

Meeting Information

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: Founder's Auditorium (Bedford Building)

Meeting Minutes by Agenda Item

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 11:35 am.

II. Approval of Agenda

The President read the agenda items, then requested a motion to approve the meeting agenda, which was seconded and approved unanimously by 'yea'.

III. Approval of meeting minutes from December 11, 2023

A motion to approve the 12/11/23 meeting minutes was seconded and unanimously approved by 'yea' vote.

Note: The meeting minutes for February provide a summary of the President's remarks. No official business was conducted since there was no quorum.

IV. The President's Report

The President reported that the US Department of Education has changed the FAFSA application process, which has technical issues that have hindered students' ability to complete the forms. CUNY campuses will make accommodations to assist students in filing their forms.

Medgar Evers College received 1M dollars last year to be used to inform and promote advocacy for green job initiatives, cyber security, and artificial intelligence; job readiness in these areas has given rise to associate degree or certificate programs rather than the traditional four-year degree to attain employment. However, the forecast is that AI will replace entry-level jobs, so colleges and universities must be mindful of their long-term goals in providing educational programs and degrees that will remain relevant in the workforce.

V. Introduction of College Council Standing Committee Chairpersons

Dr. Susan Fisher will serve as chair of the Curriculum Committee. No other chairs have been selected at the time of this meeting.

VI. Re-alignment of Departments: Philosophy and Religious Studies, and World Languages and Cultures

Provost Coleman reported that due to the size of the faculty these departments must be dismantled or merged according to the bylaws of CUNY. The remedy is (1) to move PRS under the department of

Social and Behavioral Sciences, and (2) merge WLC with the English Department to become the Department of English and World Languages. There will be no changes to either programs' curriculum or degrees.

A motion to adopt the forementioned remedies (1 and 2), was seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote of '1' by the body.

VII. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Committee on Governance

Committee member, E. Catapane, reported that the committee has met and are awaiting their committee vote results for its chair and secretary.

b. Committee on Administrative Advisory – no report

c. Committee on Student Life – no report

d. Committee on College-wide Curriculum

Dr. Fischer reported that the committee has met twice and approved several courses.

VIII. New Course/Programs – “Biology Department: Intersections Between Race, Biology, and Technology: More than Skin Deep” (vote item)

Dr. Kalamar presented the course details stating that it will cover biological and societal underpinnings of the effects of race on developing AI based technologies and their impact on human health outcomes. For example, AI is being used to diagnose melanomas and falsely identifies melanoma on darker skin. Who or what corrects these types of errors. Students will learn how to conduct research using the wide concept of race critically, and how to navigate AI jobs, which will afford biology students to work from a different perspective.

Comments:

- E. Catapane offered that this course would be the first course of its kind in CUNY and nationwide.
- The course is in the General Education flexible core.
- B. Greene commended the designers of the course as being very timely in addressing the nuances around race.
- E. Castro recommended that MECS STEP programs would be a good audience for this course.

A motion to accept BIO 206 into the Biology Department curricula (S. Fischer) was seconded and unanimously approved by 'yea'.

IX. Announcement of Honorary Degree Candidates

All candidates must be vetted for their academic work and connection to CUNY. Our faculty voted on the candidates were so close that the Executive Board put forth all three candidates.

- Dr. Tarika Barret, founder of Girls Who Code – work with girls to promote their learning in computer science (major) CUNY alumna for Doctorate of Humane Letters
- Gilyard poet from Penn State, CUNY graduate, poet, and promoter of minorities in the arts. (Doctorate of Letters)
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, author, (Doctorate of Letters)

A motion to adjourn was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.