

Zoom Videoconference

April 6, 2021

Meeting of College Council Volume 48 Number 5

There were present:

John Acosta	Eileen Ferretti	Rick Repetti
Gordon Alley-Young	Richard Fox	Paul Ricciardi
Carlos Arguelles	Richard Fruscione	Anna Rozenboym
Avri Beard	Alfonso Garcia-Osuna	Joanne Russell
Anthony Borgese	Matthew Gartner	Claudia Schrader
Scott Cally	Nataniel Greene	Jacob Segal
Christopher Chapman	Donald Hume	Erin Smith
Judith Cohen	Michael Klain	Michael Sokolow
Vincent Cuccia	Jeffrey Lax	Loretta Taras
Maureen Daly	Dawn Levy	Dorina Tila
Mary Dawson	Edward Martin	Red Washburn
Jeffrey Delgado	John Mikalopas	Bridget Weeks
Ann DelPrincipe	Thomas Mintz	Paul Winnick
Kristin Derimanova	Stuart Parker	Rina Yarmish
Mickie Driscoll	Gloria Pollack	

The College Council met on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 3:00 PM via Zoom videoconference.

I. The minutes of the meetings held in November and December 2020 and of Faculty Council members in February 2021 were approved by acclamation.

## II. Reports

### A. President's Report

Good Afternoon,

I hope everyone is doing well and that Spring Break was more about taking a break rather than springing into action.

What a difference a year makes, and what a difference even two months makes. The last time we met as non-special meeting of the Council was November 17th. At that time the first COVID vaccine wouldn't be administered for another three weeks. And had fate would have it, the first person to receive it was a CUNY alum who also earned the distinction of being one of the first persons in NYS to receive the vaccine. Since then, over 167 million of doses have been administered in the United States.

In the past few weeks, hospitalizations and the death rates due to COVID are on the decline, there has been positive change to travel restrictions, the city's doors once

closed are reopening, and the University continues to remain steadfast in its commitment to the health and well-being of all members of its community.

You may see differences in how some matters are approached; for example we are required to quarantine for 10 days before coming back to work, instead of 3. But we remain in step with the city and the state by encouraging you to continue to maintain social distancing, wear a mask in public and consider getting vaccinated.

Many of your colleagues across the campus have been vaccinated. As much as I hate needles, I bit the proverbial bullet and got my vaccination. I admit that initially I was on the fence, but I came to understand from everything I read and heard, that it was better to be vaccinated, than not to be. It is your personal choice to receive the vaccine, not a university or college mandate. Around the country some universities like Rutgers are making it a mandate. This is not the case at CUNY. If this changes I will let you know.

VP Todmann was also recently vaccinated and to her surprise and delight, her vaccine was administered by a KCC grad. Hearing her story, I was again reminded about the absolutely amazing students turned alumni that got their start at KCC. And they don't miss a beat in telling us about the impact coming to KCC has made on their lives.

I would like to think, in fact I believe that KCC made an impact on Chris Rock's life as well. As you know he has made an incredible impact on the world's stage. At our last Council meeting with faculty, I asked you to consider recommending that Mr. Rock receive an honorary degree. Your response was overwhelming in the affirmative with only one abstention. I forwarded the recommendation to the central office. Unfortunately, because a policy that indicates community colleges cannot award honorary doctorates, it was decided that the recommendation that would be sent to the BOARD is for Mr. Rock to receive the honorary degree from the University itself. The Board of trustees will render a decision in May.

Thank you again to Michael Goldstein for unearthing the kind of information that only Indiana Jones can find and for setting us out on this path. And thank you to the faculty for your affirmative recommendation. As soon as I have additional information, I will share it with you.

After lobbying by the CUNY student body, the University has softened its stance with regard to in person commencement activities. At KCC, we took this opportunity to canvas our students on their opinions regarding an in-person ceremony via a survey. As you would guess, they were split on their thoughts on this. 43% indicated they want a virtual ceremony; 53% indicated they wanted live conferral (this could mean live online) of their degrees and 73% indicated that they wouldn't mind some on campus commencement related activity (like coming on to campus to take pictures in their cap and gown). I know we all probably have our own preference, but I also know commencement day is a special for many of our students, many of whom are first generation college goers, many of whom were told a college degree wasn't for them, many whom had life get in the way, but they managed to get it done, and for many of whom are doing this for a loved one who because of COVID is not here to see them on commencement day. Making this day

special for students is important to me to. But the health and safety of our college community is most important.

I have asked the commencement committee to keep this priority foremost in their minds and provide me with 3 options as to how we can marry a virtual event and a limited on campus experience by the end of the week.

Colleagues, I have said on numerous occasions, we are in uncharted territory. We have never done this before. Yes, I know last year we planned for the fall, but everything was different. I say this to say, The Forward Committee is in the midst of herculean job getting us ready to increase our presence on campus. I know that there are mixed feelings about the return to campus (we should receive more data soon based on the centrally administered survey that went out recently- if you haven't taken the survey please do). The reality is that for every person who doesn't want to come back to campus, there might be 10 students for whom online learning at home with their siblings, in a packed house, or with variable internet access will negatively affect their persistence.

We also need to consider the effect of our decisions on enrollment, if we are narrow in our thinking and planning, students will decide with their feet that can take them to a campus that have innovate approaches to these the dilemmas that has come with planning in a pandemic.

The University, and our own Forward Committee are grasping with these issues. In fact, I know that there is not one person is employed at KCC from Academic Affairs, to Public Safety to Student Affairs to Buildings and grounds that is not in the midst of doing their part to rethink their work. We are figuring this out together and at the same time; and we are all working our way through this the best we can. If we are busy pointing fingers at each other then there are less fingers helping the hand to do the work that is needed and the work that is required of us as we endeavor to keep the commitment we made to students to help them to reach their goals.

Colleagues we are also closer to one of our institutional goals. In the words of an African Proverb, where we are going is closer than where we are coming from. You recognized the need a long time ago, even before my arrival that there was a need for comprehensive review of our Governance Plan. Today, I am happy to report that the work gained significant traction at KCC. Dr. Cohen is in place and has already started to help us engage in this important work.

One of the things that has been happening across the University for the past few years, is the review and revision of College Governance Plans.

Finally, I would like to close be reminding you as the governing body of the college to complete the e-SPARC (Sexual and Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Response Course (SPARC)).

As part of New York State's Enough is Enough statute, all New York State colleges are required to provide ongoing education and training about sexual misconduct to their employees and students. To be in full compliance with this law, CUNY implemented SPARC. This training also includes domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, and sexual

violence. All members of the college community (faculty, staff and students) are required to complete the training. If you have already done so, thank you for doing your part. If you have not, please complete the training as soon as possible.

This concludes my report. I have asked the Provost to report on salient academic matters, VP Rios to give us an overview of where we are with the budget, VP Sutton Young to discuss Fundraising efforts and report on salient reopening matters.

I encourage you to read the monthly reports/ and informational emails shared by myself and members of the Senior Staff for divisional updates and additional information. My monthly report to the campus will be issued by the end of the week.

Thank you.

## B. Administration Reports

B1. Governance Consultant Dr. Allison Buskirk-Cohen has been meeting with many constituent focus groups from across the campus. She has been making great progress in soliciting input on campus governance from those participants, and will shortly be initiating the first of several campus surveys to elicit further input, perspective, and information.

She asked that any and all interested parties please feel free to contact her at her Kingsborough email address, <Allison.cohen@kbcc.cuny.edu>.

## B2. Provost Report

The Accreditation Commission Education in Nursing, or ACEN, is the national external accreditor for our Nursing program and is known as an extremely rigorous accrediting body. An ACEN evaluation team conducted an accreditation visit of KCC's Nursing program on March 14-18. After the visit, the evaluators make a recommendation on accreditation to ACEN who then votes on it at a Board meeting later in the year. The visit went very well, and the evaluators had only glowing comments about our nursing program at the exit interview, so we expect a positive recommendation. This is a very significant achievement, and I would like to extend my congratulations to Prof. Weeks and all of the members of the Nursing Department on this excellent review.

We have been notified by CUNY that we were awarded funding for a proposal we submitted for a CUNY 2020 grant to develop a South/Central Brooklyn Healthcare Hub in collaboration with Brooklyn College and MEC. Our portion of the funding is 2.8 M., and it is designated for a renovation of T-2 to house our allied health programs and to purchase upgraded healthcare equipment and supplies. Congratulations to Prof. Fruscione and his faculty for their work on this proposal. We anticipate that a formal announcement will come out soon.

### Brief update on Assessment in Academic Affairs

Last Fall, we formed two faculty assessment committees that have been meeting monthly. One of the committees is composed of representatives from each Academic Department and has been researching best practices in assessment and considering how to develop a culture of assessment at Kingsborough. The other

committee is composed of faculty members from those Departments that offer General Education (Pathways) courses. This committee has developed assessment plans for one course within their department and will be collecting data this semester and analyzing it in the Fall. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with both committees and have appreciated their thoughtful discussions and the perspectives they bring to assessment.

With input from the committee input, we have planned an assessment mini-conference on May 20, from 3-5 PM. During the first hour, we have invited Dr. Gianna Baker from the National Institute of Learning Outcomes Assessment to speak. During the second hour, we are planning a panel discussion. More information will follow.

I am also very pleased to announce that a search that we started in Summer 2019 for a Director of Assessment has yielded a successful candidate who will be starting on April 19th. Her name is Dr. Colleen Davy. Dr. Davy has her doctorate in Cognitive Psychology from Carnegie Mellon, and experience in development of assessment tools and in academic assessment. My thanks to the search committee- Loretta Taras, John Mikalopas, Carlos Arguelles, Amanda Kalin and Stephanie Akunvabey.

And speaking of Search Committees, the search for the Interim Dean of Faculty is underway and my understanding is that the committee will be conducting interviews over the next few weeks.

#### Student Evaluations of Teaching

As I explained during convocation, we will be resuming student evaluations of teaching this year using an electronic system called Smart Evals, which was reviewed last year by the Instructional Committee and the Department Chairs. Asif, Janine Palludan, and I have been meeting weekly with the vendor to work on the data integration. I am also planning to meet with Brian Mitra, Cindy Lui, and Cheryl Todmann to develop plans for encouraging students to participate in the evaluations. I am holding a Town Hall tomorrow to discuss Smart Evals in greater detail and will follow up with emails to the College Community.

#### Academic Policies

There are two Academic Policies that have not been updated in a long time that I will be asking the Instructional Committee to review and make recommendations on- one is the Pass/No Credit policy- all CUNY Colleges have been asked to review their current policy through governance. The other is the Policy on Academic Standing. In researching our current policy, Amanda Kalin and Michael Sokolow discovered that it likely was approved by the College Council sometime in the 1970s, and needs to be updated to align with current financial aid guidelines. I will be reaching out to the members of the Instructional Committee with more information.

B3. VP Rivera summarized the findings of her Enrollment Management Report later emailed out to the college community on April 15, 2021.

B4. VP Rios summarized the findings of his VPFA Report later emailed out to the college community on April 14, 2021.

B5. Prof. Ryan McKinney, co-chair of the KCC Forward Committee, updated the campus community on the progress of the Reopening Plan, as well as the challenges posed by the current civic health situation and guidelines. The fluid situation complicates guidance from elected officials, state and local government, and the University, but the College is working to comply with policies and procedures as they are communicated and updated.

#### C. Students Committee Report

Student Life is in the process of recruiting to fill SGA positions, as many remain unfilled. A member of the Office of Student Life will suggest to faculty various ways to promote student leadership opportunities at the College.

#### D. Legislative Committee Report

1. Election Results from November's UFS elections were announced, and the campus was reminded of upcoming departmental and campus-wide elections in May 2021.

2. Faculty selected six nominees for each of two University-wide Pathways subcommittees:

Subcommittee One: "English Composition," "Creative Expression," "World Cultures and Global Issues," and "U.S. Experience in its Diversity."

Nominees: Ryan McKinney, Rachel Ihara, Christopher Chapman

Subcommittee Two: "Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning," "Life and Physical Sciences," "Scientific World," and "Individual and Society."

Nominees: Michael Barnhart, Nataniel Greene, Jisun Park

In the absence of New Business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Michael Sokolow*

Michael Sokolow, Secretary