



The York College Senate  
Meeting of Tuesday, September 29, 2015  
Senate Plenary – 12:30pm  
Room AC/2M04

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Administration: Keizs, Banrey, Davidson, Meleties, Thomas

Faculty Senators: Acker, Agin, Ashton, Auriemma, Bai, Chanel, Gonzalez, Hughes, Kinyatti, Kirk, Levey, Massimino, Mawyer, McFarquhar, McNeil, Phelps, Pritchard, Profit, Robie, Saad, Sharpe, Shearin-Patterson

Student Senators: Ahmed, J.; Ahmed, R.; Anti, Azad, Barrett, Brewley-Addo, Chowdhury, Elrakaiby, Garuba, Gnabode, Gobin, Kaba, Khan, Nnaji, Okeke, Oladipupo, Rodriguez, Torres, Umarov

Guests (Non Senators): Clause, Dinello, Massiah, Madden, Paglione, Smith, Yates

1. Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 12:50pm by President Keizs.

President Keizs welcomed the senators: students, faculty, and administrators. She recognized the new Faculty Caucus Leader, Sen. Ashton and the new SGA President/Student Caucus Leader, Sen. Azad. The prior caucus leaders were thanked for their service. Additionally, President Keizs welcomed all those in attendance.

President Keizs requested a moment of silence for the late Timothy Corkery. She noted that Tim had served as parliamentarian of the senate for many years and did so nimbly. Further, that he worked with students on the debate team and was a mentor to many students. She explained that he had a strong presence on campus that will be missed. Those in attendance observed a moment of silence in honor of Timothy Corkery.

2. Senate Plenary Minutes from May 12th, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sen. Mawyer and seconded. The minutes passed unanimously.

### 3. Introductions

President Keizs introduced herself to those in attendance and asked that the senators introduce themselves as well. Senators (faculty, staff, and administrators) took turns introducing themselves. President Keizs then asked guests in attendance to raise their hands, noting that these are open meetings that may be attended by anyone, but that guests would not be allowed to vote on senate matters.

### 4. Election of Officers

#### ➤ Vice Chair

Sen. Auriemma nominated Sen. Mawyer for the position of Vice Chair. Sen. Mawyer accepted the nomination. A motion to close nominations was made by Auriemma and seconded. Sen. Mawyer was elected to the position unanimously.

#### ➤ Secretary

A number of nominations were made for which the nominee declined the nomination. Sen. Gnabode then nominated Sen. Gonzalez who accepted the nomination. A motion to close nominations was made by Gnabode and seconded. Sen. Gonzalez was elected unanimously.

#### ➤ Parliamentarian

Sen. Mawyer nominated Sen. Sharpe who accepted the nomination. Sharpe requested a copy of Robert's Rules of Order. A motion to close nominations was made by Mawyer and seconded. Sen. Sharpe was elected unanimously.

President Keizs thanked the newly elected officers for their willingness to serve.

### 5. President's Report

#### ➤ Review of Charter – Highlight New Committees

- Committee on Governance
- Committee on Resources

President Keizs reviewed the recently approved charter noting that there are now two new committees among the standing committees of the senate. These are the Committee on Governance, which will meet once a semester, and the Committee on Resources. She explained that some committees, for example Curriculum, had already begun their work for the year while there are others who have yet to meet. In an effort to get the work of these committees started, President Keizs asked the following individuals to call the meetings for the committees listed noting each would receive a list via e-mail of the members of their respective committees. She suggested that committees have their initial meeting in October, if they have not yet met, to get off to a good start. She reminded those in attendance that the individuals convening the meetings were not necessarily the chairpersons of the committees and that it is up to the committees to elect their chair once convened.

Committee on Academic Policy and Standards: Jay Choi

Committee on Campus Environment and Facilities: James Minto

Committee on College Curriculum: This committee is already meeting.

Committee on Elections: William Dinello

Committee on Governance: Pannayiotis Meleties.

Committee on Instruction and Professional Development: Lynn Clarke

Committee on Library and Technology: [Kinyatti](#)

Committee on Resources: Ronald Thomas

A request was made to clarify the role of the new committees.

President Keizs responded to the request by first talking about the charter review process that had recently been undertaken. She then explained that the Committee on Governance is a new committee that has faculty, students, and administrators. The committee is tasked with reviewing the charter and issues related to the senate. It was the case that the prior charter was not changed in thirty year. This new committee will be able to suggest changes to the charter in a timely manner so that it can be tweaked as needed. The committee is also charged with looking at broader issues of governance such as how the senate functions.

President Keizs explained that the new Committee on Resources will look at how York spends its money. In the past President Keizs has tried to consult with students, faculty, and the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) on budget issues, but this committee will formalize that process. This group will consult on matters pertaining to the budget. The committee will meet roughly twice a year. Our current budget was due on October 1<sup>st</sup> so at this point the committee cannot have input on this budget but will have input on the budget going forward.

#### ➤ College Updates

- Dean Banrey: Status of Disabled Student Services and LGBT services

President Keizs deferred some of her time to Dean Banrey who gave a summary of the status of services for disabled students and LGBT services. Banrey's full report is attached following the minutes for those who wish to review it.

Dean Banrey explained that a series of meetings were held with President Keizs, members of the senate and the student government association. 22 items related to services for disabled students were put forth. For time's sake his report to the senate will focus on only some of these.

- *Braille Inside Elevators*: This service is in the procurement phase. The total cost for the braille plates is \$27,000. This does not include installation. The college is sourcing the money for this service.
- *Audio in Elevators to Announce Floors*: A quote was obtained for this service. The cost for installing the panel needed in the elevators for this service is \$220,000. The design phase will begin in December of 2015 and the estimated date of completion is 2018.
- *Dedicated Space for Access a Ride to Pickup Students on Guy R. Brewer*: The department of transportation met with individuals from York College around this and related issues. A study will be undertaken around these issues and we are now waiting for the results of this study.
- *Lighting in Public Spaces*: Work on this service will not be undertaken until the scaffolding is removed from the current construction in the Academic Core Building. At which time the scaffolding is removed, the electrician will look into lighting.
- *Doors that Open Automatically*: Talks with CUNY are underway to see if this service can be implemented at York College.
- *Quiet Spaces*: Quiet spaces and cubicles are current being worked on.
- *Toilets that Flush Automatically*: A cost proposal for materials was completed and the cost is \$80,000 for materials alone.
- *Technology Needs in the Center for students with disabilities and in the computer Labs*: Room 3G09 in the library will be open and involve spaces for wheelchairs. 10 accessible work-stations were already opened this fall and additional work is proceeding.

Dean Banrey also met with the President of SAGA and Scott Scheidlower (the faculty advisor for the club) to discuss issues of concern to LGBT students. The students seemed safe at York College but put forth services they feel would improve their experience here. Dean Banrey addressed some of these in his report. They are as follows:

- *Gender Neutral Bathrooms*: The Legal team at York is looking into what other CUNY colleges have done around this area. 150 campuses across the country have gender-neutral guidelines. John Jay College and Hunter College are among them. York is reaching out to these two CUNY schools to see what steps they undertook as they created these guidelines. York College is very devoted to making this service available.
- *Use of Preferred Name*: CUNY is specific that a name change must be presented through legal documents (a marriage license or name change certificate). However, CUNY First allows for changes of names, so this issue will be explored further.

It was raised that a mission statement from the Alliance for Gender and Sexual Equality at York College is being drafted and that the statement be put forth on a prominent space on the website. That safe spaces be added around campus was also raised. It was raised that there is a need for tables in classrooms for those in wheelchair as well as left-handed desks in classrooms. Dean Banrey indicated that the concerns raised would be looked into.

- VP Thomas: Status of the Facilities; Public Safety; and Budget

President Keizs asked that VP Thomas hold off on his report until the next Senate meeting so that the Student Caucus Leader's Report, Faculty Caucus Leader's Report, and Curriculum Committee Report could be heard.

#### 6. Student Caucus Report

The Student Caucus Leader, Sen. Azad, reported that the student government is beginning to plan events along with faculty in different departments. The club fair last week was a very successful event. The student caucus leader thanked the club council president and senators who helped with this event. He also noted that the Hispanic Heritage Committee is planning an event on October 15, 2015 from 12pm to 2pm in the atrium in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The student caucus leader noted that the SGA is working on putting students on different senate committees in the hopes of having a good year.

#### 7. Faculty Caucus Report

The faculty caucus leader noted that many faculty members in attendance were wearing black as a resolution was passed in the faculty caucus related to the lack of a contract for the PSC CUNY. That resolution, read into the minutes, asks President Keizs to speak to the CUNY Chancellor to make the PSC a contract offer. The faculty caucus leader, Sen. Ashton, indicated that he had spoken to President Keizs about this at the EC meeting.

President Keizs addressed those in attendance with respect to this resolution stating that she will talk to the chancellor and reminding them that the chancellor sees the need for a contract as his highest concern. She and other college presidents are in full support of a new contract.

The faculty caucus leader reminded those in attendance that iPads are available for use by senators and that one needs to see Peter Tighe to obtain one.

## 8. Committee Reports

### ➤ Committee on College Curriculum Report:

The Chairperson of the College Curriculum Committee, Timothy Kirk, asked whether, in the interest of time, the entire college curriculum package could be discussed and voted on as a whole. Some concern was raised that this might not allow for the kind of discussion and debate one might feel is necessary to understand and vote on the proposals. After some discussion Azad moved that the proposal be voted on as a whole. The motion was seconded. The vote was taken and the results were as follows:

YES: 32

NO: 2

ABS: 9

The motion did not carry as it did not achieve 50% + 1 vote acclamation of the senators seated.

### **a. Earth and Physical Sciences** **(pp. 1-8)**

#### *a.1 New course: ASTR 204 "Methods of Scientific Research"* (pp. 2-6)

Rigorous introduction to conducting scientific research in STEM fields. Course developed in partnership with federally funded initiatives to strengthen education in STEM disciplines; placed at 200 level to begin building competencies necessary to excel in mentored group and independent research in third and fourth years of study.

#### *a.2 Revision to Astronomy minor* (pp. 7-8)

Adds ASTR 204, research methods, as an option for the minor. Updates nomenclature and formatting of text. Number of required and elective credits, and total number of credits for minor, remain unchanged.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Azad and seconded. It passed unanimously.

### **b. Performing & Fine Arts**

It was noted that **(pp. 9-58)**

#### *b.1 New Course: CT 160, "User Experience Design"* (pp. 10-15)

A new foundation course for the Communications Technology major that integrates multiple disciplines into the research, design, and evaluation of how users interact with communication technology.

#### *b.2 Course Changes:*

*"Foundations in Communication Technology"* (pp. 16-22)

Makes course permanently writing intensive.

*"Principles of the Moving Image"* (pp. 23-29)

Makes course permanently writing intensive.

*"Introduction to Motion Graphics"* (pp. 30-31)

Updates prereqs.

*"Web Design I"* (pp. 32-33)

Updates prereqs.

*“Web Development I”* (pp. 34-39)  
Updates prereqs. Updates course description to account for recent developments in the field.

*“Web Development II”* (pp. 40-45)  
Updates prereqs. Updates course description to account for recent developments in the field.

*b.3 Revision to Communication Technology Major* (pp. 46-47)  
The revised major design includes the removal of the discontinued course AC 101, updates two course titles, and small changes to course options within the foundation and concentrations. Total credits required for major is now the same for either concentration: 46.

*b.4 Revision to Communication Technology minor* (p. 48)  
The revised minor design includes the removal of the discontinued course AC 101, updates two course titles, and small changes to course options within the foundation and concentrations. Total credits required for minor remains unchanged: 15.

*b.5 New Course: TA 201, “Shakespeare: From Script to Screen”* (pp. 49-58)  
New course offers an introductory survey of Shakespeare’s plays along with an analysis of a range of the film versions made from them. Previously offered as a special topics course.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Chanel and seconded. It passed unanimously.

**c. Chemistry** (pp. 59-62)  
*c.1 Revision to Chemistry Major* (pp. 59-62)

Physics courses, which were previously hidden prerequisites in the major, are now made explicit for transparency in advertising to students for registration and financial aid.

It was noted that the top line should say “Chemistry” and not “Pharmaceutical Sciences”. Robie moved to accept the proposal with the change just noted. A motion to accept this proposal was made by Azad and seconded. It passed unanimously.

**d. Accounting and Finance** (pp. 63-77)  
d.1 Course Changes

*ACC 101, “Principles of Accounting I”* (pp. 63-66)  
These changes serve to bring the curriculum into alignment with a CUNY-wide initiative to allow for easier transferring among campuses. Cash and receivables have always been a component of this course and are now

formally included. Fixed assets are moved to Accounting 102 and current liabilities are added.

*ACC 102, "Principles of Accounting II"* (pp. 67-71)

These changes serve to bring the curriculum into alignment with a CUNY-wide initiative to allow for easier transferring among campuses.

*ACC 238, "Fraud Examination"* (pp. 72-77)

To update Acc. 238 to include the Acc. 103 course as a prerequisite. The department feels that the student that takes either Acc. 102 or Acc. 103 has the necessary skills to successfully complete Acc. 238. Offering this course in an online hybrid format will give students more flexibility in fulfilling requirements.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Meleties and seconded. It passed unanimously.

**e. Foreign Languages, ESL & Humanities** (pp. 78-87)

*e.1 New Course: HUM 105, "The Changing Depiction of the Family in American Popular Culture"* (pp. 78-84)

Examines contemporary debates about the American family through the lens of popular media will allow students to not only become acquainted with the terms and methods of film and television criticism, but will allow them to engage in critical thinking by studying both the sociological and demographic shifts in actual society, and the representations of these shifts in media and what these representations signify.

*e.2 Revision to Women's Studies minor* (pp. 85-87)

The proposed change adds more options by including in the Minor courses recently created in the field of study. This proposal is also necessary in order to remove courses that are not offered anymore. The Minor will maintain the same number of credits and hours as in the existing curriculum

A motion to accept this proposal was made by Ashton and seconded. It passed unanimously.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. Mawyer. It was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Lidia Gonzalez  
Secretary

## Disabled Student Services Update Report

The information for this report was provided by Mr. James Minto, CIO Peter Tighe in coordination with Asst. Dean Paola Veras.

After concerns were raised by students in a set of meetings with President Keizs and brought before the College Senate, members of Academic Affairs, Facilities Management, IT, Public Safety and staff from the Center with Disabilities formed a Task Force in the fall 2015 semester to identify issues and individuals who would be responsible for providing oversight leading to taking corrective action to resolve concerns identified.

Below are several areas of concern that were raised and for each I will provide you with an update. The areas that I will cover are a few that were most pressing:

### 1) FACILITIES

#### a) **Braille Inside Elevators –**

**Status:** IN Pre-PROCUREMENT Stage

**Update:** Received quote from Escalator/Elevator Maintenance Co. for ADA Braille compliance. Total Cost = \$27,095 for braille plates only. The College is presently sourcing the funding.

#### b) **Sound Inside Elevators to Announce Floors –**

**Status:** IN DISCUSSIONS

Update: Received a quote from Escalator/Elevator Maintenance Co. for full ADA elevator compliance. Total = \$220,000 for Cab Operating Panel that is needed to be installed to achieve audio ADA floor landing sound in each cab. This scope will be covered under the DASNY Elevator/Escalator upgrades schedule to begin design in December 2015. Actual construction completion date is 2018.

#### c) **Dedicated Space for Access-A-Ride in Front of the A Core along Guy R. Brewer Blvd., and 160th Street –**

**Status:** IN DISCUSSIONS

**Update:** A meeting and tour was held at YC with DOT on 7/7/2015. On 8/10/2015 DOT requested our review comments to a DOT proposed study of various traffic concerns impacting Downtown Jamaica and York College. On 8/26/2015 York College comments were returned to DOT. We await the final Scope of Work (SOW) of the study. Access-A-Ride evaluation is part of this study.

**d) Insufficient Lighting in Public Spaces –**

**Status:** NOT STARTED

**Update:** Facilities Electricians will begin addressing these areas once several critical construction projects are completed.

**e) Entry's Not Equipped with Automatic Door Openers –**

**Status:** Working with CUNY Central to identify funding to investigate the feasibility of adding automatic doors openers at all entrances.

**f) Quiet Study Spaces –**

**Status:** IN CONSTRUCTION

**Update:** New study carrels and study rooms are being installed in the Library.

**g) Electronic Toilet Flushers –**

**Status:** NOT STARTED

**Update:** This project is presently in progress and the college has received initial cost proposal associated with material needed for 1 Auto-flush meter in each ADA stall. The total cost is approximately \$80,000 for material. We are sourcing the funding.

**2) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADA COMPLIANCE PROJECTS**

**a) Technology Needs in the Center for Disabilities, Computer Labs and Library –**

**Status:** The Technology Fee budget has an allocation of \$108K for a Phase 1: Campus ADA Technology Rollout Project. The purpose of this first phase is to address any remaining technology needs in the Center for Students with Disabilities, and then to begin addressing ADA Workstation needs in all Student Computer Labs and the Library.

In addition, the College is acquiring hydraulic table(s) to be installed in the newly renovated and expanded classroom (3G09) in the Library. These tables will accommodate wheelchair access. We will also install an ADA Workstation which will provide assistive software and large screen monitors for visually impaired students using that room. The CSD Lab officially opened during the spring 2015 semester with 10 accessible workstations and the YES Lab is presently being renovated.

It is intended that a Phase 2 of this Project will be included in next year's budget to complete the rollout to the Labs and Library.

## **LGTB SERVICES UPDATE REPORT**

Met with SAGA student organization president and it was communicated that LGTB students feel comfortable on-campus and they are also supported to implement events and in accessing services. However, two items of concern were raised, “gender neutral restrooms” and use of preferred name.

### **1) “Gender Neutral Restrooms” –**

It was stated in a recent article that over 150 college campuses have “gender neutral” bathrooms. A quick review showed that John Jay and Hunter are among the colleges.

We are going to reach out to these colleges to obtain more information on the steps taken to create “gender neutral restrooms”. OSHA has issued guidelines on this subject and proper guidance needs to be taken as we move forward in order to ensure compliance concerns.

### **2) Use of Preferred Name –**

To paraphrase, CUNY Policy indicates that any student who wishes to change their name must submit legal documents such as Marriage License or court papers demonstrating that a name change was legally processed. As such, there is not much that the college can do to address this concern due to policy.

Respectfully submitted by Interim Dean Vincent Banrey  
September 29, 2015