

MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

MARCH 13, 2023

In Attendance:

Dr. Victoria A. Chevalier, Chair (Faculty)
Dr. Ken Irish-Bramble (Faculty)
Dr. William Carr (Faculty)
Dr. Harsha Rajapaske (Faculty)
Dr. Kathleen Barker (Faculty)
Dr. Donna Wright (Faculty)
Prof. Jade Robertson (Faculty)
Prof. Gregorio Mayers (Faculty)
Ms. Julie Augustin (HEO Elect)
Ms. Grace Carter-St. Hill
Shirley Irick, Esq. President's Designee

Absent:

Ms. Katie Davis (Community Council)
Ms. Paige Adjara (Elected Student)
Ms. Joanna Dorsey (Pres. SGA)
Mr. Lucius Priester (Pres. Alumni Assoc.)
CLT/HEO elected member

1. **Chair's Call to Order:** 11:36 AM.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Dr. Carr and seconded by Ms. Augustin. The agenda was unanimously approved, 10/0/0.
3. **Approval of the February 6, 2023 Minutes:** Dr. Carr motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dr. Rajapakse. The minutes were unanimously approved, 10/0/0.
4. **New Business:** A discussion was held concerning the status of the General Education Committee and the need to have language introduced to the Governance Plan recognizing this committee. It was noted that the General Education Committee is not part of the current Governance Plan. Chairperson Chevalier presented the charge and composition of the General Education Committee, and invited Dr. Carr, current Chair of Gen. Ed., to speak to the centrality of the Gen Ed. Curriculum at the College.
5. The benefits of formalizing this committee in the governance plan were discussed. Questions were raised about whether the existing General Education Committee is now a standing committee of College Council due to a statement in the 2008 Gen. Ed document. Dr. Wright suggested that the minutes from the Oct. 27, 2008 College Council minutes should be reviewed for clarity regarding committee status. Dr. Carr pointed out that the Gen. Ed. Committee is not currently recognized by the President, Chair of College Council, as a standing committee. Language on the charge and composition of Gen. Ed Comm was read by Chair Chevalier. Discussion ensued. Dr. Rajapaske asked if there was a disadvantage to adding it to the governance plan? No clear disadvantages were identified by anyone on the Committee.
6. A motion to vote that the General Education Committee be added to the Governance Plan was made by Dr. Kathleen Barker and seconded by Professor Gregorio Mayers, Esq.
7. The vote passed unanimously, 10/0/0 at 12:19PM.
8. **Old Business:** Chairperson Chevalier reopened the question of support for writing a "preamble" to the governance plan. The majority of committee members expressed their support for writing a preamble. Dr. Irish-Bramble stated that it was not a priority for

him. Dr. Barker noted that other priorities also existed including addressing the issue of College Council term limits.

9. Discussion ensued regarding the imposition of term limits in the current Governance Plan.
10. **New Business** (cont'd): Dr. Carr asked about the provision of key documents to College Council members prior to meeting, so that members could properly review documents before being called to discuss and vote upon them. Ms. Irick noted official rules that indicated that documents should be provided 72 hrs. in advance of the meeting.
11. Ms. Irick questioned whether attention should be paid to Article 8: Subsection 1, A & B. Ms. Irick noted that issues pertaining to the wording of this section had implications for existing and future grievances. The clear and necessary distinction between the work and role of college governance and union grievances was cited by Dr. Chevalier. Discussion ensued regarding the profound differences in work between faculty titles. Dr. Barker noted to Counsel Irick that the current Medgar Evers College Governance Plan reproduces the precise language of the CUNY Bylaws regarding each title, and the composition of specific Department Committees. Dr. Chevalier pointed out the specific role of governance language and its work, which remains uninfluenced by any grievance at any time, and emphasized the necessary separation of governance proceedings, and union grievances for the productive work of each body.
12. Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Donna Wright and seconded by Dr. Kathleen Barker. Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Ken Irish-Bramble
Secretary, *Pro-tem*