



The York College Senate
Meeting of Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Senate Plenary – 12:30pm
Room AC/2M04

Minutes

Present:

Administration: Keizs, Davidson, Meleties, Thomas

Faculty Senators: Acker, Althaus, Ashton, Auriemma, Bai, Cleary, Criss, Gonzalez, Hughes, Kirk, Massimino, Mawyer, McFarquhar, Pritchard, Profit, Robie, Saad, Sharpe, Shearin-Patterson

Student Senators: Ahmed, Antoine, Azad, Azizian, Barrella, Barrett, Begum, Brewley-Addo, Crawford, Elrakaiby, Garuba, Gnabode, Gobin, Kaba, Kaur, R.; Khan, Okeke, Oladipupo, Oliver, Parchment, Rodriguez, Torres, Wongmo

Guests (Non Senators): Johnson, Roshid, Smickle, Wayne, Wei

1. Call to Order
The meeting called to order at 12:51pm by President Keizs.
2. Approval of Minutes: October 27, 2015
A motion to approve the minutes with some minor corrections was made by Sen. Ashton and seconded.
The minutes passed unanimously.
3. President's Report

President Keizs spoke about the Thanksgiving meal at York College that the SGA was currently involved with. Many of the students in the student government were volunteering as servers. President Keizs then wished everyone in attendance a Happy Thanksgiving and a good end to the semester. She expressed her happiness with the fact that committee work is moving quickly and indicated that she is encouraged by the work of the two new committees created by the recent changes to the charter.

President Keizs shared what she knows about the contract negotiation. She indicated that the two sides are now meeting and meeting more intentionally. She said that she is hopeful that this means some decisions are being made. She reminded those in attendance that there was an offer made to the PSC. With respect to the last five years CUNY is offering raises of 0%, 0%, 0%, 1% and 3%. This marks a 4% increase over 5 years. President Keizs indicated that there are other non-monetary items on the table. Despite being called non-monetary, these items do cost colleges money. In the way of conversation, President Keizs is sharing some of these items though she noted that some are being put forth by CUNY while others by the PSC. Some of these items include: 3-year appointments for adjuncts, annualizing the contract, normalizing online teaching observations, making bereavement leave an entitlement, increasing the number of distinguished professors from 150 to 250 across the university, placing a cap on distinguished lecturers at 150 instead of 250, creating a new salary schedule at Baruch's business school, re-funding paid parental leave, and re-funding adjunct health care. Additionally there have been discussions on health benefits of all members, not just adjuncts.

President Keizs indicated that she got a briefing on the COACHE Survey. She explained that Dr. Osborne will be working with the faculty caucus leader to get further clarification as to the survey's results.

4. Student Caucus Report

The SGA president, Sen. Azad gave his report. He explained that the SGA is sponsoring scholarships for students. He urged faculty to share information about these scholarships with their students.

Further, Sen. Azad indicated that the SGA, along with other groups, is taking a resolution to Albany. Students are asking for a tuition freeze. Further students are asking for full funding for both CUNY and SUNY. Sen. Azad explained that students should not be part of the rational tuition plan.

5. Faculty Caucus Report

Sen. Ashton discussed the issue of physical safety at York College as well as the recent fire and fire drills. He explained that the caucus is very concerned with how disorganized things were during the fire/fire drill. He explained that it was hard to get out of the building in some cases because escalators were closed and that because certain doors were closed people were trapped in different parts of the building such as the breezeway to the H-wing. It seemed that security was not organized in how to manage the people trying to exit. Further, people exited but remained very close to the building that may be dangerous if windows blow out during a fire.

Sen Ashton raised additional concerns about safety. These included the fact that the Liberty Avenue entrance to the academic core building often does not have a security guard stationed there and the fact that despite escalators being closed, students use them anyway. He explained that there have been student disruptions in offices and classrooms with nothing being done about those and that the lighting in some parts of the building is not working.

The faculty caucus is asking that these issues be addressed as soon as possible.

President Keizs responded indicating that she was not aware of recent student disruptions in classrooms, but that there are protocols in place for such situations. She indicated that in the past these were shared through department meetings, faculty orientations, and other means. Dr. Choi will be notified and will work with Sen. Ashton on how to get these protocols out to the faculty.

With respect to the fire/fire drill, President Keizs noted that the first incident was not handled as well as it should have been. She feels that lessons were learned from that and that subsequent actions will be more aligned to how they should be. She explained that the director of public safety could be asked to address

the senate about issues of public safety.

Sen. Ashton indicated that these are long-term issues requiring more than a report.

At this time others in attendance added to the discussion noting the following additional concerns: solicitors have made their way to classrooms to sell things to students, the perimeter of the campus feels porous, and there is a lack of video cameras on campus that might help in terms of safety issues.

A student senator noted that the students organized a meeting to address issues of concern around the campus. This was for more than security issues. Despite inviting many administrators only two attended the event. Some of the students' concerns had to do with having three fire/fire drills in one week, issues of safety during these incidents, and a feeling of not knowing what exactly is going on at the campus.

Some senators explained that being a public campus, with identification anyone can come onto campus and trying to prevent this might push us towards a police state, while others felt the need to be proactive on issues of safety, rather than merely responding once a tragedy occurs.

President Keizs indicated that further town hall meetings could be organized. She indicated that some of these issues are not new. She hears the concern, that people are not scared but uncomfortable and that we need to address this. She will have the chief of public safety come address the senate at the next meeting. She noted that a sense of safety and security is critical to the work we do on the campus. That is, that an environment of comfort is needed for us to do our work and that as such we will have to have more conversations about these issues moving forward.

6. Standing Committee Reports

a. Committee on Campus Environment

Prof. Smickle indicated that at the Oct 20th meeting of the committee on campus environment various issues were discussed. Among these were bathroom cleanliness and repair. James Minto indicated to the committee that additional custodians, a plumber, and a supervisor were being hired. This should help the bathroom situation. Prof. Smickle also noted that we as a campus have to do our part to not throw paper on the floor even if the floor is already dirty to begin with, for example.

Additionally it was noted that an electrician and painter were hired and that this should also make a difference around the campus.

There is a bad smell on the Liberty avenue entrance to the academic core building. It was noted that the smell might have already been there, but that the scaffolding might be trapping it, so we smell it now when we had not prior. Mr. Minto is looking into that.

Prof. Smickle explained that the scaffolding should be down by April of 2016.

Additionally ice and winter conditions were discussed. There were complaints about ice on 160th street. The committee has drafted a letter to be presented to the caucus, the senate, the department of transportation, and the long island railroad. Right now no one seems to be taking responsibility for the area and this condition and so the committee wants the senate to move on this especially since avoiding the issue is just a matter of spreading some salt on the sidewalk.

The committee is also working on issues of traffic around the campus. Cars drive very quickly and run lights. The committee is hoping that red light or speed cameras can be put in to help matters.

With respect to parking lot safety, the committee wants 3-way stop signs put in, improved lighting, and the work STOP on the floor by stop signs. Chief Massiah will be meeting with the committee at their next meeting.

The committee is also interested in improving the campus by removing weeds and doing some planting. They are looking to apply for an auxiliary services grant and to work with work-study students on this. The alumni association has also agreed to give some money towards beautifying the campus.

Some senators in attendance raised concerns to the committee. These included a student who had his car hit in the parking lot but could do nothing about it, as there are no cameras in the lot. It was brought up that there actually are cameras but that we are unsure if they work/work well. Another concern was that there are cars parked on the sidewalk on Archer Ave and that this is disrespectful to those who need to walk along this street. The committee said they would follow up on these concerns.

Sen. Ashton, among others, thanked the committee for its work.

A copy of the minutes of the Committee on Campus Environment's Oct. 20, 2015 meeting can be found at the conclusion of these minutes.

b. Curriculum Committee Report:

7. Teacher Education

a. *Course changes*

- i. *EDUC 230, "Teaching with Multimedia Technology"*
Adds asynchronous online option
- ii. *EDUC 280, "Child and Adolescent Development for Teachers"*
Adds hybrid option.
- iii. *EDUC 369, "Early Language & Literacy for English Only and English Language Learners (EO & ELLs)"*
Adds hybrid option.
- iv. *EDUC 370, "Content Literacy 2-6 English Only and English Language Learners (EO & ELLs)"*
Adds hybrid option.
- v. *EDUC 283, Educational Psychology: Effective Teaching and Learning in Diverse and Inclusive Classrooms"*
Adds hybrid option.
- vi. *YD 289, "Understanding Youth in the Urban Context"*
Updates course description now that course fulfills a General Education requirement
- vii. *YD 290, "Action Research for Practitioners"*
Changes pre-req to "department permission" for flexibility in course sequencing

With respect to the proposal to YD 290, there was a discrepancy between the template and the rationale. Both should read "department permission."

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

b. *New Course: YS 301, "Independent Study in Youthwork Practice"*
Fieldwork placement with weekly process group

c. *Minor Revision: Youth Studies*

d. *Program Deletion: Certificate Program for Youth and Child Workers*

Sen. Kirk suggested that we move b, c, and d together.

A motion to consider these together was made by McNeil and seconded. It passed unanimously.

Upon discussion questions were raised about what would happen if someone who is in the process of completing the certificate comes back to York wanting to do so after the program is deleted. If the program is inactive then it cannot be completed by these people should they want to. It was suggested that teacher education get in contact with any student who has taken courses towards the certificate but not completed it to tell them the program is ending and offer them options as to what to do going forward. Sen. Kirk noted that this was brought up in the curriculum committee, that the teacher education department was looking into notifying the few people in the program, but that he himself did not know the results of that work.

Sen. Ashton made a motion to amend the proposal to say that if it has not been done yet, the department will reach out to those people in the program and let them know that the program is coming to an end. The amended proposal was voted on. The results were:

YES - 34

NO - 2

ABS - 0

The amended proposal passed.

8. Business and Economics

a. New Courses

i. *ECON 116, "Natural Resource Economics and Policy"*

Applies theoretical and empirical economic tools to analysis and discussion of nonrenewable resources, air pollution, water pollution, solid waste management, and hazardous substances.

ii. *ECON 295, "Global Environmental Issues"*

This course introduces students to a number of socio-economic factors that contribute to environmental issues, and use them to gain insight into and draw parallels between specific environmental problems.

iii. *ECON 305, "Economics of Travel and Tourism"*

Basic concepts about tourism as well as the fundamental role played by tourism in developed and developing countries. Topics include demand, supply, economic impacts, costs and benefits, social and environmental consequences and tourism as a potential factor to develop destination areas.

- iv. *ECON 306, "Economics of Forestry"*
Factors in the evolution of forest, wildlife and related natural resources administration and policies, with emphasis on economic impact.
- v. *ECON 316, "Sustainable Development"*
Core concepts, principles and practices of sustainable development. Examines the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainable development by focusing on changing patterns of consumption, production, and distribution of resources.
- vi. *ECON 419, "Environment and Government Regulations"*
Examines environmental management from the perspectives of government regulators, private corporations, and nonprofit organizations.

A motion to accept this proposal was made by McNeil and seconded. The proposal passed unanimously.

b. Program Revisions

i. *Economics*

Adds new concentration in environmental economics; Adds footnote: "All Economics majors must take Math 115 or Math 121 in partial fulfillment of graduation requirements. Transfer students majoring in Economics must present or complete these courses, even though they have an Associate degree where all General Education Requirements have been waived."

ii. *Aviation Management*

Adds footnote: "All Aviation Management majors must take ECON 102, ECON 103, MATH 115 or MATH 121, and POL 103 in partial fulfillment of graduation requirements."

iii. *Business Administration*

Changes "tracks" to "concentrations"; updates subheadings for clarity; adds following footnote: "All students majoring in Business Administration must take ECON 102, ECON 103, ECON 220, and MATH 115 or MATH 121 in partial fulfillment of graduation requirements. Transfer students must present or complete these courses, even though they have an Associate degree where all General Education Requirements have been waived."

iv. *Marketing*

Adds footnote: "All students majoring in Marketing must take ECON 102, ECON 103, ECON 220, and MATH 115 or MATH 121 in partial fulfillment of graduation requirements. Transfer students must present or complete these courses, even though they have an Associate degree where all General Education requirements have been waived."

A motion to discuss this proposal was made by Ashton and seconded.

Sen. Robie asked whether we are certain that listing something in a footnote is enough for financial aid to cover the courses. The registrar indicated that thus far this has been sufficient.

The registrar indicated that the proposal should be amended to include the following, “students concentrating in environmental economics and wishing to take EHS 341, 432, 433 may need to take EHS 211 and EHS 212 as pre-requisites.” Sen. Ashton moves to amend the proposal to include this language.

Sen. Pritchard moves to accept the amended proposal. The motion is seconded. The amended proposal passed unanimously.

c. New Minor: Marketing

As there was not sufficient time to address it, this proposal will be discussed at the next meeting

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Sen. Ashton. It was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Lidia Gonzalez
Secretary

York College Campus Environment Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Location: AC-3A05

1. Call to order:

- a. The meeting was called to order by Professor Winsome Smickle at 12:00 pm

2. Introduction:

- a. The committee will consist of the following faculty members:
 - Robert Benedito
 - Thomas Moore
 - Stanley Schleifer
 - Winsome Smickle
 - Vivian Wang
 - Linda Gerena
- b. The committee will consist of the following administration and student members:
 - James Minto
 - Reginald Madden
 - Randy Punter
 - Ripandep Kaur
 - Nism Elan Azizian
 - Sandra Okeke
 - Zokirjon Umarov

3. Members Present:

- Azizian, Benedito, Gerena, Kaur, Madden, Minto, Okeke, Punter, Schleifer, Smickle, Umarov

4. Election:

- a. Winsome Smickle was elected as Chair
- b. Linda Gerena was elected as Secretary

5. Terms of Office for faculty members

- a. The following faculty members will serve for 1 year:

- Smickle
 - Wang
 - Moore
- b. The following faculty members will serve for 2 years:
- Gerena
 - Benedito
 - Schleifer

6. Review of College Charter

- a. The new charter was reviewed and its relationship to this committee's work was discussed.

7. Improvements to college services

- a. Bathroom cleanliness and repair;

Mr. Minto, Executive Director of Campus Facilities and Buildings and Grounds discussed the serious conditions of campus cleanliness. He reported that the department has been extremely understaffed. Mr. Minto reported that he's in the process of hiring 2 assistant custodians, 2 supervisors and an administrator supervisor. These new hires will help to improve campus cleanliness conditions, especially in the bathrooms (54 bathrooms in the building). However, we will not have an overnight shift for maintenance.

Mr. Minto gave a summary of the plumbing and other issues that have posed challenges to bathroom cleanliness and functions. He stated that drains will be installed in the men's bathroom on the 1st floor by Starbucks. Mr. Minto also reported that the Deputy Chancellor visited the College recently (looked at bathrooms in the B & C corridors) and will continue to make unannounced visits to York to inspect the conditions of the bathrooms. He suggested that students and faculty call 2222 to report problem areas. It was also suggested that signs be placed in the bathrooms with a list of numbers that students and faculty can call in case of an emergency. Faculty can also file work service orders. Mr. Minto predicted that with the new hires the campus would see an improvement in cleanliness. However, even with new hires, he does not think that the campus will get to 100% coverage.

The issue of having separate bathrooms for faculty was raised (one on each floor if possible). Faculty members expressed their level of discomfort when they have to leave

sensitive materials (e.g. test papers) on the counter in the bathroom. It was noted that the Health building has faculty bathrooms as well as other campuses.

Mr. Minto also reported on other positions, such as electricians and plumbers. He reported that the previous plumber had retired but was replaced. A second plumber was also hired along with three electricians, and a painter.

- b. Mr. Minto was also made aware of the poor conditions of the window blinds and other cleanliness conditions in many classrooms
- c. The pool heater is broken. It is hoped that this will be repaired soon.

d. Odor by the Liberty Avenue entrance.

- There seems to be a very unpleasant odor at the Liberty Avenue entrance. Mr. Minto will follow through and check this out.

e. Scaffolding

- Mr. Minto reported that the scaffolding should come down by April 2016.

f. Ice and winter conditions

- The serious nature of the ice build-up on the sidewalks outside the campus was discussed. Of particular concern are the sidewalks directly outside the MTA subway entrance leading to the LIRR underpass on Archer Ave. This committee will ask Mr. Earl Simon to attend our next meeting to discuss these hazards. Also a letter will be drafted to send to the DOT, MTA, LIRR, and local state and US Congressional representatives to notify the officials that a hazardous danger exists, and the fear of injury to faculty, students, and staff is real. We will request a plan to keep these sidewalks clear of ice during the winter months.

8. Campus safety

- a. Red light or Speed cameras on Guy R Brewer Blvd, Liberty Avenue, and 160th Street
 - i. There is an ongoing DOT study on the area around campus. The DOT met with the York administration in June and a study is underway. It is assessing vehicle speed and a possible traffic light to improve traffic safety. It will be an 18-month study to

measure traffic volume and patterns. A sensor has been placed on 160th St. to monitor these conditions

b. Parking lot safety

- i. Chief Massiah will be invited to our next meeting to discuss the need for 3-way stop signs to reduce speeding, pavement markings (e.g. STOP), parking enforcement, and better lighting in the parking lot. These issues were raised by the committee last semester, but has yet to be resolved.

9. Campus décor

- a. College Decor needs improvement. Plantings, shrubs, flowers, weed reduction, etc. all need to be addressed. The idea of an Auxiliary grant was raised to receive funds to keep the campus beautiful. Also, asking the alumni association for support in this project was discussed as well. In addition, the committee will reach out to student clubs and ask for their assistance with the maintenance of the plants and flowers.
- b. Mr. Minto reported that he is looking at different contracts to take care of the trees on the college campus. Those outside the campus belong to the city.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Linda Gerena