

**POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the December 12, 2012 Meeting**

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Provost William Tramontano, 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 Deborah Shanley, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Bruce MacIntyre, Professor Andrew Arlig, Professor Moustafa Bayoumi, Professor William Childers, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Wayne Powell, Abraham Esses, Simon Stern, Washieka Torres, Brandon Clark, Dilek Sen, Jeremy Simon, Christian Paylor-Smith, Corine Vialva, Nakaiya Nicholas.

Excused Professor Ellen Belton, Professor Priya Parmar, Professor Paula Massood

Absent: Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Dean Kimberley Phillips, Professor Alberto Bursztyn, David Rosenberg, Ezriel Strum, Michael Ari Broker

Non-voting: Nicole Haas.

1. The minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting were approved.
2. There will be one or two more Town Hall meetings in the spring with more focused topics. The minutes of the previous Town Hall will be shared electronically. This topic can be revisited at the February 13, 2013 Policy Council meeting.
3. Standing Committee topics could include:
 - i) Academic program offerings such as minors, emerging fields of study and interdisciplinary studies should be explored. This issue will be referred to the Faculty and Student Relations Committee.
 - ii) Tree replacement in the Central Quad requires immediate attention, given the ageing and precarious status of the current Siberian elms. The 2013 50th Class has committed \$20,000 to replace one tree; several more will need to be financed from other sources. VP Giovannelli stated that replanting schemes were being explored. Members of the Campus Facilities Committee will participate in discussions.
 - iii) An assessment of accessibility in new buildings was also referred to the Campus Facilities Committee.

- iv) There was a long conversation regarding the need for student parking. In the past, efforts were made by the College to secure parking at the Target lot. There was a request to re-examine this option, as well as leasing parking at other available lots and providing shuttle service to campus. Several years ago, the College commissioned a report on campus transportation and parking needs. This report is dated, however, it will be shared with the Policy Council as a point of information, with the understanding that conditions have changed and the findings and recommendations may no longer be appropriate.

- v) The high cost of text books was raised. The President noted that this is part of an ongoing and larger movement to address textbooks prices and lowering the costs that students must bear. Suggestions made were to: a) have more textbooks copies available on reserve in the Library b) use Blackboard open source material, c) raise consciousness about this issue with the faculty and encourage them, where possible, to use older text editions, d) have the College negotiate prices instead of individual faculty, d) investigate other institutions and e) refer to matter to the Associate Provost Sharona Levy for review by the Student and Faculty Relations Committee, with a request to include Chief Librarian Stephanie Walker in the discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.