

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the
February 21, 2024 General Meeting
5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Vice President Ronald Jackson, Vice President Todd Michael Galitz, Executive Legal Consul Sarah Luke, Interim Dean Stephanie Jensen-Moulton, Interim Dean Philip Napoli, Dean Peter Tolia, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Associate Dean James Eaton, Executive Director Renita Simmons, Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Joseph Entin, Professor Beth Evans, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mona Hadler, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Malka Simon, Professor Sophia Suarez, Noam Abrahams (USG), Carrie Ebbin (USG), Cynithia George (USG), Royta Iftakher (USG), Dylan Karlowski (USG), Darla Moise (USG), Ajadah Simms (USG), Milada Sirota (USG), Patricia Colmenero Alcantara (GSO), Jamie Jones (GSO).

Absent: Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Interim Provost April Bedford, Dean Qing Hu, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor James Lynch, Professor Tim Shortell, Professor Patricia Antonello, Professor Brian Sowers, Huda Ayaz (USG), Shannon Dyett (USG).

Non-voting: Fouad Altaffi, Fatimah Alwaqza, Charles Amerson, Shakhboz Amonov, Dana Babayev, Evie Barth, Dave Bryan, Robert Echevarria, Miguel Figueroa, Sadiya Hoque, Taseen Islam (USG), Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, Hesham Sharafaldin, Loyal Suliaman.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.
2. President Anderson announced CUNY's official recognition of Eid, Diwali, and Lunar New Year as holidays. Maria Scharron-del Rio was introduced as the new Dean for the School of Education, and the Koppelman School of Business received reaccreditation from the AACSB.
3. President Anderson called for approval of the November 15, 2023, minutes. Carrie Ebbin (USG) proposed edits related to accessibility of syllabi and moved for approval, which was seconded by Professor Jillian Cavanaugh and unanimously approved.
4. Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, Senior Director of the Institute of Gender, Law, and Transformative Peace (IGLTP), provided an update on the Institute's mission and plans for interdisciplinary research and policy development. Discussion followed.
5. Executive Legal Consul Sarah Luke provided an oral report on Governance and Policy. The Committee met on Friday, February 16, 2024 and provided a listening session for the

Strategic Plan Steering Committee. The feedback given were related to communications around campus and connections between faculty and students. President Anderson noted that Executive Legal Consul Luke would be leaving the College and no longer serving on Policy Council.

6. Ebbin provided an oral report on behalf of the Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee and met with the Strategic Plan Steering Committee for a listening session as well. The Committee focused on campus infrastructure and financial health.
7. Associate Dean James Eaton provided a written and oral report on Faculty-Student Relations. Dylan Karlowski (USG) announced the Student-Faculty Mixer scheduled for March 5, 2024 and invited all to attend.
8. Vice President Todd Michael Galitz provided an oral report on External Relations. The Committee met on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 and also provided a listening session for the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Professor Mobina Hashmi requested clarification of the Committee's report from the November 15, 2023 minutes, in regards to recruitment and retention. Vice President Galitz explained that the College's Admissions' Office is currently working on recruitment and retention.
9. Ebbin raised student concerns about faculty and public safety related to DEI and expressed concern about Executive Legal Counsel Luke's departure.
10. President Anderson referred 'academic integrity' to the committees of Faculty-Student Relations and Governance and Policy. The discussion on 'conversion days' was tabled for the next Policy Council meeting.
11. President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Faculty/Student Relations Committee Report

Subcommittee Update for the February 2024 Policy Council Meeting

The committee has not formally met since the last Policy Council meeting. The following are updates to some of the topics previously reported.

1. Classes Scheduled during Common Hours

The committee recognized that there are discussions occurring in several fora within the college, including Faculty Council and CAP, we agreed to continue to monitor. There appears to be progress in a positive direction for the number of undergraduate classes with significant overlap.

Fall 2023 → Spring 2024

- Tuesdays: 22% decrease (down to 21 out of 650+ Tuesday sections)
- Thursdays: 30% decrease (down to 60 out of 600+ Thursday sections)

2. Facilitating / Creating / Enhancing Opportunities for Student-Faculty Engagement

- a. *Office Hours: Improving the Experience and Encouraging Student to Take Better Advantage* As a start on the faculty side of the equation, Prof. Jillian Cavanaugh (Anthropology) will be holding a workshop this semester through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The Professor Is In:

Helping Students Making the Most of Office Hours

Thursday, March 14

12:30–1:30 p.m. (via Zoom, [RSVP and More Info Here!](#))

- b. *New Events for Informal Student-Faculty Interaction: Student-Faculty Mixers*

Fall Semester – The first Student-Faculty Mixer on November 21, 2023, was a great success!

From: Dylan Karlowski <dylan.karlowski@bcstudentgov.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 12:21 PM

Subject: A Thank You for the Student-Faculty Mixer

Hello all,

Everyone at student government would like to say a big thank you to all the staff, faculty and administrators who came out to the mixer! It meant a lot to us and all the students there to be able to paint, eat and gossip about the faulty air conditioners on campus with you all. A special thanks to Professors Eaton and Hadler who made our advertising and paint by numbers possible, helping create an event that students loved.

One student stopped us on their way out to say it was, "the most fun they had all week," another to say that this event opened their eyes to student life at Brooklyn College. You all made that possible, and we thought you should know that so many other students felt the same.

We're already excited for the next mixer in the spring, hoping there will be even more people, more good times, and a couple more chances to shake our professors down for that last minute extra-credit we need so dearly. We expected 150 people and over 200 showed up! Each semester we'll learn more until we pass this event on to the incoming class. Our community on campus hasn't felt closer than it did when we were all sharing food and paints together.

Here's to the next time,
Dylan and Carrie



Spring Semester – The second Student-Faculty Mixer is on the calendar!

Spring Student-Faculty Mixer

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

12:30–2:00 p.m. (Student Center, 6th Floor, Gold Room)

Ultimate BC Game Show!

Show off your knowledge at this semester's mixer, featuring the biggest gameshow on campus! (plus free food and snacks, of course)