

Brooklyn College Policy Council
Minutes of the February 27, 2019 Meeting

Present: Provost Anne Lopes, SVP Alan Gilbert, Vice President Ronald Jackson, Associate Provost Tammy Lewis, Assistant Vice President Jason Carey, Dean April Bedford, Acting Dean Kenneth Gould, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Myles Bassell, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Maria Contel, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Sharon Levy, Professor Sophia Suarez, Professor Jacqueline Shannon, Alyssa Taylor (CLAS), Stephanie Ortega (CLAS), Fay Yanofsky (SGS), Mark Koegel (SGS), Ashaney Ewen (SGS), (SGS), Keith Magnussen (GSO), David Wells (GSO).

Absent: President Michelle J. Anderson, Dean Maria Conelli, Professor Prudence Cumberbatch, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Jocelyn Wills, Eytan Galanter (CLAS), David Schykerynec (CLAS), Salma Mohamed (SGS), Jose Garcia (GSO), Moira Rousseau (GSO).

Non-voting: Nicole Haas.

1. Provost Lopes chaired the meeting on behalf of President Anderson.
2. The Minutes of the November 28, 2018 was unanimously approved.
3. The “Self-Study Report Prepared for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Review Period 2009-2019” was submitted to the committee which recognized the report as a consensus document produced by the campus community. The document was approved with one abstention.
4. The issue of class scheduling was first raised at the October meeting by Fay Yanofsky (SGS). The Provost expressed a commitment to work on timely scheduling with a 2-3 year calendar, thereby allowing chairs to reduce the need for “TBD” and “staff” placeholders in lieu of faculty names.
5. **Report from the Fiscal, Infrastructure & Planning Committee:** SVP Alan Gilbert reported that the committee focused on two issues: budget and facilities. He shared a budget presentation which he hopes to present more broadly to the campus community. Three facilities surveys were administered. Data gathered is being used to make better decisions about where to deploy resources and attention. He stated a need to improve signage and communication.
6. **Report from the Faculty/Student Relations Committee:** VP Jackson reviewed the issues discussed in committee. There is interest in place-based learning, and a re-branding of the BC in the City program. There is a desire to explore new strategies to enhance student participation on Faculty Council committees including a broader student selection pool. Lastly, there is a request to develop college policy regarding the schedule for final exams, and how to handle situations when students have conflicting exams times or multiple tests on a single day.
7. **Report from the Governance Committee:** Associate Provost Tammy Lewis said that the committee was asked by CLAS to consider a proposal, but then CUNY changed its student designation on the CUNY application form. Therefore, the issue is no longer about changing the name, but rather how to create a single undergraduate student government since this affects student fees.

8. New business: Mark Koegel (SGS) raised the issue of communication to students. He noted that students often raised concerns about the College using social media, and suggests that the administration needs better communication with students on these platforms. Communications AVP Jason Carey noted that the college uses social media as a source of information about student concerns; however the college does not utilize student-driven platforms to answer or address institutional questions. Brooklyn College used its own social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as a source of information for students. Further, there are a multitude of platforms and information sources that Brooklyn College student use, such as CUNYfirst, the Bulldog Connection, BCPortal, and Blackboard, which further complicates information sharing. Lastly, student email account preferences (college-issued vs. private) present a challenge. Professor Hashmi noted that Professor Katherine Fry teaches media literacy, especially across generations, and advised that her department might be a helpful resource. The Provost referred the issue of Communications to the Faculty/Student Relations Committee for VP Jackson and AVP Carey to handle and report back at the April 17, 2019 meeting.