

York College
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd.
Academic Core AC-3D01 (in-person)
Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Senate Plenary Minutes

Present:

Administration: Schrader, Brazil, Rios, Williams
Faculty: Alapo, Amaghionyeodiwe, Birk, Burke, Chirico, Baron, Dean, Forester, Hartman, Henry, Lee, Me Gee, McNeil, Meddeb, Moore, Parmet, Shearin-Patterson, Preiser, Richards, Wang
Students: Adigun, Ambati, Bishundayal, Daley, Eghaghe, Fordjour, Greene, Ibeh, Joseph, Khamis, Maharaj, Maqsood, Moreira, Morene, Ogueri, Patino, Polack, Santos, Sinclair, Singh, Tumba
Guests: Simon, Sparacino, Orlowski, Persaud, Wright, Vega, Salnave. Platzek, Backer, Hsu, Fellows, Brite, Dervisevic, Hoeffner, Demsen, Rodgers, Boyle, Dinsman, Howell, Salek, Haggler, Mohammadi,

1. Call to Order (Quorum 36)

2. President: Schrader

We have 14 days until election day. Early voting starts on Saturday, October 26 and runs through Sunday, November 3. As you know York College is an early voting site. And there has been a significant push for early voting. We are working with Public Safety to ensure easy access for students, staff and faculty during this time. There will be a separate entrance for voters and another for the college community on Guy R. Brewer Boulevard. All elections are important, but this one is especially important. If you have not yet registered to vote, the voter registration application deadline is October 26th. If you don't know where to find your polling site at www.findmypollsite.com and most importantly Go Vote. Let's each do our part.

Speaking about doing our part, at this point in the year, I know our Senate Committees have already been assembled and have convened meetings and are doing their part to advance the mission of the college. Because I started in the spring, I only had the opportunity to hear from some, but not all committees; so I look forward to hearing from all committees this academic year so we can get a sense of the committees' priorities and work for the year.

Speaking about priorities, I shared at the last senate meeting and in my most recent monthly report about the need to develop an academic master plan. I am happy to report thank you to our Maureen, Donna, George and Donna we have a plan to develop a plan. Our first order of business will be to develop a framework. So we are going to do a bit of data collection by looking at our own program data, labor data and student outcomes data and by reaching out to our colleagues across CUNY and even over the bridge to identify best practices. By Spring we will be calling for volunteers to assist with this process, with more of the work slated to begin in the fall 2025. We will continue to update you as things progress.

I am sure that Lori will provide more information in her report.

Call it ESP, I know you head is and will spin with emails and talk of Middle States, Strategic Planning, Academic Master Planning, and the Facilities Master Plan. Tis the season colleagues. Fortunately all these efforts intersect and also fortunately, there are more than enough of us spread the assessment and planning spirit around (206 Full time faculty, 363 full time staff; and over 4000 students)

by participating as needed in these processes. I am asking that you answer the call, when asked. The future of our college depends on it.

I want to thank the departments and the faculty that answered the call to add a few more online courses to the roster this spring. Registration is underway. Spring as you know is not a time where we may not attract as many students coming out of high school, but it is a time where we will get those who have resolved to pursue a college degree in the new year, those who may have stopped and want to get back on track; those who were disconnected from their goals, to reconnect; and community college students who will be December or January graduates. Spring is also a time where our continuing students are counting down the weeks, months and years to their graduation, so advisement to ensure that they are on track to satisfying all that is required of them is critical.

Also, as of yesterday, no one has answered the call by submitting a proposal for funding to develop health and wellness programs for the college community. I hope this means you are working diligently on the proposals. This is a unique opportunity for our community to cultivate a sense of ownership and belonging towards our college around health and wellness. We anticipate that this sense of belonging will impact positively on both student and employee retention.

As a reminder:

Proposals are Due: **November 4, 2024**

Grants will be Announced: **November 25, 2024**

Awards will be funded up to **\$3,000**

Program Implementation will be for the period of **January 6, 2025 – June 2, 2025**

Final Report is Due: on or before **June 23, 2025**

Thanks to Provost and Faculty Caucus Chair, we have a Honorary Degree Nomination and Review Process. The call for nominations will be issued shortly.

Also thank you to all those who came out to celebrate the life of Professor Leslie Lewis last week. It was a very moving afternoon.

Finally, I would like everyone to make time in their schedules to attend the state of the college address this Thursday and tell a colleague or a fellow student to attend as well. We all have stake in the college, York belongs to all of us, not some of us, so your presence at the State of the College is both important and welcomed.

3. Faculty Caucus: Chirico

As of October 1, the search for the next York College president is closed to submissions and underway. We look forward to receiving updates regarding the process; upon the departure of Dana Trimboli, Lori Hoeffner is now the co-liaison for the search with Nyisha Howell.

Given that multiple planning and *ad hoc* committees are now taking shape, the faculty and student members of these groups are urged to participate fully and share the ongoing workings of these groups with their respective caucuses, especially when there are critical issues under discussion. Do let Ms. Joseph or me know what is happening as decision-making is unfolding.

This also holds true for the work of the Committees of the Senate. The SGA and the Faculty need to be apprised of actions prior to committee presentations to the Senate so that there is transparency in all decision-making and so that the broader York community is aware of potential change; there must discussion at the unit or department level.

Finally, matters of transparency and communication are of the utmost importance at this juncture given the current financial state of the college and that there are decisions being made about the distribution of resources. The Faculty Caucus invites Provost Brazill to address the body about his vision of an academic plan, especially those dimensions that involve structure of academic departments.

4. SGA President: Joseph

As the Student Government Association (SGA) at York College, we are dedicated to enhancing the student experience by addressing the needs and concerns of our diverse student body. Our mission is to create an inclusive, engaging, and transparent environment where students feel heard and supported. This report outlines the key initiatives, goals, and action plans we have developed to strengthen our role on campus and better serve our peers.

Over the past two months, our Student Government Association (SGA) has been actively involved in several initiatives to enhance student engagement, promote diversity, and improve the student experience.

On October 1st, we participated in the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, where I had the opportunity to deliver a speech. We supported this event, which was hosted by the Cultural Diversity Club in collaboration with the Student Activities Office, to promote inclusivity and diversity on campus. I commend the Cultural diversity Club board for organizing such an enjoyable, yet educative event.

We also took headshots for our website and social media platforms, ensuring that students can easily identify who we are and know who to approach with any concerns or suggestions.

From October 10th to the 13th, we attended the SGA National Summit in Washington, D.C., where we gained valuable insights on how to improve our SGA. This trip allowed us to bond as a team, network with student leaders from other schools, and explore solutions to common challenges. It strengthened our understanding of teamwork and the collective effort needed to serve our student body effectively.

On October 16th, we attended the One York Brotherhood event, "Grit: Exploring Resilience." As student leaders with unique perspectives on life, we understand the importance of participating in events that refresh and renew our understanding of ourselves, allowing us to grow both individually and as a collective body.

On October 17th, we also participated in HSA's Dessalines Day event. The purpose of this gathering was to educate our student body about Dessalines, a leader who was a driving force behind Haiti's fight for independence. I commend the HSA board for organizing such an impactful event.

Furthermore, we attended CSD's Cardinal Career event, where we had the opportunity to speak with high school seniors about the importance of York, the SGA, and the college experience. Together, we contributed to both events and demonstrated the strength of teamwork.

Additionally, we successfully had our budget for this academic year approved, which we plan to utilize for both educational and enjoyable events. For example, our upcoming Town Hall on October 29th from 12-2 PM in the cafeteria will provide an open forum for students, faculty, and administrators to engage in dialogue. We also have a Halloween party scheduled for October 31st from 7-11 PM in the gym, where we invite everyone to join us for a fun and spooky celebration.

We've also had many discussions about our collective goals, and I'm proud to say this SGA is filled with brilliant minds. Our focus on improving student engagement is continuing to take shape, and we are committed to 'walking the talk.' A few of our key priorities include reaching out to students more frequently, increasing our social media content to connect with

more students, and creating spaces for open dialogue. For example, we're planning to use social media more strategically, with consistent updates on upcoming events, resources, and opportunities available to students. We want to create more engaging content that reflects student life, whether it's highlighting student success stories, providing tips for navigating college resources, or what it means to be active.

These steps are a few of our many focus parts of our larger goal: to make SGA more accessible, transparent, and student focused.

Thank you!

5. Standing Committee Reports:
 - 5.a Committee on College Curriculum
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AUS%3A48afbcd9-2f81-36aa-8a8f-407a6ce2cf4f>
6. Guest Presentations
 - 6.a OIESP -Lori Hoeffner
<https://www.york.cuny.edu/institutional-effectiveness/facts/intranet/cunys-performance-management-process-an-assessment-of-yorks-progress-october-2024.pdf/>
 - 6.b. Facilities – Rios
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Asc%3AUS%3Ac08e9a52-b2c8-3c09-87dd-bb0ecc707d9d>
7. Adjournment 1:38pm.

Special note:

Please join me in my *shoutout* to VP Williams for acting as secretary pro tem on Oct. 22, 2024. Please find VP William's original meeting notes. www.Senate_Minutes_oct_22_2024_K-Williams_protem