

**POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the October 8, 2015 Meeting**

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Provost William Tramontano, Vice President Milga Morales, Associate Vice President Alan Gilbert, Associate Provost Matthew Moore, Associate Provost Terrence Cheng, Dean Ronald Jackson, Dean Maria Conelli, Dean April Bedford, Professor Caroline Arnold, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Beth Evans, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor William Gargan, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Miquel Macias, Professor Helen Phillips, Professor Sophia Suarez, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Kip Marsh, Jacob Levin, Timothy Donnelly, Christopher Velasquez, Heather Alper, Gabrella Goldberg, Daniella Berger, Marie Grindberg.

Absent: Senior Vice President Joseph Giovannelli, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Richard Greenwald, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Lynda Day, Adam Zauderer, Omari Williams, Arron Abramov, Prapti Dhungana.

Non-voting: Nicole Haas.

1. Provost Tramontano welcomed the members of Policy Council.
2. Election of the Executive Committee: three representatives were unanimously approved – student representative Tim Donnelly, the faculty representative Professor Sophia Suarez, and administration representative Associate Provost Terrence Cheng.
3. Election of the Secretary: Associate Provost Cheng was unanimously approved.
4. The minutes of the April 23, 2015 meeting were accepted.
5. The election of standing committees was discussed. Nicole Haas reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the standing committees. A vote was taken to affirm the Governance Committee. Professor Yedidyah Langsam and Professor Kip Marsh were elected to serve as the faculty representatives. The student government presidents will identify two student representatives and forward the names to the President's Office. President Gould will designate two administrators. It was agreed that the remaining standing committees would be elected at the following Policy Council meeting on November 12.

6. Provost Tramontano said that every few years it is good practice to re-examine the schedule. He noted that both he and the president want to preserve the common hour as an integral part of the student experience; the question is whether or not the current time is serving our students well. Since 2005 there had been a significant increase in the undergraduate student population and a concurrent drop in the number of graduate students, shifting the demand on class room use with increased need between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., not early morning or late afternoon or evening. President Gould noted that this issue was discussed with department chairs who were/are frustrated by the challenge of securing classrooms in peak times. Now, the administration is seeking feedback from students and faculty. Questions centered on the practice at other CUNYs, why common hours are held on two days, the number of students involved in student activities (an estimated 2,000 to 3,000), the impact on students as well as the faculty (which often has meetings during common hours) by moving the common hour later in the day, how to manage lab sections which require three or sometimes four hour blocks, and the need for more data in order to better understand the implications of any change. CLAS president Tim Donnelly noted that students need co-curricular activities 1) for their resumes and graduate school applications in order to have competitive edge and 2) to create positive memories of the campus experience since they may become the next generation of successful alumni and future donors. There was strong consensus that data was needed to determine next steps, and that a survey instrument should be developed with input from the Senior Director of Institutional Research, Dr. Michael Ayers. It was further suggested that the Faculty/Student Relations Committee take this matter under consideration, review, and make recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.