

MINUTES OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE
MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE
May 8, 2023

In Attendance:

Dr. Victoria A. Chevalier, (Chair)
Ms. Grace Carter-St. Hill, (Classified Civil Service)
Ms. Julie Augustin, (HEO Elect)
Dr. William Carr, (Faculty)
Ms. Shirley Irick, Esq. (President's Designee)
Professor Gregorio Mayers, (Faculty)
Dr. Harsha Rajapaske, (Faculty)
Professor Jade Robertson, (Faculty)
Dr. Donna Wright, (Faculty) via Zoom

Absent:

Dr. Kathleen Barker, (Faculty)
Dr. Ken Irish-Bramble, (Faculty)
Katie Davis, (Community Council)
Ms. Paige Adjara, (Elected Student)
Ms. Joanna Dorsey, (President, SGA)
Mr. Lucius Priester, (Alumni Assoc.)
CLT/HEO, (Elected Member)

1. **Call to Order:** 12:17PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Professor Mayers motioned to approve the Agenda. Ms. Augustin seconded. Agenda was approved unanimously 9-0-0.
3. **Approval of April 19, 2023 minutes.** Ms. Augustin motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. William Carr seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously 9-0-0.
4. **New Business:** Dr. Chevalier read Prof. Maggio's, extensive email outlining her concerns and needing the Governance Committee to clarify the process and election of membership to the College Council.

Dr. Maggio questioned if Dr. Crump was eligible to serve another term, as he had been elected Alternate for two, consecutive terms.

Discussion ensued as to whether Dr. Crump was "appointed," or elected. It was clarified that "appointments" are not made to College Council seats.

The Governance Committee unanimously voted to uphold the language of the 2017 Amended Governance Plan Article 2, Sections 2 and 3. The language is as follows:

"Section Two: Term of Service. The elected members of the College Council shall serve for two years. No elected member of the College Council shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.;"

"Section Three: Alternates. The faculty, voting by School, shall elect ten alternates at large in proportion to the number of faculty at each School; however, each School shall have at least one alternate. The students, voting by School, shall elect eight alternates, two from each;"

5. **Old Business: Term Limits**

A discussion ensued about the position and powers of elected Alternate members to College Council. Ms. Augustin suggested that Alternates you do not fully get to participate for the Two Years Terms. It is like wasting one of your Terms, they do not have a voice, they do not get to be heard and they do not get to vote. Counsel Irick pointed out that the role of Alternate is laid out in the 2017 Amended Governance Plan; therefore, the role of Alternate(s) is clear.

On the point of term limits generally in College Council roles, discussion ensued. Dr. Carr suggested that term limits provide a way for more junior faculty to serve. Another point was made that without term limits, College Council members could “serve indefinitely.” Dr. Chevalier pointed out that one does not need the “speed bump” of the Term Limits. You, the body, have the right to vote people in or out of Term.

Dr. Chevalier pointed out that another issue arising from this discussion includes members of College Council who, although elected, do not attend the meetings. The Committee briefly discussed the issue, and a decision with vote was quickly made on the below language from the 1992 Revised Governance Plan regarding “loss of membership.”

“Section 10. Loss of Membership; An elected voting member of the College Council who has been absent for three consecutive meeting shall lose membership. Nonfiction to that effect will be transmitted to the respective constituency for selection of a successor for the unexpired term. Voting members of the College Council who are serving by virtue of a position shall lose membership upon termination in the position. Voting members entitled to an alternate under this plan or the **By-laws** of the City University of New York, may be represented by that alternate at the Council’s Meetings. The presence of the alternate shall constitute an excused absence for that member.”

Dr. Chevalier called for a vote on this language to be amended in our current 2017 Amended Governance Plan. The vote was 8 Yes, 0 Abstentions, 0 No.

6. Chair’s Remarks and Salutations:

Dr. Victoria A. Chevalier thanked everyone for their passionate work over the duration of her brief time as Chair of Governance Committee. For those who work in the African Diaspora literature and culture, Dr. Chevalier recognized a general in the field, Dr. James De Jongh who had passed on May 5, 2023. She noted his text, *Vicious Modernism: Black Harlem and the Literary Imagination* (Cambridge, 1990), was the first that insisted the field of African American literary studies surrender its narrow lens of exceptionalism toward the more historically accurate lens of diaspora; in response, the field sent up the white flag, and bent to Dr. de Jongh’s argument. Forever changed, this development institutionally restructured and remade the field’s current and crucial focus on African American production in the context of global diasporas.

Professor Gregorio Mayers asserted that Dr. James de Jongh was acknowledged by the State Legislators, and that the Speaker had referenced him during his speech at the last Assembly.

The Committee recognized Dr. Chevalier for her service and leadership.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Counsel Irick and seconded by Ms. Augustin. Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ms. Grace Carter-St. Hill
Secretary, *Pro-tem*