

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

Present: President Michelle Anderson (chair), Provost Anne Lopes, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Vice President Ronald Jackson, Associate Provost Tammy Lewis, Assistant Vice President Jason Carey, Dean April Bedford, Dean Maria Conelli, Dean Willie Hopkins, Acting Dean Kenneth Gould, Professor Yedidiah Langsam, Professor Jacqueline Shannon, Professor Myles Bassell, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Helen Phillips, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Prudence Cumberbatch, Professor Maria Contel, Professor Sharona Levy, Professor Sophia Suarez, Professor Jocelyn Wills, Eytan Galanter (CLAS), Alyssa Taylor (CLAS), Stephanie Ortega (CLAS), David Schyerynec (CLAS), Keith Magnussen (GSO), David Wells (GSO), Mark Koegel (SGS).

Absent: Chief Legal Officer Tony Thomas, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Mark Kobrak, Fay Yanofsky (SGS), Ashaney Ewen (SGS), Salma Mohamed (SGS), Jose Garcia (GSO), Moira Rousseau (GSO).

Non-voting: Chief Diversity Office Anthony Brown.

1. Approval of Minutes for February 27, 2019. Professor Langsam moved to approve the minutes pending the changes. The minutes were approved with one abstention.
2. President Anderson relayed the positive report from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The College met all the seven Standards, with 20 suggestions and 6 recommendations. The final vote by MSCHE will occur in June 2019.
3. Professor Langsam commended President Anderson following the explicit recognition of her leadership by the MSCHE. She has done a superb job in difficulty times.
4. President Anderson appropriately commended the Provost and all students, staff, administrators and faculty for their work, specifically, the evident embrace of BC's proposed Mission statement and commitment to students.
5. President Anderson highlighted the MSCHE's positive assessment of a Policy Council where staff, students and faculty collaborate as equals in deliberating policy issues.
6. President Anderson announced the impending elections for Policy Council membership. The process for the 2-year term will follow the usual procedures –a call for nominations of candidates and a vote by the full-time faculty. She encouraged current members to continue the service, highlighting the importance of continuity.
7. In response to security issues raised at the Nov. 11, 2018 Policy Council meeting, SVP Alan Gilbert's report from the Fiscal, Planning and Infrastructure Committee was as follows:
 - Brooklyn College Association needs to reimburse the State for salary and fringe benefits costs for campus peace officers working on student events that occur after hours.

- Principal of Brooklyn College Academy addressed the student body about the noise on the West Quad from Brooklyn College Academy high school students at dismissal. In addition, the officer assigned to BCA is stationed on the Quad during dismissal. There has been a welcome reduction in complaints.
- The NYPD were notified of traffic, double-parking, pedestrian intersection blocking and vehicular speed on Bedford Avenue so that traffic rules can be enforced. BC public security can only urge compliance of drivers parked in crosswalk move.
- The unstaffed exits in James, New Ingersoll and Roosevelt will remain closed until further notice. To be opened with staff would require additional resources for personnel. GSO President Keith Magnussen expressed concern about the lack of security in James Hall. SVP Gilbert stated that BC Public Safety regularly paroles the campus on foot, bikes, and in vans.
- Public Safety has opened more gates for easier access, specifically the gates on either side of Bedford Avenue so that students are not forced to access a narrow entrance.

8. Future of undergraduate student government

President Anderson called for a vote on the proposed amendments from the Governance Committee regarding the composition and merger of CLAS and SBS into a single undergraduate student government. Deliberations centered on a range of factors; a) due process to reflect the diverse positions on the move; b) calls for postponement given the gravity of the decision; c) financial implications for further delay on the vote and subsequent referendum before the academic year-end; d) implications for forthcoming student government elections; e) the role of the Board of Directors in resolving contentious decisions at the College level; and f) the timeline for resolving the matter at hand. President Anderson urged parties to attend the scheduled meeting on 3/28/2019, to find a consensus. GSO Kenneth Magnusson offered a friendly amendment to select a generic name for the undergraduate student government. The Governance Committee proposal to revise the Brooklyn College Governance Plan related to student government was approved unanimously. The proposed revision will be submitted to the Board of Trustees. The ratio of student representation on Faculty Council will remain unchanged relative to the Administration and faculty.

9. Enhancing student engagement on Faculty Council Committees

Students are concerned about their lack of representation on Faculty Council committees. Faculty spoke of attempts made to include students. Student bodies should create new avenues to address the lack of representatives; those who are willing are overstretched and serve on a number of committees. Various suggestions were made: a) have alternatives for each position; b) open nominations beyond members of student government; c) have faculty nominate students; d) faculty flexibility in scheduling committee meetings; and e) reports to chairs of Faculty Council and student government about the lack of participation by student representatives.