

Brooklyn College
Policy Council Minutes of the
February 15, 2018 Meeting

Present: Provost William A. Tramontano, Associate Provost Matthew Moore, Assistant Vice President Jason Carey, Dean April Bedford, Dean Maria Conelli, Acting Dean Kenneth Gould, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Yedidiah Langsam, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Myles Bassell, Professor Miguel Macias, Professor Helen Phillips, Professor Namulundah Florence, Nissim Said (CLAS), Truth Opaleye (CLAS), Chava Shulman (CLAS), Zunera Ahmed (CLAS), Marc Pfeiffer (SGS).

Absent: President Michelle Anderson, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Executive Director Steven Sehechter, Vice President Ron Jackson, Professor Yehuda Klein, Professor Lynda Day, Professor David Balk, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Jocelyn Wills, Menachem Eidelman, Elizabeth Koennicke, Mazal Salame.

Non-voting: Nicole Haas.

1. President Anderson was unable to attend. She was convening a Strategic Planning session which ran concurrently. Provost Tramontano chaired the meeting.
2. The minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting were approved with amendments.
3. Each of the Standing Committees gave a report from the most recent meeting. Secretary Zunera Ahmed asked that all reports be forwarded to her electronically to be included as attachments in the minutes.

Associate Provost Matthew Moore gave an update from the Governance Committee which met on February 5th. The main topic of discussion was the Report of the Taskforce on Interdisciplinary Programs, in particular item 2.2 regarding representation on the Council of Administrative Policy (CAP). The committee found that the Brooklyn College Governance Plan empowers the President to invite non-voting guests to CAP; in particular she may invite some or all directors of interdisciplinary programs to attend with voice but no vote. Attendance at P & B is much more restricted; a change of governance would be required.

CLAS student government Vice President Truth Opaleye gave a report from the Student/Faculty Relations Committee which met on January 25th. Topics discussed included: BC in The City and student engagement opportunities with faculty outside of the classroom and in the city; the policy regarding students bringing their children on campus; a presentation by Tony Thomas, the Executive Chief Diversity Officer, on campus assault and the pending online training for all entering students; procedure and processes for the bereavement policy which will be codified in a report; DACA; and the inclusion of language about military veterans for faculty to incorporate in their syllabi. Professor Langsam asked that language be added about religious obligations that might prohibit attendance as well.

CLAS student government Assembly Member Chava Shulman provided an update from the Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee which met on December 15. Committee members reviewed the budget and CUNY's 5-year plan. They discussed facilities and maintenance challenges and the delays in the Tow Performing Arts Center opening. There was a call for better communication on facilities and budget matters to the campus community. Ms. Shulman noted that \$50K has been identified and earmarked for bathroom upgrades. The Facilities Office is developing rapid/efficient reporting mechanisms to share information, including targeted surveys to building users for 'State of the Building' information, and QR scans to report problems.

CLAS student government President Nissim Said gave a report from the External Relations Committee. Discussion centered on advocacy strategies for state funding, the MOE, etc. It was noted that while there is a unity in purpose, different constituencies employ different lobbying strategies to articulate the need for state support.