

The College Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: Edison O. Jackson Auditorium (AB1 L)

Attendance: Fifty-five (55) members of the Council were present at the meeting. The minimum to meet the quorum is forty-three (43).

Minutes by Agenda Item

I. Call to Order

President Patricia Ramsey called the meeting to order at 11:40 am. Delay due to lack of quorum.

II. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the November 16 meeting

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the November 16 meeting minutes was seconded and unanimously approved.

III. The President's Report

CUNY is moving toward a total return to on-site work for staff but extended the current requirement of 70% to be in effect until June 30. Remote work agreements for medical/disability accommodations must align with ADA Federal Guidelines, follow CUNY procedures, and be approved each semester. Also, CUNY requires that each campus develop a 2% Budget Savings Plan.

The President plans to examine all expenses and establish an inclusive plan, to meet the college's budget situation head-on. Of note, the new faculty positions are funded by the State, so CUNY's budgeting decisions will not impact these. Our student nonpayment is a significant component of the deficit; the student tuition paid rate is 70%.

Comments:

- Some faculty in Liberal Arts are impacted by the construction at the Carrol St. site and have requested remote accommodations.
- The President encourages the reinstatement of the Continuing Adult Education program(suspended for the past few years), provided it is self-sustaining.
- Departments with few majors are concerned about a focus on revenue-producing programs. Presently, CUNY plans to maintain small degree programs. There are discussions about leveraging online programs.

IV. Standing Committee Reports or Announcements: Administrative Advisory, College-wide Curriculum, Governance, and Student Life

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- 1) Advisory Committee (Z. Blair, chair): The committee discussed decentralizing advising by placing academic advisors in departments; having consultation between academic councils and department chairs; and better inclusion of ASAP, SEEK, and CHAAMP.
- 2) Governance Committee (V. Chevalier, chair): The committee discussed the role and status of the Academic Standards and Regulations Committee and a preamble for the Governance Plan. The committee will develop language and deliver it to the Executive Board by February.
- 3) Student Life Committee is chaired by Jesse Kane, senior vice-president, who will report in February 2023.
- 4) Curriculum Committee (T. Johnson, chair): The committee chair presented the ENG 318 - Writing in New Media course, which has received approval from the committee and the Executive Board.

V. Council Vote on ENGL 318 Course Proposal

A motion to vote on the approval of ENG 318 was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion:

- A Mass Communication Dept. (MCD) representative questioned whether the Curriculum Committee had followed proper procedure in its approval process, then motioned to 'send the course back to the Curriculum Committee for a new vote.'
- The Curriculum Committee voting process yielded (8 members voted by electronic-live ballot) six yea and two abstentions.

Parliamentarian Irick halted the discussion, redirected the order of action, and directed the Council members to vote on the original motion (by show of hands); the outcome was 24 yea, 2 nays¹, and 14 abstained.

Further comments:

- The discourse continued and deteriorated sharply; some members expressed that the voting procedure was improper, and that open floor debate was stopped intentionally, a suggestion that the departments involved be allowed (the Provost had heard from both departments (MCD and English))
- MCD is concerned that the course will create a challenge in attracting majors; however, across CUNY, media writing courses exist outside of media-related programs/departments. It is best practice to provide interdisciplinary learning experiences, and writing across the disciplines became an emphasis decades ago.

The motion to approve ENGL 318 was seconded. The vote count was 24- yea and 14 abstain.

VI. MEC Care Team

Dean McLean reported that this team supports students experiencing mental health challenges. It has existed for 5+ years, and a Care Team website is under development to inform the study body its role and accessibility.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Minutes prepared by Gelongia L. Dent, executive secretary. Approved on March 22, 2023



¹ The nay votes were recorded, but were later determined to be invalid.