

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the
October 30, 2024 General Meeting
5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Provost April Bedford, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Executive Legal Counsel Jaclyn Helms, Interim Dean James Lynch, Interim Dean Paula Massood, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Dean Peter Tolia, Professor Karen McFadden, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Joseph Entin, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mona Hadler, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Tim Shortell, Professor Malka Simon, Professor Sophia Suarez, Professor Patricia Antonello, Professor Brian Sowers, Noam Abrahams (USG), Anna Belenko (USG), Carrie Ebbin (USG), Nitu Farhin (USG), Jaia Jones (USG), Dylan Karlowski (USG), Haritha Lakshmanan (USG), Doha Nemr (USG), Cyle Paul (USG), Carmine Tepedino (USG), Jamie Jones (GSO).

Absent: Vice President Ronald Jackson, Vice President Todd Michael Galitz, Interim Dean Philip Napoli, Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Beth Evans, Taseen Islam (USG), Pauline Rhoden (GSO).

Non-voting: Sadiya Hoque, Naomi Hymowitz (USG), Robert Echevarria, Shannon Dyett, Aharon Grama.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. President Anderson provided updates, including a discussion of the student disciplinary process at the recent Council on Academic Policy (CAP) meeting. In response to a request from Professor Tim Shortell, a flowchart of the process was referred to the Faculty-Student Relations Committee for review and recommendation to the Policy Council. Additionally, a request to adjust the Policy Council meeting time was raised, with Noam Abrahams (USG) suggesting implementation of the change in the next semester.
3. Professor Sophia Suarez moved to approve September 11, 2024 minutes. Professor Karen McFadden seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Interim Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio delivered an oral report on Faculty-Student Relations, highlighting a reduction in classes during common hours (18 sections this year vs. 81 last year). The committee plans to continue student-faculty mixers and discussed

- enhancing faculty support for students with disabilities through training. They also emphasized promoting student use of office hours and engagement in faculty research.
5. Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert provided a written report on Fiscal, Infrastructure and Planning Committee. The committee discussed strategies to improve campus communications, including hosting collaborative open forums, addressing capital projects, enhancing food services and streamlining the process for reporting facilities issues. Additionally, the Office of the SVP for Finance and Administration launched a regularly updated [Brooklyn College Knowledge news page](#) to keep the community informed.
 6. President Anderson noted that the Governance and Policy Committee and External Relations Committee did not meet but are scheduled to convene prior to the next Policy Council meeting.
 7. The [Interim Events Protocol](#) was reviewed by section. Professor Mobina Hashmi suggested adding definitions for “events” and “spontaneous events” and including a link to the Student Handbook. Professor Joseph Entin proposed amending the term “guests” in Section II, Campus Access. President Anderson accepted the friendly amendment to replace “guests” with “visitors”. A robust discussion followed.
 8. Noam (USG) motioned to amend the language in Section II, On Campus Events, to state that “any events proposing to use corridor space must be scheduled in advance with the appropriate party”. Dean Peter Toliás seconded the motion. The amendment did not pass.
 9. President Anderson noted from the discussion that the protocol should be managed with a focus on egress and noise.
 10. Professor Namulundah Florence requested that faculty feedback be circulated. Noam (USG) requested adding a section on how to file complaint in real time. President Anderson noted that a report would be provided on the feedback received and how the policy has been updated based on those comments.
 11. The reports on recent activities were tabled for the next meeting.
 12. Professor Suarez motioned to adjourn the meeting; Interim Dean James Lynch seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Town Hall Planning:

- The committee is organizing town halls to present topics under the **Finance and Administration** portfolio.
- Plan to hold **separate town halls** for:
 - **Students:** To reduce intimidation, align with their schedules, and focus on their priorities.
 - **Faculty and Staff:** Addressing issues relevant to their roles and concerns.
- **Feedback** is being collected from leadership to identify key areas of focus for each group.
- Exploring the possibility of adding town halls to **existing meetings** (e.g., student senate or faculty council, PACS) to maximize outreach and participation.
- Once feedback is received, the committee will finalize the **dates, formats, and topics** for each session.

Additional Topics Discussed:

Food Services:

- Progress made on bringing **kosher** and **halal food trucks** to campus.

Capital Projects & Infrastructure:

- Updates on ongoing **capital projects**.
- Focus on improving facility operations through **preventative maintenance** using the **Archibus work request system**.

Student Engagement:

- Efforts to enhance **student participation**, particularly by incorporating town halls into **student senate meetings**.
- Discussion of creating more **community spaces** on campus to encourage interaction and community building.