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**COLLEGE-WIDE SENATE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

[Savoy Multipurpose Room](https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/About-Hostos/Our-Campus/Campus-Map)

120 East 149th Street (at Walton Ave)

Thursday, September 21, 2023

3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Rodney Blair, Jarek Stelmark and Annie Chitlall
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chair), Nancy Genova, and Felipe Pimentel
* **Business**: Professor Eddy Garcia and Anders Stachelek
* **Education**: Professors Denise Cummings-Clay, Jacqueline DiSanto, Michael Gosset, and Elys Vasquez-Iscan
* **English**: Professors Christine Choi and Alexandra Milsom
* **Humanities**: Professors Catherine Lewis, Ana Ozuna, Victor Torres Velez, Nicole Wallenbrock, and Natasha Yannacañedo
* **Language and Cognition**: Professors Isabel Feliz and Carl Grindley
* **Library**: Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professors Junghang Lee and Edme Soho
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Cruz Esquilin, Ms. Karina Guardiola-Lopez, Ms. Jewel Jones, Mr. Piotr Kocik, Mr. Michael Martinez, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethal, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Mr. Iber Poma, Dr. Silvia Reyes, Ms. Ursula Sanders, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, and Ms. Sheryce Woolery-Balgobin
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professors Gail August and Julie Trachman
* **Professional Staff Congress**: Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Andy Connolly, Stacey Cooper, Teresa Gray, Christine Hutchins, Diana Macri, Clara Nieto-Wire, Hector Soto, and Marcelo Viana Neto
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA):** Kathy Disla, Kobe Jacobs, Orlando Soto, Jahneilia Curtin, Yassir Djossou, Brian Carter, Laura Cuevas, Ansumana Jammeh, Dorian Johnson, Dainma Martinez, and Jasmin Sanchez

**Absent:**

* **Mathematics**: Professor Lauren Wolf
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Theudys Mejia,
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA):** Yaxeny Hernandez-Ravelo, and Surdy Felix

**Excused Absence:**

* **English**: Professors Krystyna Michael
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professor Tram Nguyen
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professor Eugena Griffin
* **Public Safety / Maintenance**: Officer Clara Albino

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Members:**

* President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne, Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang, VP La Toro Yates, Dean Babette Audant, Mr. Carlos Rivera (HEO Organization Chair), and Parliamentarian Mr. Shmuel Gerber

**Non-Voting Ex Officio Absent**

* VP Colette Atkins, VP Evelyn Fernandez-Ketcham,

**Vacant:**

* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives:** 2 vacancies
* **Adjunct Representatives**: 2 vacancies
* **CLT Representative**: 1 vacancy
* **Gittleson Representative**: 1 vacancy
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA**): 2 vacancies

**Guests**:

* Dean Andrea Fabrizio, Prof. Asrat Amnie, Elyan Alcantara, Jaumia Clarke, Eugene Sohn, Diana Kreymer, Zussy Lopez, Alba Lynch, Phil Oliveri, Darian Rivera Kelsey Schmitz, Rafael A. Torres

1. **Call to Order**

Quorum established at 3:33 p.m.   
Senate called to order at 3:36 p.m.   
   
60 Senators 

2. **Senate Elections**

a. Chair of the Senate

At the beginning of every Senate term, every three years, we have to have Senate elections for Senate Chair, Senate Executive Committee, and Committee on Committees. That is the first order of business before we do any other business that needs to be taken care of. These election procedures are laid out in our Charter of Governance, CUNY Bylaws, the New York State Open Meetings Law, the Freedom of Information Law, and the Senate Elections Manual; all are publicly accessible. The Charter refers to the outgoing Chairperson as conducting the first order of business as these elections. I am the outgoing Chairperson. There is no presumption of continuation of service, but this is my role today. As you will see, no Senate Executive Committee is sitting up here because their terms ended. The ballots will be counted as usual by our Elections Committee: Chairperson Professor Andy Connolly, Professor Edme Soho, Professor Teresa Gray, and Tiffany Wilson, a student volunteer from the Honors Program.

For Senate elections, every senator is an equal member of the Senate, which means a student can nominate a faculty member, and a faculty member can nominate a staff member. You can nominate whoever for the positions that are being voted on. In terms of multiple nominations, you get to nominate once per category. Once everyone has had a chance, if you have a second nomination you want to make, you can then make it. We do not need a second nomination. I ask if you accept the nomination to ensure you want to serve. According to Roberts Rules of Order, we must maintain decorum, which means we do not criticize an individual. All our ballots are under the Freedom of Information law, which means they can be requested by the public, which is why on your ballot you must put your name on it; this has always been the case. You are entitled to vote for up to the total number of positions available. Writing in more names than positions available will nullify your ballot. If you vote for less positions than are available, this may increase the possibility of multiple rounds of voting. All victors require a majority of the votes cast. You are entitled to write in an eligible candidate for a position.

Are there any questions before the beginning of the elections?

None

* + 1. Chair of the Senate

Prof. Soto nominates Prof. Ialongo

Prof. Ialongo accepts

Chair: Any further nominations?

None

Action #1 – Chair of Senate

Ernest Ialongo

Yes – 55

Invalid – 1

Prof. Ernest Ialongo was re-elected as Senate Chair

* 1. Senate Executive Committee

Action #2 - Senate Executive Committee

Category A (Five Faculty)

Hector Soto - 59

Diana Macri - 49

Christine Hutchins - 57

Tram Nguyen - 56

Alexandra Milsom – 57

All five were elected as faculty members of the Senate Executive Committee

Category B (Two Students)

Dainma Martinez - 58

Ansumana Jammeh – 60

Both students were elected to the Senate Executive Committee

Category C (One HEO)

Higher Education Officer (HEO)

Jewel Jones – 59

Jewel Jones was elected to the Senate Executive Committee

c. Senate Committee on Committees

Action #3 - Senate Committee on Committees

Category A (Faculty)

Julie Trachman - 57

Michael Gosset - 57

Debasish Roy - 57

Nancy Genova - 57

Christine Choi - 57

Nicole Wallenbrock – 57

All six faculty were elected to the Senate Committee on Committees

Category B (Two Students)

Brian Carter – 57

Jasmin Sanchez – 57

Both Students were elected to the Senate Committee on Committees

Category C (One HEO)

Elizabeth Wilson – 53

One HEO, Elizabeth Wilson, was elected to the Senate Committee on Committees

**3. Acceptance of the Agenda**

Chair: Are there any corrections or additional items to the agenda?

None

The agenda was accepted unanimously.

**4.** **Approval of May 18, 2023, Senate Meeting Minutes**

Chair: Are there any additions or corrections to the May 18 Minutes as pre-circulated?   
   
 None

The May 18, 2023 Minutes were accepted as pre-circulated. 

**5. Chair’s Report**   
   
Prof. Ernest Ialongo 

Thank you for your service. We need quorum to begin, and we need over half the membership to pass curricular items, which is most of our work. Without you, it is harder to start the meetings on time, and harder to get quorum levels to approve curricular items that have already gone through multiple levels of approval. We are under crushing deadlines to ensure the work we produce on this campus becomes CUNY policy. If we miss a deadline here, we may be unable to offer a course when we want. We have not left anything on our agenda for years because of your consistent attendance. Thank you.

**6. President’s Comments**   
  
  President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D. 

It is great to see you all, our students, faculty, and staff. I want to say congratulations and thank you to all those who were elected to serve. It's really important and much appreciated. Our student SGA members and colleagues, Professor Ialongo, and the Senate Executive Committee. This service is needed and not easy to organize, so thank you. We have many wonderful activities taking place on our campus. We have our Stated Meeting of the College next week; I look forward to seeing you there.

**7. SGA President’s Comments**

SGA President Kathy Disla

Good afternoon. I want to start by saying that I am very excited to be here with you all as a member of the College-Wide Senate. This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to work together and make the college a more enriching environment for all. Secondly, I want to let you know that since July, my team and I have been working on developing ideas to make campus life more exciting, engaging, and enriching as part of our mission for this year. I can happily tell you that 50 registered clubs with activities are already occurring. I look forward to working with you, the president and her administration, and the students we represent to bring out all the beauty that Hostos represents. As the SGA President, I will take a moment to introduce the entire SGA. [SGA President then read out all the SGA present].Thank you.

**8.**  **Curriculum Items**

None

**9. Non-Curriculum Items –** Charter Amendment recognizing Mathematics Department name change to Mathematics and Computer Science Department (See Appendix)  
   
Presented by Chair Ialongo:

The Math department changed its name to the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. It went through the various administration channels, and this Senate voted to approve that change in May. The next step is amending our Charter of Governance to recognize the change. Today is the first of two presentations. In October the amendment will be presented again, and a vote will be had.

**10. Reports of the Senate Standing Committee**

None

**11.** **UFS Update**

Prof. Julie Trachman

UFS Plenary September 19, 2023  
I) Remarks from Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Wendy Hensel: There are three sections to her remarks.

1) CUNY Online Initiative: She reminded us of student barriers to success in college (many work, many have family responsibilities, etc.) and how many New Yorkers have college coursework and have not finished degrees. CUNY Online increases access to college-level coursework and the ability to attain degrees, certificates, etc. She provided statistics regarding the number of fully online programs, how many are pending, etc. She also reminded us that this was a faculty-driven initiative and participation is only if the faculty is interested. She mentioned CUNY ran a market research survey to target the right program degrees. CUNY is launching a website for online programs (consolidating all university offerings to make for easier viewing). She also explained that the intellectual property rights would be held by the faculty who developed the materials; however, there are a small number of exceptions (for ex., if a faculty member was hired as a consultant and a contract was involved). She also gave us some statistics about enrollment in the online programs. They are doing much better than expected. For fall 2023, 2,201 students were enrolled (this is close to meeting AY 2026 projections). She also mentioned, among other statistics, that 64% of the enrolled students are part-time, which is consistent with expectations).  
  
2) Learning Management System transition from Blackboard (BB) to Brightspace (which is a D2L product): The timeline for the rollout was pushed back and will happen in summer 2024 for the first cohort (Hostos will be part of that first cohort). They want this rollout to be organized and will need faculty training. A transition governance structure has been established involving committees and campus teams. She also mentioned they plan to move two years' worth of courses from BB to Brightspace. Before those two years, it will be archived.

As a related point, to help with the transition to Brightspace from BB, it is recommended that it is a good idea to declutter our BB sites. This is also useful in helping deal with accessibility issues of course materials associated with ADA compliance. I will remind you here to look at the minutes from the May Senate session about the importance of ADA compliance and BB Ally and how that relates to the Brightspace LMS.  
  
3) Transfer initiative: There are two aspects to this, and most of this part of the presentation dealt with point b below.

a) Policy and Practice (from slide): Identify issues and gaps with existing transfer policies/practices and assess the technology/systems needed.  
  
b) Program Alignment (from slide): Establish seamless program alignment in the same majors across the full associate /baccalaureate continuum. This boils down to how well credits in major transfer from community colleges are to be used for a major at senior college (how many end up being used as elective credits instead?) She said 9-12 credits did not transfer well on average (a significant number of credits). The idea would be that approximately one-half of the credits for the major (18 credits of a 36-credit major would be taken at the community college, and the other half, i.e., another 18 credits, would be taken at the senior college to complete the 36 credits of the major requirements). So far, committees have been formed for six program areas (Accounting, Business, Education, Engineering, Psychology, and Computer Science) and have developed core competencies. Now, they need faculty to evaluate their courses in the programs to see where these competencies fit. They need faculty to be involved here, and then they will move on to a new cohort of programs as the first cohort finishes their work. She reminded us that approximately 40% of CUNY students are transfer students.  
  
4) Q and A, which covered a variety of topics (selecting a few in brief):  
a) A question from the Library area: If I understood correctly, in a re-organization of OAA at the university level, the library area is now included as part of the Academic Innovation area. They felt it would align better with CUNY’s Strategic Roadmap (the university-wide Strategic Plan). This was at the request of the university chief librarian.

b) There were several questions on the CUNY Online initiative: i) question about the balance between face-to-face faculty vs. online faculty quotas; question as to how well we are serving a specific population of students in the NYC area with these online courses; question about the navigation tool in the new LMS – how much loss of faculty control would there be for the courses taught? Cybersecurity concerns were voiced.  
  
II) Report from Chair of UFS (Prof. John Verzani):  
These are some of the points he covered:   
1) University-wide enrollment statistics: Fall 2023 enrollment is up ~1% across the university, but the increase is more like 10% at community colleges and comprehensive colleges.  
  
2) IDEA resolution re. diversity: We will likely see some resolution requests play out over the year.  
  
3) W policy changes: It is anticipated there will possibly be some changes concerning the W policy (re. timing) now that we are post-pandemic.  
  
4) Hiring Initiative Report: As a reminder, this initiative led to all the recent lecturer hires and a few assistant professor hires. So far, only a draft of the report has been released. The report is due soon.  
  
5) ADA compliance report: The report is due Dec. 9, 2023. The report or rough draft has not been shared yet.  
  
6) Budget cuts: Prof. Verzani expressed concern about Mayor Adams’ recent proposed cuts of 15% for the various city agencies, which would affect the community colleges.

**12. New Business**   
   
Prof. Hector Soto - The Public Policy and Law Unit of the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department is hosting an activity around immigration. We'll be covering DACA. We'll be covering asylum and related matters. That's going to be on October 5th, which is a Thursday at 12:30 in B-501. All students are welcome, and all faculty are welcome. There will be an announcement going out digitally, and you will also see some flyers on our campus bulletin boards.

Prof. Craig Bernardini – Greetings; I see some folks wearing red for higher education today, which is exciting. We are in the midst of contract negotiations and need your support. We have been meeting about every two weeks with CUNY beginning this summer. There are two more sessions on Thursdays in October. However, you will be required to go through training first. There is a mass Zoom meeting coming up on September 28. We have a local chapter meeting on Wednesday, October 4, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. There has never been a better time to get involved in union activities.

Ms. Jewel Jones – LGBTQ Fall Party on Tuesday in the JFK room at 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

 **13. Adjournment**

Prof. Ialongo motioned to adjourn. 

No objections   
   
 The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

**Submitted by:**   
   
*Mr. Carlos Rivera, Volunteer Recording Secretary & Dr. Ernest Ialongo, Chair*

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|  | **Appendix**  **Charter Amendment September 2023** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | **Current** | **Proposed** | **Rationale** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **1** | **Article VI: Academic Departmental Structure, Section 1, I** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Mathematics Department | Mathematics and Computer Science Department | The Mathematics Department voted to change their name to better represent their varied curricular offerings. The Senate approved the change on April 20, 2023. This is the first of two presentations at Senate for a Charter amendment to recognize the name change. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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