

Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation Board of Directors Meeting
June 2, 2017

Board Members

Michelle J. Anderson
Joseph Giovannelli
Francis Fitzgerald
Alan Gilbert
Daniel Tinkelman
Christopher Richards
Arlene Litherman
Harriet Rosenblum
Floencia Salinas
Elizabeth Kasparov
Moshe Norowitz
Omari Williams
Tamim Suhail

Staff

Beatrice Gilling-Raynor
Andrew Lanza

Non-Board Members

Hifza Nasar (student)
Aichetou Diarra (student)

*Those listed in italics were not present at this meeting. Those listed in bold attended the meeting remotely.

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM

Joseph Giovannelli described the purpose of the Board of Directors and its current membership, and the function of the Audit and Finance Committee Board.

The minutes from the May 12, 2016 Board of Directors meeting were approved by the majority of present Board members. Two of the student Directors abstained from voting on the minutes.

Joseph Giovannelli then turned the discussion to Akademos, the College's newly contracted virtual bookstore. He explained that virtual bookstores are becoming more common on college campuses, and that CUNY awarded the virtual bookstore contract to Akademos after an exhaustive RFP. Barnes and Noble, the College's previous bookstore, also participated in the RFP, but was not selected. He explained that CUNY schools are switching over to Akademos in waves. He described one of the benefits of switching to a virtual bookstore model being the fact that the space once occupied by the physical bookstore can be repurposed, and that John Jay College reclaimed prime retail space with the closure of their physical bookstore.

The discussion then turned to financial aspects of the switch to Akademos. Joe spoke about the approximate \$8,000.00 signing bonus. Daniel Tinkelman, a member of the Board, asked about the Akademos business model: "If book sales are by volume, are there any books that are only available from Akademos only?" Joe replied that though textbook listing is required by law, professors are not required

to have students use Akademos to purchase their books. Daniel also asked about the staffing of the “popup shop” and how it will be financed, to which Joe replied that it would be netted against the marketing bonus given to BCAEC from Akademos.

Daniel also asked about the bookstore space, and who might benefit from it. Joe then discussed the different offices that are in the discussion to appropriate the space, including the Health Clinic and the Center for Student Disability Services, provided that proper plumbing and ventilation are installed.

Daniel asked if the space must benefit BCAEC, to which Joe replied that CUNY owns the space, and that the board is not in control of which office it is given to.

Alan Gilbert then went through the income section of the 2017-2018 Budget, starting with Akademos, followed by Metropolitan Food Services. Joe interjected with information about the CUNY-wide RFP that may or may not come to fruition in the near future, and how different colleges can choose to opt in. He then explained the food service situation at other CUNYs and how they mostly differ from that of Brooklyn College. The conversation then transitioned to pouring rights, to which Florencia made a statement about there being a lack of options in campus vending machines. It was noted that Andrew Lanza will follow up with PepsiCo about curating more beverage options in the vending machines.

Alan then continued his explanation of the 2017-2018 Budget, touching on external rentals, which comprises of film shoots and various types of space rentals, and royalties for logo usage, etc. He touched on parking, about which he explained BCAEC’s role in funding the parking lot operation (it cross subsidizes parking, as revenue does not outpace the cost) and maintenance. Joe said that “CUNY says cheap parking encourages driving”, which is in opposition to CUNY’s commitment to sustainability. Daniel asked if there is any way to decrease parking lot expenses, to which Joe replied with the fact that the lot is open 24 hours at the West Gate. The budget discussion concluded with Alan briefly touching on ATMs, which provide a “static income”.

Daniel asked a question about cost of the 2017 Commencement Ceremonies, which were held at Barclay’s Center for the first time. Alan replied that savings on labor were accrued to the College, but that the total cost of holding the ceremony at Barclay’s was only slightly more expensive than hosting it at the College. The cost had to be paid out of non-tax levy funds do to the fact that payment had to be expedited to meet the commitment. Daniel then asked if the FY2017 budget was authorized by the BCAEC Board, to which Alan replied “yes”. This segued into a more general discussion about the expenses that are paid out of Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation.

Alan briefly touched upon the function of the Mereese Ladson scholarship, which he said was founded in order to provide excellent students with benefits similar to that of the Macaulay Honors Program.

The discussion then turned to the Residence Hall and its operation. Joe explained that the Residence Hall was not directly affiliated with Brooklyn College, though the College was providing Residence Assistants when the Hall first opened, though this has changed. He also touched on the fact that BCAEC pays for Residence Hall Security. Daniel asked why operating costs went down for the Residence Hall, to which Joe replied that this was because of the fact that the College no longer is paying for RAs to live in the Hall, at the request of Residence Hall Management.

Alan then discussed other expenses, such as Staff Appreciation Day and other various staff and faculty related parties/events. He said that since the State does not allow funds to be spent on such events, BCAEC funds are allocated to this. He and Joe then described the importance of events such as Staff Appreciation Day, which boost morale in Staff and Faculty.

Florencia asked “Why does CUNY invest in private prisons”? Joe said the question would be better fielded to a CUNY investment committee.

Discussions of expenses continued, with the group touching on the cost of running the parking lot. Fran spoke about the need for the parking spots to be re-striped and for the lot to be repaved in some areas. He estimated the cost for this to run anywhere from \$50K – \$70K. He also described an initiative to install more efficient lighting (LED) in the parking lot, for which the College has applied for a grant. For now, a main priority is to restripe disabled parking spots and install new signs.

Joe made a motion to approve the 2017-2017 BCAEC budget. All were in favor, and the budget was approved.

Florencia then introduced two student guests of the Board, named Hifza Nasar and Aichetou Diarra. The students were concerned that Metropolitan Food Service did not have a space dedicated to halal food. They had already spoken to Joe Gallopini. They were instructed to put together comments and suggestions and send them to Joe Gallopini in an email. Joe Giovannelli then briefed the Board about the Dining Services Committee, which has not met for at least two years. He suggested that the DSC resume regular meetings to address concerns such as the one brought to the attention of the Board by the student guests and Florencia. It was suggested that there be a separate grill for the preparation of halal food. Daniel then suggested that the students mock up the cost of halal suggestions to provide a more comprehensive view to the Board. Florencia then brought up a survey that was circulated to students regarding the lack of halal food options in the cafeteria, which she said garnered 235 unique responses.

Some follow up items for the fall 2017 BCAECB meeting were identified, including parking lot maintenance, revenue from Akademos, and the dining hall issues brought to light by the students.

Florencia asked about the possibility of instating a dining plan, to which Joe replied that ID cards would have to be updated campus wide to support such an initiative. He said that if there was enough interest, that vendors could be solicited for price quotes. Florencia also asked about a meal plan for homeless students.

A brief discussion about the function and makeup of the Audit and Finance committee was undertaken. Daniel asked if this subcommittee was selected by the Board, to which Alan replied that the process of Audit and Finance committee selection is described in the current bylaws.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.