum of 8 credits, or 2 classes, as NC.
- 5) The NC grade will only apply to earned letter grades C- or below. A student who requests the NC option and earns a grade C or above will receive their earned grade. Grades of C- or below will receive an NC.
- 6) Students should be encouraged to consult with their instructor when requesting the option of an NC grade, ideally via a pop-up or certification on the NC application form.
- 7) Students who opt for an NC grade can participate in the student evaluation process.

BMCC Academic Senate: Academic Freedom Committee

The following was unanimously passed by the Academic Freedom Committee on Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

Whereas defending academic freedom and promoting faculty development are among this Academic Senate's responsibilities;

Whereas academic freedom requires strong governance procedures, at the college and departmental levels, which in turn depend on faculty members having the time for governance and service responsibilities;

Whereas the freedom to research and write is of little use without time in which to research and write;

Whereas BMCC's Performance Management Reports have shown that BMCC's tenured faculty members on average teach more hours than their counterparts at other CUNY community colleges, such that even after the implementation of the university-wide reduction in *formal* teaching load to which CUNY has committed, BMCC's *effective* full-time faculty teaching load will remain unusually high, absent new college policies;

Whereas the 2015 COACHE survey confirmed that the college's full-time faculty members widely consider teaching load to be among the "worst aspects" of working at BMCC;

Whereas more than four hundred BMCC faculty members signed a PSC petition during the 2016-2017 academic year calling on BMCC to mitigate the full-time faculty teaching load through new reassigned time policies; and

Whereas new reassigned time policies would contribute to academic freedom and promote faculty development at BMCC by allowing the faculty to better fulfill its teaching, scholarly, service, and governance responsibilities;

The BMCC Academic Senate

1. Calls on the BMCC administration to provide increased reassigned time for college and departmental service, by guaranteeing reassigned time for such faculty members as the chairperson of the Academic Senate, the coordinators of majors and programs, and those responsible for other governance or departmental projects; and further
2. Calls on the BMCC administration to provide increased reassigned time for scholarly and creative work through policies such as one or both of the following: (a) funding, and working with the Academic Senate to design, a program that would provide access to regular, predictable reassigned time for veteran faculty members who are engaged in or developing substantial scholarly or creative projects; (b) providing for the automatic accrual of reassigned time for all tenure-track and tenured faculty members.