

College Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: Virtual conference via Zoom

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 AM with President Patricia Ramsey presiding with a quorum.

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and passed unanimously¹.

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 21 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

III. President's Report

New York State Senator Zellnor Myrie named Medgar Evers College as the lead CUNY partner with the SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry for the new Environmental Science Climate Careers program (with an emphasis on social justice). The program will provide summer research training at Adirondack Park (Timbuctoo Pipeline Summer Climate and Careers Institute) to MEC and Central Brooklyn high school students. The program's goal is to expose students to careers in environmental science. The program's fund is \$2.1M. Later today, the Accelerated Nursing Program is being presented to the CUNY Academic Affairs Committee – presenters will be President Ramsey and Dr. Shirly Daniels. Additionally, the CUNY Board will decide on the approval of the MEC Honorary Degree candidates (Earl Monroe and Sandra Richards). President Ramsey was selected to join Chancellor Rodriguez's CUNY college president delegation to Israel with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York for its 'Scholars as Bridge Builders' (April 26 – May 4) visit. Dr. Kimberly Whitehead, the senior vice-president, will preside over the College during her absence.

A. Comments

1. Dr. Greene readdressed the selection of the Honorary Degree candidates and stated it is unclear if the Council had ever voted on them but that it should vote since the recipients will possess all the rights of the academic degrees. While serving on the Faculty Senate, she was asked (by the Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs for CUNY and the Faculty Senate chairperson) if the Council voted on the honorary candidates, which indicated an expectation of such a vote.
2. Dr. Egbe offered those past honorary candidates, similarly to the certification of the college graduates, were presented to the Council only for a symbolic vote.

B. Actions

¹Silent Voting. A unanimous vote means there were no verbal votes of 'no' or 'abstain' by any voting member of the College Council.

1. Dr. B Greene motioned that the College Council accept the nominees for the Honorary Degrees, and the candidates with their qualifications to be formally announced to the Council and it was seconded.
2. Dr. A. Green, chair of the Honorary Degree Committee, announced the candidates (she offered to share their biographies):
 - i Earl Monroe, New York Knicks Hall of Famer. He is an activist and founder of the Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School in the Bronx, NY. He has secured corporate sponsorships to revitalize activity spaces for youths in the Crown Heights neighborhood and supports fundraising efforts for the College. His academic training is in Education. Sandra Richards, vice-president at Morgan Stanley, is an advocate for students and supports efforts to raise funding for scholarships. Her academic training is in finance and business.
 - ii The candidates will receive the degree of Humane Letters
3. The vote to accept the nominee was put forth by President Ramsey. The vote to accept all candidates for the Honorary Degree was unanimous.

IV. Old Business
None

V. Curriculum Program Presentations

Dr. Susan Fischer and Dr. Brenda Greene, presented the new African Diaspora Literature (ADL) Bachelor of Arts program and the new course, Orientation to English Studies.

A. African Diaspora Literature BA program. The presenters gave an overview of the ADL program, highlighting its significance that only two CUNY senior colleges are without any degree program that focuses on the African diaspora. The main component of this degree program is that it focuses on literature and literary research. The new course emphasizes conducting research and writing in the discipline of literature. The program hopefully will excite both MEC students and those across CUNY by allowing an open curriculum and utilizing the online option.

1. Dean Ethan Gologor asked whether students must have a minor? Unlike other English programs, there is no concentration in the ADL. Students have the option to take it as a minor. An amendment to the question inquired about course options for students who do not take a Dr. Fischer responded that students fill requirements for a minor with whatever courses they like.

B. Actions

1. Dr. Egbe motioned to approve the course, Orientation to English Studies. It was seconded and unanimously passed.
2. Dr. Ford motioned that the Council approves the African Diaspora Literature BA program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Special Committee to reestablish the Academic Standards and Regulations Committee
Shirley Irick, parliamentarian, provided the purpose and a means to reinstate the Academic Standards and Regulations Committee (ASRC). The ASRC plays a critical role in the student academic appeals process, and the College is out of compliance without its functioning. It was traditionally a standing committee of the Council and likely inadvertently removed in the last revision of the Governance Plan issued by CUNY. Reestablishing it can happen through amending the Governance Plan or establishing a special committee (by Article 7 Section 4). Since this is an essential committee, The Executive Board has voted to establish the special committee upon Ms. Irick's recommendation and brings this to the Council for its input and vote.

A. Comments and Questions:

1. The College is violating its accreditation by operating without the ASRC.

2. Is the ASRC connected to an Academic Integrity Committee? If not, there is a need for an integrity-focused committee to exist. Pres. Ramsey clarified that 'integrity' is part of its charge.
 3. Dr. Ezuma suggested that Governance Committee should vote, first, to establish the ARSC and bring it to the Council. Ms. Irick responded that the Governance Committee is aware of this issue and plans to address it (the official reinstatement of the ASRC) as part an amendment to the Governance Plan. Furthermore since the Executive Board has voted the College Council may now vote on the same action. The ASRC will be officially reestablished, by amendment, in the Governance Plan. Others reiterated that the urgency did not constitute bypassing the Governance Committee.
 4. President Ramsey clarified that this motion (if passed) is not to amend the Governance Plan and the status of the special committee would be addressed by the Governance Committee to change its status from a special committee to a standing committee by amendment.
 5. Dr. B. Greene supports establishing the ASRC as a special committee, and its membership comprises the registrar, the person who performs transfers, the academic integrity officer, and admissions. She also commented that Governance Plan must include the General Education Committee (created as a special committee).
- B. Actions
1. Dean Patwary motioned to that the College Council form the special committee for Academic Standing and Regulations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 2. Dean Patwary motioned that the Academic Standing and Regulations committee be composed of seven members: faculty members (4 elected by faculty), Office of Academic Affairs (1), Office of Student Success (1), and Student Government Association (1). Clarifying the Office of Student Success may determine who represents it (registrar or integrity officer).
 - i Comments and Questions:
 - (a) Dr. Ezuma suggested that the vice-president of Student Affairs take the lead on this committee. He asked why does each school have a representative? Faculty across the institution must be represented.
 - (b) Dean McLean stated that student representation is a FERPA violation since this committee is primarily an academic and adjudicates grades earned in an academic course and other academic grievances.
 - (c) Mr. Cane reiterated that this Committee evaluates the merit of appeals that would have already passed through three levels of grievance and added it should be small with a cross-section of representation.
 - (d) Dr. Blair reiterated that advisement must be represented as it is the student's advocate.
 3. A call to vote on motion (B2), yielded no objections and the motion passed unanimously. Then Dr. Greene requested that representatives of the Office of Student Success *be explicitly stated*. The parliamentarian directed that a friendly amendment to the stated motion encapsulate the request, and she nullified the vote.
 4. Dr. Greene offered a friendly amendment adding-- that the members of the committee include the advisement director and the academic integrity officer; and in place of the representatives of Student Success, the registrar, and the transfer coordinator (both ex-officio). Dean Patwary accepted the friendly amendment and restated the motion as follows: *the Special Committee for Academic Standing committee consists of nine members: faculty (4 total, one per school), Office of Academic Affairs (1), Director of*

Advisement, the Academic Integrity Officer, the Registrar (ex-Officio), and the Transfer Coordinator (ex-officio). The term of the service will be a maximum of two years.

i Comments:

(a) Ms. Augustin asked why the Student Success representatives are not voting members--the role of non-faculty members is to provide technical or procedural advice on matters beyond academics. All academic issues are in the purview of the faculty.

(b) Dr. Chevalier stated that before ASRC is officially reinstated by amendment, the Governance Committee should vote on a provision to include more faculty representation since they are essential to all academic-related matters.

5. A motion to accept the membership of the Academic Standing Committee as stated in item B-4 was seconded and unanimously passed.

VII. Committee Chair's Reports

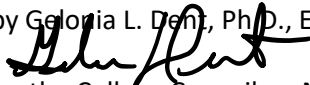
A. Curriculum Committee (T. Johnson, chair): The committee has reviewed 5 of the six programs it has received. Today is the last day to submit proposals for curriculum programs or courses.

B. General Education Committee: Dr. William Carr, chair clarified that the General Education Committee is not a standing committee of the College Council, and this should be addressed by the Governance Committee. Provost Sheehy has charged the Committee to work on the Freshman Year Experience, Honors Program, and General Education Curriculum. The committee's recent activities are:

1. The committee has met twice and established its governance (Robert's rule) including defining a quorum (3 faculty members) and creating a SharePoint site for document sharing —Dr. B. Greene shared that the OAA's SharePoint site already includes Gen Ed, which contains past reports, meeting minutes, and approved courses.
2. The committee reviewed a new course entitled 'Writing for New Media for the college option.
3. The committee will report any inconsistencies between the CUNY Pathways and the General Education Curriculum; and make the student learning outcomes (fixed and flexible, core and College options) accessible to the faculty.

VIII. Future Agenda Items: Collegiality Task Force

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by  Gelorgia L. Dent, Ph.D., Executive Secretary of the College Council

Minutes approved by the College Council on May 25, 2022