

**COLLEGE-WIDE SENATE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

Online Senate Meeting on Zoom

Thursday, September 15, 2022

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Rayola Chelladurai, Diana Macri, and Ronette Shaw
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair) and Nancy Genova
* **Business**: Professors Claude Fernandez and Carol Huie
* **English**: Professors Krystyna Michael, Alexandra Milsom, and Sean Gerrity
* **Education**: Professors Jacqueline DiSanto, Michael Gosset, and Iris Mercado
* **Gittleson Representative**: Mr. Clifton Pierce
* **Humanities**: Professors Humberto Ballesteros, Thomas Beachdel, Ana Ozuna, Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure, and Catherine Lewis
* **Language and Cognition**: Professor Karin Lundberg
* **Library**: Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professors Alexander Vaninsky, Edme Soho, and Moise Koffi,
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Mr. Carlos Rivera, Ms. Safiya Faustin, Ms. Silvia Reyes, Mr. Raymond Perez, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Iber Poma, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Alba Lynch, and Mr. Travaras Geter
* **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professors Eugena Griffin, Gail August, and Julie Trachman
* **Professional Staff Congress**: Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Natasha Yannacañedo, Juno Morrow, Carl Grindley, Stacey Cooper, Clara Nieto Wire, and Hector Soto (Vice-Chair)
* **Adjunct Representatives**: Professors Ruben Worrell and Pamela Stemberg
* **CLT Representative**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Mr. Leaghton Ozoria, Ms. Ashanti Malcolm, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Mr. Brian Carter, Ms. Abigail Boateng, Ms. Teyanna Buckle, Ms. Yassine Gaye, Mr. Malik Pellington, Ms. Elizabeth Soto

**Absent:**

* **Behavioral and Social Sciences:** Professor Felipe Pimentel
* **Education**: Professor Eunice Flemister
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Mr. Theudys Mejia
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Ms. Maria Benny

**Excused Absence:**

* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Matt Moses, Andy Connolly, and Elys Vasquez-Iscan
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Daliz Perez Cabezas, and Ms. Yvonne Rosario-Quiroz
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Ms. Kacey Witter

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

* Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang, SVP Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne, VP La Toro Yates, VP Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham, Dean Babette Audant, Mr. Eugene Sohn, Ms. Emily Tenzer Santoro (HEO Organization Chair), Parliamentarian Mr. Shmuel Gerber

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, VP Colette Atkins

**Vacant**:

* **Language and Cognition:** 1 vacancy
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: 1 vacancy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** 1 vacancy
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: 4 vacancies

**Guests**:

* AJ Stachelek, Amina Tajbhai, Antonios Varelas, Carlos Guevara, Charles Rice-Gonzalez, Christine Hutchins, Diandra Jugmohan, Diana Kreymer, Eric Radezsky, Geetha Ajay, Haruko Yamauchi, Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, Jaime Woody, Jason Libfeld, Jacinta Patrice-George, Jeanette Cadiz, Jerry Rosa, Jessica Powell, Jewel Jones, Johanna Arroyo, Johanna Gomez, Luz Rivera, Manuel Livingston, Marcelo Viana Neto, Minfeng Lin, Rafael Torres, Rocio Rayo, Sara Brennan, Sherese Mitchell, Sophia Longsworth, Su Ng, Terrence Brown, and Wendy Small-Taylor,

**1. Call to Order**

Senate began at 3:33 PM.

**2. Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda accepted as pre-circulated

**3. Approval of Minutes**

May 19, 2022, Senate Minutes will be reviewed at our next meeting.

**4. Chair’s Report**

Prof. Ernest Ialongo

Open Meetings Law

The Chair recounted the email he sent earlier (see Appendix), noting that the Open Meetings Law as no longer suspended, and, as such Senate had to be in person; thus, this meeting would be unofficial; only reports would be submitted, and no official votes taken.

The Chair thanked the Senate for all its work and perseverance through the lockdown, assured the Senators as smooth and transparent a transition back to in person as possible, and took comments and questions from Senators on this matter.

The Chair informed the Senate that future meetings would be in person, starting with the October 20, 2022, meeting.

Former Senators

The Chair thanked Prof. Damaris-Lois Lang and Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun for their service as they stepped away from their Senate positions.

**4a. Senator’s Comments on the Open Meetings Law**

Ms. Safiya Faustin: Remote work agreements are required for HEO staff. If HEOs work remotely on the day/date of a future Senate meeting, will exceptions be made for them to modify the work schedule with Human Resources? We need guidance on this issue.

Prof. Gail August: The most important thing is for us to have participation, a quorum, and a discussion of the critical issues. Many of us have added these Senate meetings to our schedule based on the idea that they would be held in a virtual capacity. Some faculty teach online and often prepare from home for a more stable online connection. Due to this potential change to in-person meetings, we may experience issues with faculty attending meetings.

Prof. Christine Hutchins: Do we know if a hybrid option is available for our Senate meetings?

**5. President’s Comments**

SVP Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne:

The SVP brought greetings on behalf of President Cocco De Fillipis. The President could not attend today’s meeting because she was asked to serve on a Blue-Ribbon panel appointed by the Governor and Mayor of New York. This is a good time in the semester to focus and work with our students to support student retention efforts. Thank you for your good work, and I look forward to seeing you at the next State of the Meeting of the College.

**6. SGA President’s Comments**

SGA President Leaghton Ozoria

My name is Leaghton N. Ozoria, and I will introduce the Hostos Student Government Association team to you. I serve as the president and am proud to serve on the SEC. My colleagues include:

* Ashanti Malcolm, VP of Student Affairs
* Jose Gonzalez, VP of Academic Affairs and Chair of the Student Senate
* Brian Carter, Budget and Finance Commissioner
* Abagail Boateng is our Executive Secretary
* Teyanna Buckle, our Campus Affairs and Commissioner
* Yassine Gaye, Part Time/Evening Student Affairs Commissioner

Our Senators are Maria Benny, Kacey Witter, and Malik Pellington. We hope to complete our Senate membership in the next few days.

* We have worked hard to make our classmate’s dreams come true. We have been planning events that help restore life to the College. For the last few months, since July, when we began this trek as the SGA, we have been taking notes and surveying the student body about what they want to see as the campus turns the page from the pandemic. We hope you will share the survey with your students so we can learn more from the vast, incredible community we are a part of and have been chosen to represent.
* We are about to certify the clubs and are excited to see them return to their offices and return to planning events for the fall. The SGA members have taken back up space in our offices on the fifth floor of the C-building, and we look forward to meeting with our brothers and sisters to address their needs and concerns.
* We handed out some SWAG on August 25th to welcome students back to the campus.
* We participated in the excellent resource fair that was put together by Miss Christine Francis on August 31st, and we were out at the BBQ hosted by the SDEM and Vice President Yates on September 8th to engage in conversation with the members of the community and share our experiences with the elected officials who attended the event.
* Our gains are your gain, and we invite you and your students to enter our offices anytime during our office hours. We will work diligently to have an open-door policy.
* We plan for the fall and hope to reintroduce scholarships, so please be ready to write those recommendation letters for your students.
* We are also planning to address the food challenges our student body is now facing without a cafeteria.
* We will look into requests to have some MetroCards available for students struggling with finds for transportation.
* The Senate and the Executive team are working hard, and in the coming weeks, months, and throughout the semester, we hope to share more information about our actions and accomplishments.
* We genuinely appreciate all of your support, and we are proud to serve as members of the College-Wide Senate.

Thank you for embracing us. Thank you, President Cocco De Filippis, Chairperson Ialongo, and all of the members of the College-Wide Senate.

**7. Elections**

No items will be presented for election at this meeting.

**8. Curricular Items**

From the Chair of the Senate:

There is no voting on curricular items. The college approved a minor course change to PED 202 in May. The form submitted to us had an incorrect start date of Fall 2022. It should have noted Spring 2023 as the effective date per CUNY central guidelines, which require two semesters after approval at the college level to move through the CUNY system. There are some deadlines that the Board of Trustees is firm on; if we miss those deadlines, we will need to wait another semester.

The Chair asked the Senate if there were any objections to his changing the effective date on the form from Fall 2022 to Spring 20223 and then authorizing the College to submit the form to the University so that we do not miss any University guidelines. Again, no changes are being made to the substance of the course, just the effective date, which was a simple typographical error.

There were no objections from the Senate; the Chair will forward the edited form to the Curriculum Office and help expedite this at CUNY Central for the next deadline of the appropriate committee.

We approved a new program called Physical Education in the spring. After it was approved, we found that a particular form (attestation) was required and needed to be circulated. The form was not circulated, so we did not submit the program to CUNY Central after being approved by Senate. Minor responses were received as the form circulated and are being addressed. The substance of the program is not being changed. The Chair will update the Senate at the October meeting.

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

Senate Committee on Committees Update – Professor Julie Trachman

(delivered during Professor Trachman’s UFS Report below)

We are meeting to recruit HEOs, faculty, and students to participate on various Senate committees.

All student representatives on Senate committees have a one-year term. They need to be reappointed/elected every September.

We have UFS alternate senator vacancies because their term is for one year. The Senate Chair will review and fill these vacancies with Prof. Trachman and Prof. Gosset.

**10. UFS Update**

Professor Julie Trachman

The first fall UFS plenary will be next Tuesday, September 20, and it will be held in person. As you may know, the university has been working on a strategic roadmap in a similar manner to the strategic planning process that we have been undergoing at Hostos these past few months. Several “town halls” were run last May and June. Many UFS members attended and had some opportunity to provide feedback. There are plans to ran more “town halls” in the fall. UFS members and other constituents will be invited to provide feedback. Other forms of feedback opportunities may also occur. Please consider participating if you are able to do so.

**11. New Business**

* Prof. Stachelek and Ms. Rocio Rayo (New Transfer Services Director) introduced the Transfer Explorer or TRex. This tool is available online at <https://explorer.cuny.edu/>. According to the TRex site, this tool provides you and everyone else--inside and outside of CUNY--with quick and easy access to information about how ANY CUNY course at ANY CUNY college will transfer to ANY other CUNY college. Transfer Explorer will tell you (and anyone else), for a particular CUNY course in a specific college, what kind of credit every other CUNY college will give that course if a student who has taken that course transfers within CUNY. The tool allows faculty to review courses across the university, along with Pathways designations. There will be a series of training sessions for faculty and staff in the fall 2022 semester.

Chair Ialongo publicly welcomed Ms. Rayo to her new role as Director of Transfer Services.

* Ms. Elizabeth Wilson raised the question of obtaining a “quiet space” for prayer or meditation to Dean Gomez or the SVP. The SVP Rodriguez-Chardavoyne responded that the college has a series of offices transitioning from one space to another. There is a list of areas that need to be done on campus, and the President requests that a prayer room is on that list. Dean Gomez reminded the Senators that we could secure a space for meditation through the space reservation committee and that students should contact Mr. Jerry Rosa.
* Prof. August requested that we consider discussing the anticipated lower enrollment figures for the upcoming spring semester (standard compared to the fall enrollment cycle).

Chair Ialongo indicated that faculty and Department Chairs should discuss with OAA course/program requirements, but when there are policy issues regarding, for instance, the chair’s prerogatives over the schedule, they may be presented before the Senate.

* Prof. Karin Lundberg – Unlike prior semesters, we no longer receive enrollment data reports. We are given schedules based on data we may not be familiar with. It would be helpful for faculty to understand the rationale for scheduling.

Chair Ialongo stated that enrollment data was shared with the Department Chairs through the late registration period of the enrollment cycle.

* Mr. Shmuel Gerber asked if the College would receive additional information based on the proposed guidance CUNY will offer regarding the Open Meetings Law and how to authorize online meetings in the event of extraordinary circumstances, and would members of the College be able to provide input in the process.

Chair Ialongo indicated that he cannot speak to the drafting process of the expected guidance memo. Still, after the process moves through the relevant committee, it goes through the Board of Trustees (BOT) public meetings. There should be significant discussion before the final determination sometime in October. The Chair stated that he would raise this issue to the other college governance leaders requesting that we be involved in this process.

* Mr. Leaghton Ozoria – Does the OML impact the SGA and its meetings?

Chair Ialongo indicated that groups subject to the OML vote on policy. However, it’s unclear how this law works at the various college levels. The Chair recommended that the SGA President speak to the current administration at the University Student Senate (USS) for clarity regarding students. The USS has representation on the Board of Trustees (BOT).

**12. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn.

 No objections

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

**Submitted by:**

*Mr. Carlos Rivera & Dr. Ernest Ialongo, Chair (Attendance, Chair’s Report).*

**Appendix:**

Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:07 pm

From: IALONGO, ERNEST

To: HOSTOS SENATE; HOSTOS DISTRIBUTION LIST;

Dear Senators and the College Community,

The memo below was delivered to me by the Office of the President yesterday evening, shortly after they received it last night from CUNY Central. In brief, the CUNY memo from the Office of General Counsel states that the governor's suspension of the Open Meetings Law, which has permitted us as a Senate to hold meetings and conduct official business via Zoom, has expired. And, until the Board of Trustees provides definitive guidance going forward owing to recent amendments to the Open Meetings Law: "all University, school and college meetings of committees, subcommittees, councils, and senates, which were previously subject to the Open Meetings Law, must be held in person."

Our Charter mandates that our Senate meets the third Thursday of the month during the academic year, and that agendas for said meetings (with date, time, place of meeting, relevant documents, etc.,) must be circulated a week in advance.

To that end, in order to remain in compliance with our Charter of Governance, and in recognition of the CUNY memo, the Senate Executive Committee has determined to proceed in the following fashion:

Our meeting today, Thursday, September 15, 3:30 pm **will continue as scheduled, on Zoom.** However, we will not take actions that require an official vote. Specifically, we will not conduct elections, or vote on the curricular item. We will hear a report from the Senate Chair, and remarks from a representative of the Office of the President, the SGA President, and our UFS representative, as laid out in our agenda. Outstanding official business will be conducted at our subsequent meeting, October 20, 3:30 pm, which will most likely be in-person.

More details will be shared at today's Senate meeting.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me directly at eialongo@hostos.cuny.edu .

Thank you for your patience in this time of transition.

Sincerely,

Ernest Ialongo, Chair

Hostos College-Wide Senate

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Dr. Ernest Ialongo

Chair, and Professor of History,

Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences;

Chair, Hostos College-Wide Senate,

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***"Ma la vita a New York è estremamente dispendiosa ed ardua. Occorrono nervi d'acciaio, dosi di pazienza all'infinito e MOLTI DOLLARI."***
Fortunato Depero in New York to F.T. Marinetti, 31 October 1929.

---------- Forwarded message ----------

**From:** Derek Davis <Derek.Davis@cuny.edu>
**Date:** September 14, 2022 at 8:34:09 PM EDT
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pending : University Guidance On Open Meetings Law Protocol for use of Video Conferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings
**To:** ....

**WARNING:** This email originated outside the Hostos campus. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Never provide login credentials, financial or sensitive details in response to an email or by clicking on a link. Report suspicious emails to: reportspam@hostos.cuny.edu

Dear Colleagues:

As we mentioned at today’s Council of Presidents Meeting, the Executive Order extending the period which allowed public bodies to meet remotely expired on September 12, 2022.

However, on April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year. Included in the bill is an amendment to the Open Meetings Law (“OML”) to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, *under extraordinary circumstances*, regardless of a declaration of emergency.

Under the amended Open Meetings Law, Chapter 56 adds Section 103-a(2)(a), permitting a public body to authorize its members to attend meetings by video conferencing under “extraordinary circumstances.” The amended law requires that the public body adopt a resolution following a public hearing authorizing the limited use of videoconferencing under such circumstances.  To that end the Office of General Counsel in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary to the Board of Trustees is currently preparing a University Board of Trustees Resolution that would authorize the use of such protocol in accordance with the amended Open Meetings Law.  Until such resolution has been considered by the University’s Board of Trustees’ Committee on Governance, which is scheduled to be held on October 3, 2022, and approved by the full Board of Trustees at its next scheduled meeting on October 24, 2022, all University, school and college meetings of committees, subcommittees, councils, and senates, which were previously subject to the Open Meetings Law, must be held in person.

The Office of the General Counsel, together with the Office of the Secretary is developing a policy that will be incorporated into the Manual of General Policies that will provide guidance on this new protocol.  Such guidance will include procedures for hosting videoconference meetings in accordance with the recent OML amendments.

Again, until such guidance is issued by the University, all meetings of committees, councils, senates, or organizations which are subject to the OML should be held in person, in an accessible public location, with appropriate notifications and with a quorum present in person.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and your patience.

Respectfully,

Derek Davis

**Office of Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel**

**The City University of New York**

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