

POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the October 11th, 2012 Meeting

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Senior Vice President Joseph Giovannelli, Vice President Milga Morales, Assistant Vice President Alan Gilbert, Associate Provost Jerry Mirotznik, Executive Director Jeremy Thompson, Dean Maria Conelli, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Dean Deborah Shanley, Professor Andrew Arlig, Professor Alberto Bursztyn, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Bruce MacIntyre, Professor Priya Parmar, Professor Wayne Powell, Abraham Esses, Simon Stern, Washieka Torres, Brandon Clark, Ezriel Strum, Michael Ari Broker, Christian Paylor-Smith, Corine Vialva, Nakaiya Nicholas.

Excused: Provost William Tramontano, Professor Moustafa Bayoumi.

Absent: Dean Kimberley Phillips, Professor Ellen Belton, Professor William Childers, Professor Paula Massood, Trevor Watts, Dilek Sen, Jeremy Simon.

Non-voting: Nicole Haas.

President Gould welcomed the members of Policy Council to the first meeting of the year.

Policy Council Executive Committee: Constituent groups caucused to select representatives for the Policy Council Executive Committee. The election results were as follows: 1) student representative is Christian Paylor-Smith; 2) faculty representative is Professor Andrew Arlig; and 3) administration representative is Dean Willie Hopkins.

Election of a Secretary: Past practice has been to have a student serve in this capacity. However, since the minutes are required in a timely manner and students have demanding schedules, the representative now comes from the administration. Jeremy Thompson volunteered to serve; he was unanimously approved.

4/18/12 Minutes: The minutes of the April 18th, 2012 meeting were approved.

Discussion -- Members for Standing Committees: The President asked Professor Arlig to share his experiences trying to populate the committees with faculty willing to serve. Professor Arlig said that it would be good to rationalize this process: he spent a great deal of time identifying individuals to serve on some committees that in fact did very little business; most were committees on paper only. Discussion ensued regarding the wisdom of retaining of the current committees, perhaps consolidating, eliminating or streamlining some, or even establishing some on an ad hoc, as-needed basis. In the end, it was determined that this matter should be referred to the Governance Committee to review the current procedures and make recommendations to the full Policy Council for consideration. The motion was unanimously approved. It was also agreed that the administration should

provide student government with a comprehensive list of all committees on which students serve. CLAS president Abraham Esses said that many students do not understand the functions and responsibilities of the committees on which they serve, and that they may feel intimidated when in the company of faculty and senior administrators. Vice President Morales stated the importance of the faculty mentoring students so that they feel included in the groups on which they serve. Dean Shanley suggested that the students and faculty get a refresher on the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Updates from Standing Committees on meetings in spring 2012: Associate Provost Donna Wilson of the Committee on Faculty and Student Relations, submitted a committee report at the April 18th meeting that focused on three issues: 1) Academic Advisement 2) Bereavement Assistance and 3) Honors and Honors Societies. VP Morales suggested that the report be sent back to the committee this semester for review. A motion was made to have the report forwarded to CAP. That motion was approved, with one opposed.

Update on BC Governance Plan Revisions: President Gould noted that the proposed revisions to the BC Governance Plan that were put forth in spring 2012 were approved by CUNY Board of Trustees on September 24, 2012.

Update on Campus Technology Taskforce: This agenda item was moved to the next meeting when Senior Vice President Joe Giovannelli will provide an update.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.