

POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Meeting

Present: Senior Vice President Joseph Giovannelli, Vice President Milga Morales, Associate Provost Terrence Cheng, Assistant Vice President Alan Gilbert, Associate Provost Jerry Mirotznik, Executive Director Steven Schechter, Dean Maria Conelli, Interim Dean Matthew Moore, Director Keisha-Gaye Anderson, Professor Andrew Arlig, Professor Caroline Arnold, Professor Prudence Cumberbatch, Professor Graciela Elizalde-Utnick, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor William Gargan, Professor Louise Hainline, Professor Amy Hughes, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Bruce MacIntyre, Professor Alex Vitale, Shani Abrahams, Joseph Awadjie, Robin Cohen, Joseph Grunfeld, David Rosenberg, Adam Zauderer, Ezriel Strum.

Absent: President Karen L. Gould, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Douglas Cohen, Salma Abdou, Keston Boyce, Rene Straker, Washieka Torres, Michael Weber.

Non-voting: Nicole Haas, Vanessa Green.

1. President Gould was not present; Dean Conelli chaired the meeting on her behalf. The minutes of the November 16, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved, with a friendly amendment to acknowledge that the faculty wanted prioritization of smart classrooms.
2. The Governance Committee submitted a resolution to amend the college governance that would reconcile the Governance Plan with the bylaws of the Policy Council for the purpose of consistency. Further, language pertaining to the standing committees rewritten in a broad enough way to allow future changes without necessitating revisions to the plan itself. The motion passed with 25 votes in the affirmative. Associate Provost Cheng provided an update from the Faculty/Student Relations Committee which met in the fall semester.
3. Associate Provost Cheng led the discussion on Gen Ed requirements and the roadmap to graduation. Some schools have prepared curricular maps to assist students. AP Cheng will work with Colette Wagner to determine what is ready for posting online. Professor Hainline said that currently, it is difficult for students to determine their Gen Ed requirements. AP Cheng has had extensive meetings with the VP for Enrollment Management, the Registrar, and others to make the processes as clear as possible. David Rosenberg noted that last spring, CAAS did a good job offering workshops and informing students of their Pathway or non-opt-in choices. Changes to TAP requirements means that some courses are not eligible for TAP coverage. AP Cheng noted that Degree Works, Financial Aid and the Bulletin are all connected, and that the goal is to balance major, minor and electives in order to maximize TAP benefits for students.

Professor Cumberbatch commented that Academic Advising used to run workshops for faculty advisors to bridge the gap with changes in requirements. Professor

Hughes cited the Provost's Report on Graduation and Retention which encourages faculty involvement; however, she noted that the faculty cannot engage in good advising unless the faculty understands financial aid and TAP eligibility. Professor Arnold noted that in the current climate with Pathways and CUNY*first*, it is difficult for students to navigate the system, and Professor Vitale added that Course and Standing has to make decisions based on the Bulletin approved by the faculty. Professor Langsam said that Degree Works doesn't work, and therefore his department and many others have resorted to department-based checklists instead. AP Cheng said that he will dedicate efforts to make it work. David Rosenberg stated that students are not concerned about the politics of the Pathways debate. Students want to know what the faculty and administration are doing for them.

Regarding graduate test prep, Joseph Awadjie said that University Faculty Senate (USS) is prepared to provide resources. Professor Vitale said that there is a committee in the Sociology Department that is looking into graduate test readiness, and contemplating, in collaboration with the Math Department, offering courses that have quantitative reasoning which is included in the GRE. Professor Hughes suggested that the college seek funding from generous alumni. Professor Hainline suggested that we compile an online resource database of open source test prep material. Dean Conelli noted that the School of VMPA has been working with the Magner Center, which finds experts in the field who provide workshops on a range of topics to assist students after graduation, including working with a gallerist, self-employment taxes, and alternate career advising.

We discussed opportunities for undergraduate students to transition more seamlessly to graduate programs through a 4+1/accelerated Master's Degree. Professor Langsam noted that his department had three such degrees and they all failed for a variety of reasons, including the fact that transfer students couldn't fit into the highly compacted schedule, and the reality that most Brooklyn College students do not graduate in 4 years. Professor MacIntyre noted that Hunter College has a music certification program with a 5-year plan but he is not sure if it could succeed here. Professor Florence noted the declining number of graduate students and said that in order to be successful, a cohort is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.