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

**Thursday, November 19, 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), Felipe Pimentel
* **Business:** Professors Claude Fernandez and Sandy Figueroa
* **CLT Representative:** Mr. Marino Corniel
* **English:** Professors Krystyna Michael, Alexandra Milsom, Tram Nguyen
* **Education:** Professors Jacqueline DiSanto, Eunice Flemister, Michael Gosset, Iris Mercado
* **Gittleson Representative:** Mr. Clifton Pierce
* **Humanities:** Professors Humberto Ballesteros, Thomas Beachdel, Weldon Williams, Emmanuel Velayos, Catherine Lewis
* **Language and Cognition:** Professors Mildred Rabry, Karin Lundberg
* **Library:**  Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics:** Professors Alexander Vaninsky, Edme Soho, Moise Koffi
* **Natural Sciences:** Professors John Gillen, Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers (HEO):** Mr. Carlos Rivera, Ms. Silvia Reyes, Ms. Alba Lynch, Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun, Ms. Daliz Perez Cabezas, Ms. Carmen Sosa, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Iber Poma, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethel, Ms. Yvonne Rosario- Quiroz, Ms. Mercedes Moscat
* **Public Safety/Maintenance:** PS Officer Clara Albino
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS):** Professors Anna Ozuna, Gail August, Julie Trachman
* **PSC**- Prof. Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives:** Professors Hector Soto, Andrew Connolly, 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, Mr. Charles Dour, Ms. Monsita Colon, Mr. Mohamed Nashir, Mr. Hatem Anaam, Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed, Ms. Isabel Neira Sanchez

**Absent:**

* **Counseling:** Professor Lizette Colon
* **Language and Cognition:** Professors Mildred Rabry
* **Adjunct Faculty Representative:** Prof. Ana Lopez
* **Student Government Representatives:** Ms. Lusleidy Perez, Ms. Denisse Feliz, Ms. Reyna Soto, Ms. Susan Cortez

**Excused Absence:**

* **Higher Education Officers (HEO):** Ms. Safiya Faustin, Mr. Theudys Mejia, Mr. Michael Martinez
* **At Large Faculty:** Professor James Kennis

**1.Call to Order**

* Quorum established at 3:35 PM.
* Senate called to order at 3:35 PM

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

**2.Acceptance of Agenda**

Professor Mathew Moses asked if the recommendations from the Elections Committee can be placed on the agenda to move the elections. Professor Ialongo responded that the recommendation can be presented in Reports of the Senate Standing Committee.

Professor Tram Nguyen welcomed the report from the Library Committee. Chair Ialongo made a motion to accept the revised agenda as: Report from the Library Committee first, and the report from the Elections Committee will be second.

The vote was taken on the motion: 47 members approved the revision of the agenda. The revised agenda was approved.

**3.Approval of October 15, 2020, Senate Minutes**

There being no further discussion, the October 15, 2020, meeting minutes were accepted as amended adding Professor Thomas Beachdel and Ms. Mercedes Moscat who were listed as absent. They were in attendance at the meeting.

**4.Chair’s Report**

The Chair made the following announcements:

* The Senate Executive Committee consulted with Interim President Daisy Cocco De Filippis on the appointments to the Community Advisory Council. The appointments are: Professor Hector Soto, Professor Tram Nguyen, Professor Eunice Flemister, Ms. Mercedes Moscat, and Mr. Carlos Rivers. Professor Ialongo thanked the President for her support.
* The Senate COVID Task Force presented their report. There were concerns raised by some of the colleagues from Ed Tech and ETLC that their viewpoint during the Online Teaching Initiative were not fully represented in the report. There was a meeting with President Cocco De Filippis, Provost Charles Drago, Associate Dean Mester, Professor Jacqueline Di Santo, Mr. Carlos Guevara, and Professor Ialongo. They were invited to bring their concerns directly to the Task Force. Consensus was reached on how to incorporate all the points raised on both sides. The report will be published with the appropriate explanations and guidance. The Task Force looks forward to working with President as she had implemented many of the recommendation at the end of August and the beginning of September. There will be follow up.
* Professor Moses’ recommendation from the Elections Committee concerning Round 6 of the elections will be presented at the Report of the Standing Committee. The Senate Executive Committee wanted to address the tone of the e-mails that were circulated last month during the week of meeting of the College Senate. There were two e-mails that were sent out to the list of teaching faculty and included the members of the College Senate. There was a third e-mail that came out the day after the Senate meeting, where the members of the College Senate were not included. The Senate Executive Committee believes that any concerns regarding transparency or integrity that happens in the Senate must be dealt with in the Senate. Also, we must adhere to the rules of decorum, Robert’s Rules of Order, and professionalism in the meetings. Anyone can look at the College Senate website to see everything that is done in the College Senate. It should also be stated that the language of those e-mails if used in the College Senate meeting would be ruled out of order. There are procedures for dealing with such language in a public forum, and he encouraged anyone to use them. There are procedures for senators as well that we are bound to follow both in the Senate and when conducting ourselves as senators outside of the Senate meetings.

**5.President’s Comments**

President Cocco De Filippis:

* thanked Professor Sandy Figueroa and Ms. Isabel Neira Sanchez for their participation in the Veladas Hostosianas with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
* had the first Hostos Community Advisory Council. More than sixty people attended the meeting. Four initiatives were presented. On December 9, Professor Ialongo and Mr. Agbaje will be invited to extend greetings.
* Need to build the Community Advisory Council and the Hostos Foundation to create opportunities for the students. Asked that the members of the College Senate find people who are willing to serve on the Foundation board and donate $5,000 or engage in fundraising of $5,000 a year. Will send Professor Ialongo the minimal criteria for the foundation for distribution to the members of the College Senate.
* asked the members to attend the Veladas Hostosianas and to read the Seminarios.
* reminded the members that December 4 and December 5 will be the Dominican Republic Conference, a two-day virtual event. December 9 at 3 p.m. is the Stated Meeting of the College. December 10 is the Middle States Town Hall.
* reminded everyone that accreditation is the life blood of the institution and a way to keep government out of education. Thanked those who participate in Middle States.
* wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and reminded the faculty to encourage the students to enroll early for the spring semester.

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

It is both a pleasure and an honor to be here once again. I hope you, your family and your loved ones are doing well.

Since the last time I addressed the College Senate, the SGA has been active. As discussed at the last time Senate meeting, the SGA scholarship is now officially open for students. I encourage all faculty and staff to tell their students about the scholarship. The scholarship is subdivided into merit, need-based, and hardship funds. We hope to help our students during this pandemic financially, while continuing to encourage them to finish the semester strong.

The SGA met with the advisement department of the college and we discussed complaints from the students about not getting “good advisement”.

* In the meeting, I learned some of the services that are still being offered and some of the challenges that the advisement group faces in terms of reaching out to students.
* I suggested, on behalf of the SGA, making use of social media as a platform to reach students.
* I also suggested reaching out to the SGA for help.

As I mentioned the last time we spoke, the SGA looks to continue the conversation of racial injustices in our community. We partnered with the Wellness and Counselling Center at Hostos to plan an event discussing the mental health issues in minority communities, while also supporting the Center with weekly sessions that they have named “candid conversations”.

The SGA collaborated with the math department and the engineering club to host an event called “Dive into the World of Mathematics”, which took place on Wednesday, November 18 .

* This event was intended to be a fun and educational activity.
* We were able to reward our students with gifts and monetary supplements.
* We are planning open collaborations with all the academic departments and clubs within the college.

The SGA recently elected a new vice president for academic affairs. Ms. Nicole Rodriguez, please wave and acknowledge your presence at the meeting.

We also met with the library team to discuss the online operations and the way to educate students further on the use of the library as a research tool. Prof. Linda Miles and her team have done a fantastic job in providing resources for the students, but we needed the students to have access to the resources. We decided to create a survey for the students to complete and to conduct a treasure hunt that will educate them on the use of the library. In turn the students will receive electronic gift cards as prizes.

We met with President Coco De Filippis to discuss our monthly updates and some of the issues to tackle.

As this semester comes to an end, I would like to encourage all professors to continue to support the students to the best of their ability to get through this semester. As we know, these are uneasy times and students are struggling, including myself and members of my team. Please extend that due date, provide more extra credit, and forgive that student for missing that class while maintaining academic excellence.

Last, but not least I would like to acknowledge the passing of the member of this family: Mr. John Chardavoyne. My condolences to his family, and may his soul rest in perfect peace.

That being said, thank you for coming today and listening to me. I look forward to addressing you again.

**7.Curricular Items**

**FS 220 Course Revision**

Presented by Professor Flor Henderson

No questions/comments. Poll opened for vote:

Yes 53 No 0 Abstain 1

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

Action passed.

**SCI 100 New Course**

Presented by Professor Damaris-Lois Lang

No questions/comments. Professor Tram Nguyen called the question.

Yes 42 No 0 Abstain 2

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

Motion passed.

Poll opened for vote:

Yes 53 No 0 Abstain 4

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

**MAT 100 SI for Pathways**

Presented by Professor Nieves Angulo

No questions/comments. Poll opened for vote:

Yes 58 No 0 Abstain 1

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

Action passed.

**8.Non-Curricular Voting Items—None**

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

A. Professor Linda Miles presented the report of the Library Committee

B. Professor Mathew Moses presented the report of the Elections Committee.

Part A: Round 5 is valid in both processes and results.

Part B: Round 6 will continue with 10 candidates for 6 positions. This means that Professor Denise Cummings-Clay is removed from the ballot based on the results of Round 5. Professor Victor Torres-Velez is not on the ballot as he withdrew himself from the candidacy and that is the reason for the 10 candidates for the 6 positions.

The Chair of the Senate ruled the motion out of order as presented, as Part A seemed to be establishing a permanent procedure, which would have required pre-circulation to the Senate.

The Chair advised that the Senate could take up Part B, as it was a purely procedural recommendation, targeted to a particular round of the election, and did not seek to set a precedent.

Professor Diana Macri made a motion to approve part B of the proposal as procedural. Professor Hector Soto seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Professor Nguyen made a motion to extend the time to 5:20 p.m. Mr. Muiz Agbaje seconded the motion.

Yes 46 No 3 Abstain 1

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

Motion passed.

The motion to consider Part B of the proposal.

The poll was opened for vote.

Yes 49 No 2 Abstain 5

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

The action passed.

Professor Moses thanked everyone for passing the motion. The Elections Committee will continue with Round 6 of the ballot. Professor Denise Cummings-Clay and Professor Victor Torres-Velez will be removed from the ballot. There will be 10 candidates for the 6 positions.

Professor Macri made a motion to extend the time to 5:30 p.m. Professor Soto seconded the motion.

Yes 34 No 5 Abstain 1

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

The motion passed.

Professor Nguyen made a motion to extend the time for five more minutes. Professor Soto seconded the motion.

Yes 32 No 0 Abstain 0

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Mercedes Moscat voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

The motion passed.

Professor Nguyen called the question on the motion to authorize the Elections Committee to proceed to Round 6 by dropping Professor Denise Cummings-Clay and Professor Victor Torres-Velez. Professor Soto seconded the motion. The Senate approved ending debate.

The poll was opened for vote.

Yes 43 No 2 Abstain 4

Phone vote and moderator and host:

Mr. Abdul Abubakar voted **YES**

Professor Ernest Ialongo voted **YES**

Professor Tram Nguyen voted **YES**

The motion passed.

C. Professor Lois-Lang presented on the report of the Scholarship and Awards Committee.

**10.UFS Plenary October 27, 2020**

1. Presentation of Mr. Matt Sapienza, Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer of CUNY: 1)Where we were at end of fiscal year 2019-2020:  Last year, even prior to the pandemic, it was challenging especially for community colleges. With respect to senior colleges, enrollment was flat and there was a tuition increase; however, with community colleges, there was an overall decrease in enrollment by approximately 6% and tuition was frozen.  And COVID-19 did contribute to a decrease in revenues which to some extent was compensated by with a decrease in expenses related to campus operation with mostly everyone moving online.  The end of the year report was issued.
2. Where we are this fiscal year so far: As mentioned previously, due to the situation with COVID-19, there were delays in getting the finalized budget and during the summer, the budget allocations were done month by month.  By September, with the continued uncertainties at all levels including the federal level, CUNY decided to allocate budgets for fall and winter. He mentioned that the city’s budget had a decrease of $46,000,000 to CUNY. It was expected that tuition to be similar to last year’s but note again that the enrollment for community colleges was overall done (although also noted during the summer, the enrollment was up) and for senior colleges, the enrollment was stable.  He also said that the state budget adopted as of April 1,2020 was flat at that time but New York State said that they could make adjustments along the way.  The state did project that there would be a decrease of $14,500,000,000 in state revenues.  If I understood correctly, the state was holding back 20% of our appropriations until there was more certainty. Some of the uncertainties had to do with the hope that money would be coming in from the federal government with respect to the stimulus bill.  We will likely know more post-election.
3. How CARES Act funds were allocated (in brief) – there were 3 “chunks”: i)student emergency grants: $117 million out of $118 million were dispersed by end of the fall semester ii)$118 million allocated to the individual campuses / institutional aid iii)Allocation for Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)- some of that money has been given out to various campuses with 3 foci: a) for mental health and wellness b)tuition// fee refunds/ waivers for students c)IT infrastructure expenditures, e.g. laptops, hotspots to improve distance learning.  There is some money still left to be spent and those moneys will not be distributed to all the campuses (I believe, for ex., the graduate program would be excluded).  There was a robust Q&A following Sr. VC Sapienza’s presentation.  Among the more interesting points raised:  i)projection of enrollment numbers for fall 2021: felt it was too early to give final tally and needed more data ii)concern about staying online post-pandemic: did not feel that that would be the case and that CUNY recognized value of face-to-face instruction too but acknowledged that there were lessons learned iii)question was raised about campus governance and input on how CARES Act money was spent: acknowledged there was no consultation but also said that there were fairly explicit guidelines that needed to be followed iv)question related to the students who did get help with paying tuition, etc.: students needed to be eligible by Title IV specifications and many were.  However, if not, some of these students got money from the Chancellor’s Emergency Grant. v)some faculty asked if any of the moneys from above such as the money CUNY saved from the decrease in spending with respect to campus operations could be used to compensate for faculty expenses incurred with needing to teach from home such as buying printers in order to do their work.

**Announcements**

1. As you know already, the Board of Trustees and New York State approved CUNY for online instruction for spring 2021
2. CUNY pulled out of recent negotiations for proctoring software – this had to do with the fact that the software (company) had been hacked
3. A survey re. teaching in the COVID-19 environment was just now being launched and asked for as many full-time and part-time faculty to participate as possible
4. Postponement in regard to going through proposed UFS Charter Article II amendment.

**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. The next meeting of the College Senate is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

 Submitted by

 Sandy Figueroa

 Recording Secretary