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**College-Wide Senate General Meeting via Zoom**

**Thursday, December 17, 2020**

**3:30-5:00 pm**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* Allied Health: Professors Ronette Shaw, Rayola Chelladurai and Diana Macri
* Behavioral and Social Sciences: Professors Nancy Genova, Ernest Ialongo (Chairperson),
* Business: Professors Claude Fernandez and Sandy Figueroa
* Counseling: Professor Lizette Colon
* English: Professors Krystyna Michael, Alexandra Milsom, Tram Nguyen
* Education: Professors Jacqueline DiSanto, Eunice Flemister, Michael Gosset
* Gittleson Representative: Mr. Clifton Pierce
* Humanities: Professors Thomas Beachdel, Weldon Williams, Catherine Lewis, Natasha Yannacanedo
* Language and Cognition: Professor Mildred Rabry, Karin Lundberg
* Library:  Professor Jorge Matos
* Mathematics: Professors Alexander Vaninsky, Edme Soho, Moise Koffi
* Natural Sciences: Professors John Gillen
* Higher Education Officers (HEO): Mr. Carlos Rivera, Ms. Silvia Reyes, Mr. Theos Mejia, Ms. Alba Lynch, Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun, Ms. Daliz Perez Cabezas, Ms. Carmen Sosa, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Iber Poma, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethel, Ms. Yvonne Rosario- Quiroz, Ms. Mercedes Moscat
* University Faculty Senate (UFS): Professors Anna Ozuna, Gail August, Julie Trachman
* PSC- Professor Craig Bernardini
* Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives: Professors Hector Soto, Clara Nieto-Wire
* Adjunct Representatives: Professors Ruben Worrell
* Student Government Association Representatives (SGA): Mr. Muiz Agbaje, Ms. Leana Santana, Ms. Amdiya Kyemtore, Mr. Brian Carter, Mr. Abdul Abubakar, Ms. Denisse Feliz, Mr. Charles Dour, Mr. Hatem Anaam, Ms. Isabel Neira Sanchez

**Absent:**

* Behavioral and Social Sciences: Professor Felipe Pimentel
* CLT Representative: Mr. Marino Corniel
* Education: Professor Iris Mercado
* Humanities: Professors Humberto Ballesteros, Emmanuel Velayos
* Senate At-Large Faculty: Professor James Kennis, Andrew Connolly,
* Public Safety/Maintenance: PS Officer Clara Albino
* Adjunct Representative: Professor Ana Lopez
* Student Government Association: Ms. Lusleidy Perez, Ms. Monsita Colon, Mr. Mohamed Nashir, Ms. Reyna Soto, Ms. Susan Cortez, Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed

**Excused Absence:**

* Natural Sciences: Professor Debasish Roy
* HEOs: Ms. Safiya Faustin

**1.Call to Order**

* Quorum established at 3:33 PM.
* Senate called to order at 3:38 PM

Rollcall completed. All Senators’ names called. Attendance taken.

**2.Acceptance of Agenda**

* Motion was made to accept the agenda. Professor Thomas Beachdel seconded the motion. The vote was taken on the motion: 44 members approved the agenda.

**3.Approval of November 19, 2020, Senate Minutes**

* The minutes of November 19, 2020, were accepted as pre-circulated.

**4.Chair’s Report**

SEC Report on Professor Kennis’s Email of Saturday, December 12 (and previous public communications)

* Last Saturday morning Professor Kennis, the former Chair of the Senate Elections Committee, sent out an email to full time faculty voters announcing the results of Round 7 of the At Large Faculty Senators election, and that no victor had emerged
* He also announced his resignation from the Elections Committee, his going on Travia in the spring, and more to the point, engaged in another public attack of Senate leadership and their purported interference in elections
* The Senate Executive Committee discussed this email; and the results of our meeting are as follows:
  + The Senate Executive Committee unequivocally denounced the tone of these emails as a profound breach of decorum which each Senator is expected to uphold in the conduct of Senate business, both within and outside of Senate proceedings
  + As to election procedures, the Senate Executive Committee reiterated that, regardless of past practice, the Charter of Governance and the Elections Manual are explicit in their handling of At-Large Faculty Senator elections, and that any means necessary for dealing with such elections that are not currently in our governing documents require Senate approval; this was the process followed at the last Senate meeting
  + To be clear, if a recommendation had been made by the Elections Committee at the last Senate meeting that the next round of this election should be a plurality, or that the Elections Committee should be empowered by the Senate to drop the lowest vote getter after a round that had failed to produce a winner in this particular election, that would have been procedurally in order
  + Finally, the Senate Executive Committee expressed concern that this latest public email defaming Senate leadership continued a pattern of three such public emails the week after Columbus Day weekend, despite all formal complaint procedures being followed by the persons targeted in said emails, and the hostile work environment such messages create for the college community. The Senate Executive Committee expressed hope that the individual members of the college community, the Senate, and the college administration would all collectively work together to maintain the positive community necessary during our remote work environment to achieve the mission of the college.
* Going forward, the Committee on Committees will be in touch with the Elections Committee to help ensure that all necessary elections are completed early in the spring semester

Highlights of Senate and Senate Committee work:

Committee on Committees

* Staffed all committees, and all committees have elected their chairs and recording secretaries
* By end of Dec Senate 8 committees will have reported

Scholarships and Awards Committee

* For the first time, we will recognize students who made it on the President List (same requirement as Deans List but with a GPA of 4.00).
* Working with Office of Institutional Advancement (OIA) to Secure the GAEF (General Academic Excellence Fund) that recognizes students who have barreled through to excel despite the hardship they are faced with. ​
* Contacted Departments to obtain Awards & Descriptions this semester to plan on Virtual Convocation Framework

College-Wide Curriculum Committee

* Revision of the Procedures Manual
* Number of course revisions that passed: 43
* Number of new courses that passed: 22
* Number of program revisions that passed: 6
* Number of Pathways courses that passed: 2

Library

During Fall 2020, the SLC has been laying the groundwork for a service learning project in collaboration with faculty in the animation department, to work with students to develop 30-second animated library tips. This work will take place during Spring of 2021

Senate

* Website continues to be updated with new members of committees, agendas and minutes of all committee and Senate meetings
* Senate Executive Committee continues the process of creating the Academic Integrity Committee
* Charter amendments completed last spring will be presented to President within the week for delivery to CUNY Central

**5.President’s Comments**

Interim President Daisy Cocco De Filippis made the following comments:

* The complaints that the SEC has referenced have been followed up and is being handled through the various departments.
* Everyone should read the Hostos Weekly in which articles and announcements are submitted by faculty and the staff. Submissions to the Hostos Weekly is open to all members of the college community.
* Thank you for all of your hard work under unique circumstances.
* CR/NC: I have done everything in my power to respect governance. Hostos is one of 19 colleges to support the second option.
* I am grateful to the work of the Student Government Association
* I wish all of the Hostos family good health and rest. This has been a rough year for everyone in the college. I lost my stepfather to COVID.
* Big thank you to Professor Ialongo for a job well done.

**6.SGA President’s Comments (Prepared Comments)**

President Muiz Agbaje made the following comments:

Greetings to everybody. This is Muiz Agbaje, the president of the Student Government Association. It is both a pleasure and an honor. So I have been here all semester long and should be here one more time.

I am extremely proud of what this administration has done given the circumstances we are faced with. The pandemic has not been easy on the students, faculty, and leaders in the college. So coming out of it together is a great achievement. I would like to thank every faculty and members of the Senate that helped the SGA throughout the semester. We could not have done it without all the help and support. So once again thank you.

As the semester comes to an end, it is a bittersweet moment for me and some members of my administration who will be graduating. It has always been a dream of mine to become the President of the Student Government Association for this college and I would say it has been an honor. To members of my administration, I want to let you know that I could not have done it without you.

As we end this semester, I have a couple of messages to pass. We must not forget the reason we are here. We are here for the well-being of the college and most importantly for something to share in common which I hope is love for each other. We have to love and respect each other enough to be able to work together and maintain a healthy relationship. I believe we are the core of the college, and we need to exhibit the leadership that we possess. I am mentioning this because I am saddened by the series of uncomfortable communications someone sent to another member of our College Senate. I think there are better ways to handle some of these situations. I strongly believe that we should be setting the tone as we have been doing for years on the way this college should run. So I expect this will be the last time that there will be any form of uncomfortable communications towards one another.

The Student Government Association will begin preparation for next semester. As we close this semester, we will give away some of the items we purchased and just begin planning for the next semester. My senators have just completed their finals. So I would like to give them credit for the work they have done this semester. I would like to reiterate the importance for continuous respect and love for one another and collegiality over politics. Thank you.

**7.Curricular Items**

HLT 103, HLT 111, HLT 120 Course Revisions

Presented by Professor Elys Vasquez-Iscan

Professor Karin Lundberg made a motion to add ESL 86, or ESL 91. Professor Lizette Colon seconded the motion.

Professor Ialongo made the motion to end debate. Professor Tram seconded the motion. A hand vote was taken on the above amendment.

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 43 No 0 Abstain 0

The amendment passed.

Professor Colon made a motion to add ESL 86/88 and seconded by Professor Vasquez-Iscan.

The amendment to the pre-requisites is ENG 100 or ENG 110 or ESL 86/ESL 88, or ESL 91. A hand vote was taken:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 45. The amendment passed.

Professor Ialongo moved for an immediate vote on the amended courses’ pre-requisites of ENG 100 or ENG 110 or ESL 86/ESL 88, or ESL 91. Seconded by Professor Nguyen. A hand vote was taken on this motion:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 46. The motion to move to vote was passed.

The vote to the amended pre-requisites ENG 100 or ENG 110 or ESL 86/ESL 88, or ESL 91 was made.

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Poll opened for vote:

Yes 50 No 0 Abstain 1

The action passed.

HLT 124 Course Revision

Presented by Professor Elys Vasquez-Iscan

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 49 No 0 Abstain 2

The action passed.

ASAP 102, ASAP 103, ASAP 104 New Courses; ASAP 101 Course Revision

Presented by Ms. Laura McGowan

Poll opened for vote (combining the new courses and course revisions, no objections were raised):

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 50 No 1 Abstain 0

The action passed.

HIS 225 New Course

Presented by Professor Marcella Bencivenni.

Professor Diana Macri called the question. Professor Figueroa seconded the motion.

A hand vote was taken:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 38 No 3 Abstain 1

The action passed.

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 45 No 3 Abstain 3

The action passed.

CHE 110 Course Revision

Presented by Professor Mohammad Sohel.

Professor Nguyen made a motion to extend time to a half hour. Professor Ialongo seconded the motion.

A hand vote was taken.

Yes 36 No 4 Abstain 2 Invalid Vote 1

The action passed.

Professor Nguyen called the question.

A hand vote was taken.

Yes 36 No 1

The action went immediately to a vote.

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 46 No 0 Abstain 2

The action passed.

FS 225 AND FS 230 Course Revision

Presented by Professor Flor Henderson

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 47 No 1 Abstain 0

The action passed.

Program Revision for Black Studies

Presented by Professor Ana Ozuna.

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 48 No 0 Abstain 1

The action passed.

Program Revision for Office Technology

Presented by Professor Sandy Figueroa

Poll opened for vote:

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Professor Eunice Flemister voted YES

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted YES

Professor Tram Nguyen voted YES

Yes 48 No 0 Abstain 0

The action passed.

Professor Ialongo announced that this is the last Senate meeting that Professor Figueroa will present curriculum items to the College Senate and invited her to say a few words.

Professor Figueroa stated the following:

* Special thanks to the members of the College-Wide Curriculum Committee, especially those who have served for a number of years: Professor Kathleen Doyle, Professor Miriam Laskin, Professor Sherese Mitchell, Professor Felipe Pimentel, and Professor Olga Steinberg-Neifach
* Special, special thanks to Mr. Terrence Brown and Ms. Wendy Small-Taylor who kept us on our toes to make sure that all the pre/co-requisites and forms were in order to be presented at CUNY Central.
* Special recognition to former Dean Felix Cardona and Dean Mester for working with me to make sure that the curricular items were clear and for helping me with the logistics of the meeting.
* One final thank you to the members of the Senate Executive Committee for their support and cooperation.

Professor Ialongo thanked Professor Figueroa for her service.

**8.Non-Curricular Voting Items**

None.

**9.Reports of the Senate Standing Committees**

Professor Nguyen introduced the committee chairs who were reporting to the College Senate:

Professor Nguyen announced that Mr. Carlos Rivera is the chair of the Admissions and Retention Committee. However, Mr. Rivera asked that Professor Christine Hutchins and Mr. Fabian Wander present the report of the Admissions and Retention Committee.

Professor Nancy Genova presented the Affirmative Action Committee report.

Professor Ialongo presented the Budget and Finance Committee report.

**10.UFS Plenary December 1, 2020**

Presented by Professor Julie Trachman

I. Remarks by Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost J.L. Cruz:

1. As everyone knows, spring 2021 will be mostly online. Health considerations was the primary concern. CUNY is still waiting for waiver extensions for NYS Dept. of Education, i.e. has not been formalized yet.

2. CUNY continues to work on a number of issues including tech support, professional development initiatives, academic policies, etc.

3. With respect to our Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS), our contract is up soon. A task force is being set up to investigate the “next generation.”

4. With respect to enrollment, overall fall enrollment was down and this was especially so for community colleges. He noted this trend was seen even before the pandemic. On the flip side, there has been an increase in graduations (55,000 degrees given which is near the record number). For the spring, we have to “work” on admissions to increase new enrollment but also retention.

Following the remarks, there was time for Q and A:

1. A couple of faculty asked about the possibility of continuing the CR/NC policy from the spring semester including 1 faculty member from the Student Affairs Committee (which had just passed a resolution in support of continuing the CR/NC policy this fall). EVC Cruz indicated that there were a number of academic issues at play here which is why CUNY did not continue this policy across the university in the fall. These included issues that could arise regarding transfer of credits and license requirements. He indicated that each campus could decide individually to implement the policy again.
2. A question came up about use of cameras during exams. CUNY is working with SUNY on this issue. The latest guidance is on the website.
3. There were some comments as to how our “policies” are counterproductive with respect to student retention. For ex., the 15 credit per semester initiative was mentioned. EVC Cruz indicated this was a campaign, not a policy and there was data to support the idea that this helped with retention but also said there could be variable results at different campuses. Another ex. was the push to increase the number of students in each class, which is especially problematic with students taking online classes and even more so with students at community colleges.

II. Chair’s Report: Professor Burke:

1. mentioned that there was still no budget and nothing has been presented yet to the Board of Trustees. The Governor and Mayor are hoping there will be decisions soon. There is a need for more coherence in the spring and we should not be getting budget information month to month.
2. said that he believed that State Education looked ready to provide waivers (related to point above)
3. said the COACHE survey results had been presented before but the recommendations coming from the survey results will be rolled out later in the week. These recommendations will be shared on the List serve (note: these were then forwarded to campus faculty by me).

III. Other business:

1. The revision of Article II of the UFS Charter was tabled again.
2. There was some discussion regarding a resolution to create a new committee, the Community College Committee, from the existing Committee College Caucus.

**11.New Business**

None.

**12.Adjournment**

There being no further business of the College Senate, Professor Ialongo thanked the members of the College Senate and adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Professor Ialongo will send the calendar for the College Senate meetings for Spring 2021 semester.

Submitted by

Sandy Figueroa

Recording Secretary