

Meeting Information

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: Founder's Auditorium (Bedford Building)

Minutes by Agenda Item

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called order at 11:45 AM with a quorum.

II. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

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

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

III. The President's Report

- The President addressed the recent decision to uninvite a controversial speaker from campus, emphasizing the importance of *time, place, and manner* in relation to freedom of speech.
- The President provided an update on outstanding tuition payments, clarifying the distinction between a student's balance and their refund.
- At the recent AACU meeting, presidents were briefed on potential changes to the Department of Education under the incoming administration. While the DOE may not be dismantled, its scope could shift significantly. Additionally, under Secretary DeVos, recent changes to Title IX must be followed.
- **Middle States Update:** A complaint was recently filed, citing noncompliance with Standards 2 and 5. The College responded thoroughly, and President Ramsey read aloud Middle States' response, which cleared the College of any wrongdoing. All policies and procedures are currently under review as part of the Self-Study process.
- Lastly, the CUNY Holiday Giving Campaign (12/2–12/25) primarily reports on the percentage of participation rather than the contribution amount of any participant.

IV. Update on Education Master's degree program proposal

The Urban Education master's degree program proposal was designed to meet both NYSED and CUNY requirements. However, CUNY has issued a "hard stop," informing OAA that the master plan must be revised, as it requires an approved program.

The following are reported responses from CUNY OAA regarding the proposal:

- OAA referenced CUNY's advertised master plan directives, stating that the College had adhered to all instructions. In 2023, the College was granted approval to proceed under the direction of Dean Sheila Paul.
- Erroneously claimed that the College does not have approval for an undergraduate program in Early Childhood Education, however, CUNY approved the Early Childhood Education program in 2022.
- A dual certification in a bilingual program is required, which the College currently offers at the undergraduate level.
- It was suggested that Medgar Evers College partner with an existing CUNY master's program, focusing on its undergraduate program while collaborating with K-12 schools. Some feedback included, "You are not ready," and recommendations to work with Brooklyn College, directing students there for a master's degree.

The Provost stated, *"It is not a requirement in higher education to have an undergraduate program before establishing a master's-level program in a given field. The Department of Early Childhood Development is fully qualified to deliver an academic program in Urban Education. Thankfully, since CUNY has denied reviewing the proposal, it does not have access to the complete program, ensuring that its intellectual property remains protected."*

Comments:

- Dean Hoyte responded, emphasizing that *"this program would serve as a feeder to CUNY's doctoral program in Urban Education."*
- Medgar Evers College established the first minor program in Urban Education.
- Similar initiatives have occurred in the past, including within the Department of Accounting and the Accelerated BA program.
- Notably, the College of Staten Island, which began at the same time as Medgar Evers College, offers doctoral degrees.

- Dean Castro highlighted the College's long-standing engagement with K-12 schools and stressed the importance of leveraging city council support.
- Significant changes are expected at CUNY OAA in the coming months, and President Ramsey plans to address this issue directly with the Chancellor.

V. Nominations for Student Life Committee representative

Sherril Ann Mason nominated Jade Robertson. No more nominations were put forth.

A motion to close the nominations was seconded and unanimously passed.

A motion to elect Professor Robertson to the SLC was seconded and unanimously passed.

VI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Committee on Governance

Dr. Catapane reported that work continues.

B. Committee on College-wide Curriculum

English 336 ENG 336 Gender, Sexuality, and the Black Romance Novel (presented by Donna Hill)

This is a unique course that bridges professional and creative writing, opening career opportunities in the publishing industry, particularly in the highest-grossing genre—romance. The Romance Writers of America (RWA), the largest organization for romance writers, underwent significant changes to accommodate the growing presence of Black romance authors. The course will be offered synchronously and accessible to all CUNY students.

Comments:

- Will the course ever be offered in person in the future? Yes, this is a possibility as this will be a rotating course.

A motion to accept ENG 336 for approval as a new course and a general education option course. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by vote of 'yea'.

C. Administrative Advisory Committee

No report, the committee will meet in February

VII. Committee on Student Life

The committee met on Nov. 20, and SVP Kane was elected as chair. Student satisfaction survey (SSS 25) will be launched in the spring semester, the current instrument will be distributed for review and revision.

VIII. Committee on General Education

Provost Coleman reported that the final version of the syllabus has been submitted to OAA and approved. The templated has been released to all Deans. The committee is working on comparing outcomes of modality of all general education courses.

IX. Announcements

- Last year our textbook adoption was poorly ranked (37.9%) . NYSED and DOE observe this statistic. This year we are at 99.6% adoption rate. “Only McCauley Honor’s ranked higher, but it’s not a college“
- Anne Bush, VP of the Community Council, is representing the CC in place of Gloria Wilson.
- School of Business will be hosting a Meet and Greet event.
- Dr. Chevalier will be teaching The Harlem Renaissance in the spring semester.
- Arts Alive program hosted by the Department of Media Studies is **today at 7:00 PM.**
- Dr. Blount, stress free zone events held daily in the lobby of AB1 1:00 PM (food, relaxation treatments and exercises, etc.)
- MEC leadership attended the birthday celebration of Congresswoman Yvette Clark (Medgar Evers advocate) who is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM.