

March 24, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Room: MAC Rotunda

Meeting of the College Council Volume 53 Number 5

The College Council met on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 3:00 PM in MAC Rotunda. In attendance were:

Acosta, John	Franquiz, Juan	Mullen, Avery	<u>Students</u>
Armstrong, Rick	Friedman, Shoshana	Olvin, Cynthia	Abdunayimov, Amirjon
Berco, Jaime	Gartner, Matthew	Parker, Stuart	Adigun, Abimbola
Cally, Scott	Hume, Don	Pashkovskiy, Igor	Anjorin, Faruq
Cohen, Judith	Jaret, Steven	Patestas, Maria	Francis, Arielle
Cook, Sharon Warren	Jedlicka, Carrie	Phillips, Audry	Hussein, Reem
Corbin, Jessica	Kalin, Amanda	Polizzotto, Kristin	Kamil, Fatima-Zahara
D'Alessandro, Mark	Kane, Daniel	Ricciardi, Paul	Mason, Jade
Davidowitz, Michelle	Kapetanakis, George	Risolo, Paula	Olu-Obazee, Nosagieagbon
Dawson, Mary	Kirby, Michael	Rothacker, Thomas	Rehman, Hassan
DeGrezia, Thomas	Krishnan, Ayalur	Schnee, Emily	Turchin, Sophia
Delgado, Jeffrey	Lax, Jeffrey	Schwartz, Eric	Zan, Myat Khine (Daisy)
DelPrincipe, Ann	Levy, Dawn	Segal, Jacob	
Devany, Emral	Mariani, Roberto	Shah, Ashiza	
Dillon, Sarah	Matthew, Martin	Spear, Michael	
Duitch, Suri	McKinney, Ryan	Yarmish, Rina	
Elmore, Hattie	Mikalopas, John		
Escobar, Andres	Mintz, Tommy		

College Council Chair, Daniel Kane, called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM

I. The minutes of the meetings held on December 9, 2025 were approved by majority with one abstention.

II. Reports

A. Remarks from the Chair of College Council, Daniel Kane

Welcome back. I hope everyone stayed warm this winter. I want to thank the members of B&G, Public Safety, and everyone who braved the storms and came to campus to keep everything up and running. Over the winter, I have been busy meeting with various governance leaders across CUNY and participating in governance meetings. I have started providing updates on those meetings at the

Steering Committee meeting, which I welcome everyone to attend. Also, I would like to welcome everyone back to the College Council. We have a stacked agenda today, so I want to keep my report brief. Here are a few updates:

We have been contacting CUNY Central and waiting for confirmation on which Board of Trustees meeting our ratified constitution will be accepted as an agenda item. We will continue coordinating with them, and I will announce the date at a future council meeting.

In addition, we are entering election season. The Legislative Committee will discuss the calendar today. I want to reaffirm that the elections are held in good faith, following the hard work of the Legislative Committee. If anyone would like to help in the process and provide suggestions, please attend a Legislative Committee meeting.

The work of standing committees is essential and growing. Members of the college community asked how subcommittees and ad hoc committees work within the council. The council has standing committees, established through our governance plan. From there, a standing committee can create a subcommittee or an ad hoc committee. With all the work the standing committee is doing, sometimes it can be beneficial for an additional committee to work on a topic. A subcommittee or ad hoc committee of a Standing Committee must follow the NYS Open Meetings Law. They can open up their membership to the college community and have their own chair designated by the Standing Committee Chair. The subcommittee and ad hoc committee report their work to their standing committee, and the standing committee then makes decisions based on their recommendations. A difference between a Subcommittee and an ad hoc committee is the length of the committees. A subcommittee is created and continues until the standing committee disbands it. An ad hoc committee is for a set period of time. If they want to continue, they need approval from the standing committee. But they can also be converted into a Subcommittee if the standing committee feels that work needs to continue (**See Attachment A**).

Reviewed Agenda and announced changes:

- The Students Committee is going first when the Standing Committee is announced.
- The Legislative Committee does not have a two-meeting rule agenda item; instead, it is an informational item based on the committee's current work.
- The last item has been withdrawn.

Let's have a wonderful meeting.

B. President's Remarks

Several notes about our spring start:

- We submitted the Middle States SIR at the beginning of February. We haven't heard anything back and are assuming for the moment that this means we are good for the next seven years until our next self study is due.

- We had some strong winter storms – I appreciate Daniel in his report giving thanks to the Buildings and Grounds staff, who worked incredibly hard to ensure safe access to campus after the storms.
- We had the beginning of classes. I realize we have a resolution today from the facilities committee about locked doors. We did take a different approach to managing locked doors, gate access to campus and access to classroom technology in hopes of cutting down on first day delays to starting classes.
- I hope you got to see the spring musical, Ordinary Days. If you missed it, you missed out.
- In athletics – our women’s basketball team once again made it to the region 15 championship competition in the NJCAA.

Personnel Updates

I want to introduce Aaron Charlop-Powers, who started a week ago as VP for Strategy and Chief of Staff. Thank you to Nadine Browne, who so ably supported me and the president’s office during my first two years. Nadine has moved on to a role in the academic advisement unit, working with Chanel Bishop.

Natasha Edwards started as Dean of Student Affairs a few weeks ago and has been laser-focused on helping us to become more data-driven in our student affairs work. Thanks to Althea Maduramente for serving in the role on an interim basis.

Sheila Thimba, who started in January as Senior Vice President for Admin and Finance has transitioned into more of a consultant role and will be with us through the end of April. Her work has been and continues to be tremendously helpful to us in conducting analyses and putting in place new processes and structure to more effectively support our operations and financial planning and management.

Enrollment

You may remember that we had projected a 1% increase in enrollment over the prior year for both spring and fall. We met the target for fall but not for spring – it seems like we are down a bit from a year ago. We want to do better than that and can do better than that. Deon Bergeron, our VP for enrollment management, has done a thorough assessment of what we can do better going forward in all aspects of the recruitment pipeline and I’m excited to see what results we can get to.

One of the ways you can be helpful as we get ready for fall is to show up on Saturday, May 2nd for admitted students day. We want to show our new prospective students and their familiar what an amazing institution this is. We especially want to make sure we have representatives (faculty, staff or students) for every single academic department.

FY26/Current Year Budget

We ended the first half of the year with a balanced budget, but have had some unanticipated expenses since January, specifically related to winter weather and facilities issues. Since enrollment for the spring came in a bit below what we had projected, we are likely down a few hundred thousand dollars

in revenue. We are projecting a deficit for the year at the moment – we just don't know how much it will be but want to keep it as small as possible.

FY27 Budget Development

The process for developing next year's budget will be more transparent and consultative than the process in years past, including a presentation at convocation in a few weeks, and consultation with the college promotion and budget committee, as decreed by the CUNY bylaws. You are probably aware that one of our challenges is that the city budget doesn't get finished until the end of June and so we don't actually submit our proposed fiscal year budget to the university until mid-July, after the year has started, and it doesn't get approved for several weeks after that. Even with that being the case, we can still talk about general direction and approach and priorities, even if we can't share a bottom line because we don't know how much city funding we are getting.

The task force on college finances and budget that I appointed, chaired by Mary Dawson and Keisha Thompson, submitted a set of recommendations to me in February. Building off of that work, and also a group of staff from across the college who are working with Sheila and Andres Escobar on better documenting and analyzing how we got to the place we are in financially and in terms of enrollment and revenues, we are creating a framework for evaluating both revenue generation and expense reductions options going forward.

Here is some of what we're concretely doing for FY27. We are, for the first time, creating departmental adjunct spending budgets/allocations so that chairs have that tool for management. We are instituting a short application for reassigned time – it will be sent from Academic Affairs to the chairs soon, who will distribute to faculty with a due date in a few weeks. This isn't necessarily a significant spending control, but it is a measure for accountability that we haven't had in place up to now. We are continuing to tightly manage non-personnel expenses and to be conservative in approving personnel requests, as well.

We will get into more detail at convocation in a few weeks, but for the moment, I just want to say that I've been speaking with presidents of other CUNY colleges that are at different points along the path to resolving structural deficits, including colleges that are further along in successfully addressing the deficit than KCC. What they all say is that it is painful, but you do come out the other side and things ease up. We have made a lot of progress toward addressing our deficit and will get to that other side, as well.

Strategic Plan

I already introduced Aaron Charlop-Powers, who will be leading this work. He is getting deep into the strategic plan content and familiar with the tremendous amount of work that we did last year to identify our six goals and start to define initiatives and metrics is his top priority. Our goal is to have a draft for review in May, and to bring a strong draft to the college council for its June meeting. That includes reconvening our executive leadership team three weeks from now and we will be ready to speak with the College Council Strategic Planning and Budgeting committee at its April meeting, as well.

A Couple of Other Important updates:

- We have convened a group of faculty and staff who have participated in the university's Constructive Dialogue initiative and are writing a plan for some programming in this area for Kingsborough. We will coordinate with Cynthia Olvina to share a draft with the DEI committee.
- We are also planning expanded services to our immigrant students – clearly this is important when our students originate in over a hundred different countries. Dean Natasha Edwards is leading that work and becoming familiar with our colleagues in the central office to get their support. One question that has come up – how many students at KCC are undocumented? Central office colleagues have let us know that their records show that Kingsborough has 380 undocumented students, which is a bit under 5% of our matriculated population. We expect to be able to announce our new approach sometime this semester.

Convocation will be on Thursday, April 16th – we will, of course, have a fiscal update. There will also be an announcement of a new approach at the college to supporting professional development for both faculty and staff – so more to come on that.

My official investiture as president is on Thursday, May 7th. It will take place at 4pm in the MAC Rotunda. Invitations went out last week. We have space constraints because I thought it was important to have it on campus and we don't have access to the performing arts center right now because of a fire safety issue, so the invitation list of people from the campus community was very limited. I want to invite any of you who did not receive the invitation to email me directly if you do want to attend so that you can RSVP. The event is really outward-directed – it will serve as a reintroduction of KCC to local employer partners, community organizations, donors, other CUNY college presidents and members of the chancellery.

The most important day of the year, commencement, is June 18, once again at Coney Island Amphitheatre. Last year was amazing – this year is going to be even better! Thanks to Keisha Thompson, Melissa Merced and Linda McKernan for again co-chairing. Keisha's idea of having faculty liaisons from each department did boost faculty attendance, but I think we can do even better this time.

A last note - you may be aware that there is an email transition going on for students over spring break. IT services is distributing guidance sheets to all departments that you can hand out to students if they come into your offices after spring break and are suddenly having trouble with access to systems. All emails are supposed to be forwarded from the old system to the new. I just wanted to say to be a bit patient, know that there may be some bumps, and try to stay informed so we can support students through the transition. And if you use student email lists, you will want to re-generate them with the new addresses after spring break.

C. Standing Committee Goals and Updates for Spring 2026:

- Students Committee, Paula Risolo, Chair
 - Welcomed SGA members and highlighted the events SGA sponsors with a focus on encouraging students to participate. The committee is holding a meeting on 3/30 to set goals for the Spring semester and continue to focus on student use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) via a student survey, the discussion around Navigate, the College's early alert system, and stakeholder use, and review communication with continuing students with a focus on how to keep them at the College
- Curriculum Committee, Scott Cally, Chair
 - Highlighted the Spring submission for revisions to PLOs for the A.A. Liberal Arts, Revised Remand Subcommittee procedures, and proposal regarding the Civic Engagement (CE) graduation requirement, with expected presentation at the June 2 College Council meeting. The Spring 2026 Curriculum Committee meeting dates are 4/23 and 5/12.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Cynthia Olvina, Chair
 - Highlighted their work this semester that focused on the College's definition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which was last ratified in 2015. The revised definition demonstrates the College's active commitment to DEI. The DEI Committee members will be participating in the Constructive Dialogue Initiative training and shared a logo design. The DEI Committee is co-sponsoring "Celebrate Diversity Week," taking place on 4/21, 4/22, and 4/23 on campus (**See Attachment B**).
- Facilities Committee, Steven Jaret, Chair
 - Two-Meeting Rule Discussion: Locked Door Resolution

Steven Jaret, Chair of the Facilities Committee presented the following motion to the College Council for feedback and discussion:

MOTION: That all in-use classrooms be unlocked during class times

WHEREAS: the College Council created a Facilities Committee to be concerned with the functionality, comfort, and safety of the physical college campus environment and to enhance its efficiency for the benefit of the college;

WHEREAS: classrooms are a vital facility enabling excellence in the delivery of the student learning experience;

WHEREAS: there have been several recent instances of students and faculty unable to access the assigned classroom because of locked doors; and

WHEREAS: Significant instructional time has been lost by either classes starting late or being cancelled.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the President, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Office of Public Safety take proactive steps to ensure

that all classrooms are unlocked at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of classes each day in order to prevent the loss of instructional time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the college President report back to College Council at the next regularly scheduled council meeting with the specific steps taken to resolve this long-standing problem.

Additionally, Chair Steven Jaret, presented information concerning ages of roofs and elevators on campus indicating that 40% of roofs are over 25 years old (over the lifetime as per manufacturer) and that our youngest elevator on campus is 22 years old. Such highlighted the need for planning in advance to address these high-cost projects if replacement (**See Attachment C**).

- Instructional Committee, John Acosta, Chair
 - Highlighted review of the SmartEvals Faculty Advisory Report, which presented revised student evaluation questions that incorporated Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) requirements, and addresses low student response rates. The resolution to formally adopt the Faculty Evaluation Advisory Committee Recommendations and Revision of the Faculty Evaluation (SmartEvals) Student Survey will be presented for discussion under the Two-Meeting Rule at the 4/28/26 College Council meeting. Additionally, the Committee is gathering examples from Departments concerning AI language in course syllabi.
- Legislative Committee, Shoshana Friedman, Chair
 - Highlighted the three categories of items they are working on during the Spring 2026 semester, which included: membership clarification, language clarification, and clarity and transparency for the election process. The updated language to Article 3, Section 4 to reflect voters (**See Attachment D**) demonstrates this commitment. Voting has moved to Inside KCC, and the Committee is in the process of cross-checking voter lists with the listservs. The Committee shared the Election Time Table (**See Attachment D**).
- Shared Governance Committee, Matthew Gartner, Chair
 - Highlighted that the Committee continues its work on the Procedural Guide; a draft is expected to be sent to the College Council for feedback before spring, with final approval slated for the end of the semester. An email will go out to the College Community inviting all to participate in the Academic Freedom Subcommittee. The Shared Governance Committee will also be holding educational sessions on shared governance in May and Orientation Session for newly elected College Council members as a means to onboard them to College Council.

- Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, Thomas DeGrazia, Chair
 - Highlighted that, with the finalized leadership team in place, they will steer the long-term vision of the Strategic Plan. The Committee will ensure that resources are allocated to support the success of students, faculty, and staff, with subsequent budget updates aligned to these strategic goals.

D. The Two-Meeting Rule Vote: Resolution of the College Council Concerning Standards of Collegial Debate, presented by Jeffrey Lax was **Withdrawn**.

III. New Business

There was no New Business

IV. Events/Announcements

- The Office of College Advancement announced a new award system designed to increase transparency in the distribution of scholarships and student awards. To support this transition, training will be provided for all members serving on the selection committees.
- Reminder – the 4/28/26 College Council Meeting is back in U-219.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

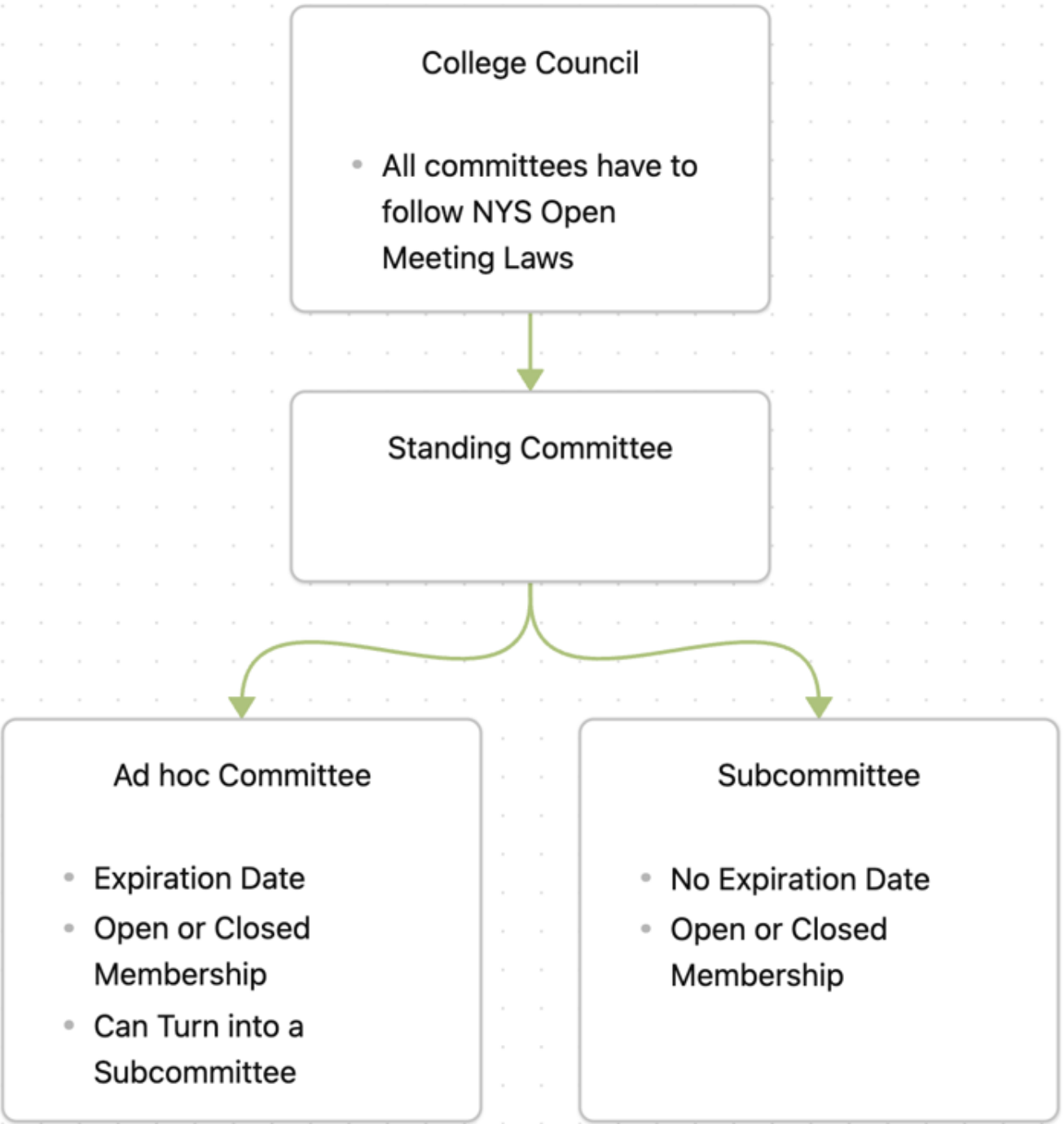


Amanda Kalin, Secretary

COLLEGE COUNCIL CALENDAR 2025-2026

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 @ 3:00 PM in U-219
- Tuesday, June 2, 2026 @ 3:00 PM in U-219

Attachment A for the 3/24/26 Meeting – College Council Chart



Attachment B for the 3/24/26 Meeting – DEI Committee

KCC's Definition of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) refers to the College's practice of involving students, faculty and staff from a wide range of different backgrounds, socio-cultural and ethnic, to establish an environment where everyone feels they belong and their voice is heard no matter who they are or how they identify.

How we achieve this:

- (A) Fostering a warm, welcoming environment that supports and uplifts all students, faculty and staff, and invites everyone to take part in the growth of our community
- (B) Providing a safe environment where all can express themselves freely and respectfully, without fear of retaliation
- (C) Encouraging diverse representation across all groups, committees, and decision-making spaces
- (D) Promoting fairness in access, opportunity, and advancement for every member of our campus community
- (E) Working closely with campus stakeholders to engage in DEI efforts
- (F) Creating spaces for open dialogue, reflection, and growth so that everyone has a voice in shaping campus life
- (G) Identifying and addressing gaps in equity and inclusion, while helping ensure that all KCC community stakeholders have the support and resources needed to thrive and to achieve student success



KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY WEEK

APRIL 21-23, 2026

Join us for week of dialogue, reflection, and celebration of the diverse voices and experiences that make up our campus community.

APRIL 21, 2026

Institutional Pillars of Inclusion: Past & Present

Join us for a workshop on the amazing diversity work here at KCC in years past and years to come.

Room U-220: 3-5 P.M.

APRIL 22, 2026

Beyond One Story

Come and dialogue with us about identity, intersectionality, and sense of belonging here at KCC. Let's break bread and share our stories.

Room U-220: 3-5 P.M.

APRIL 23, 2026

Waves of Culture

Tour the Hall of Flags at our Resource Fair followed by a celebration to close out Celebrate Diversity Week!

**Hall of Flags: 3-4 P.M.
Room U-220: 4:30-6 P.M.**

Sponsored by:



**Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity Management
Office of Academic Affairs**

Questions? Email DEI Committee Chair Cynthia Olvina at Cynthia.Olvina@kbcc.cuny.edu

This event is made possible through generous funding from the New York City Council, through the CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium, and the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives; and from Kingsborough Community College's Historically Underrepresented Faculty and Staff Resource Center (HURFS-RC), Office of Academic Affairs, and the Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity Management.

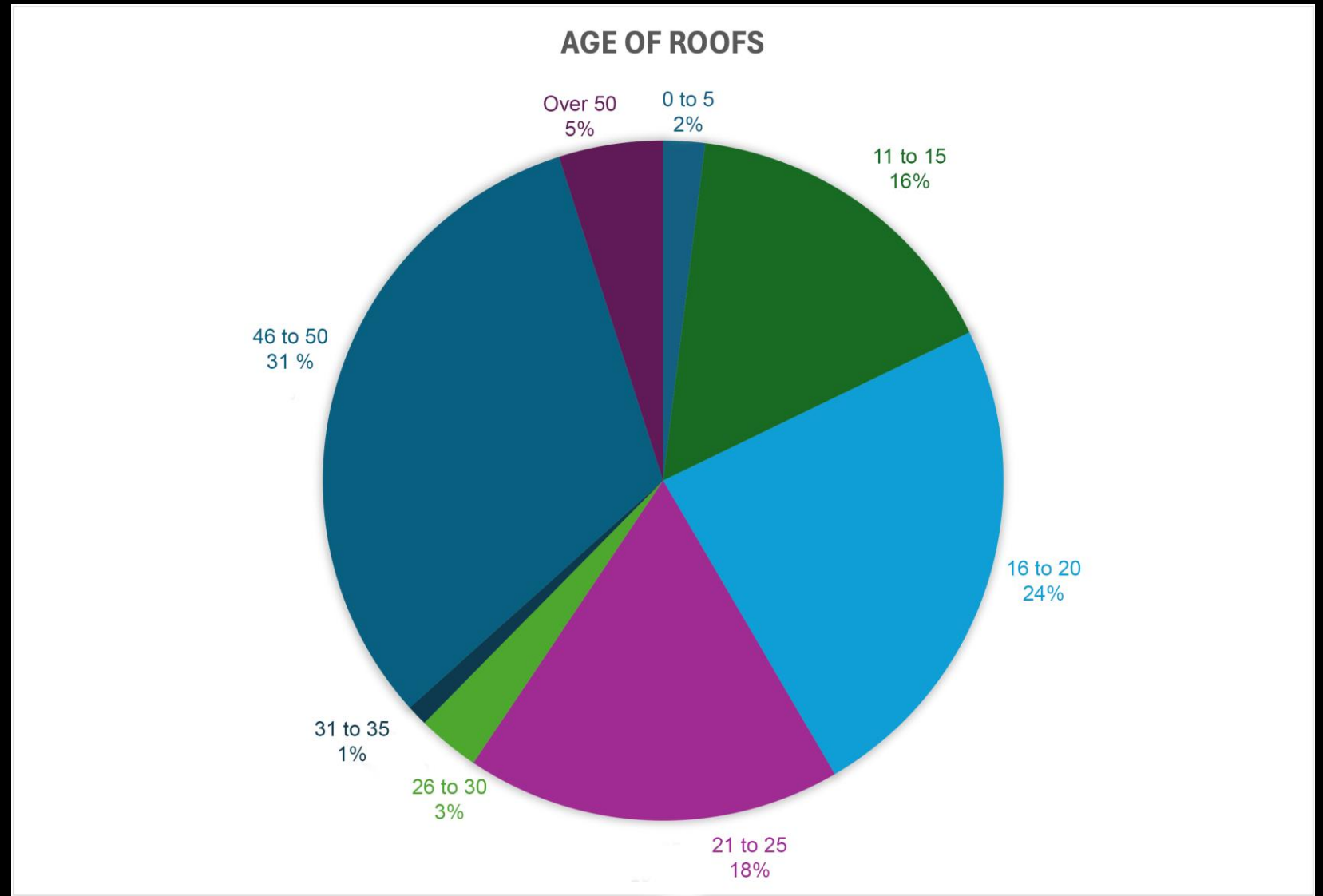
Attachment C for the 3/24/26 Meeting – Facilities Committee

Roof Ages on Campus

Youngest Roof
(replaced 2026): T 7
and T8

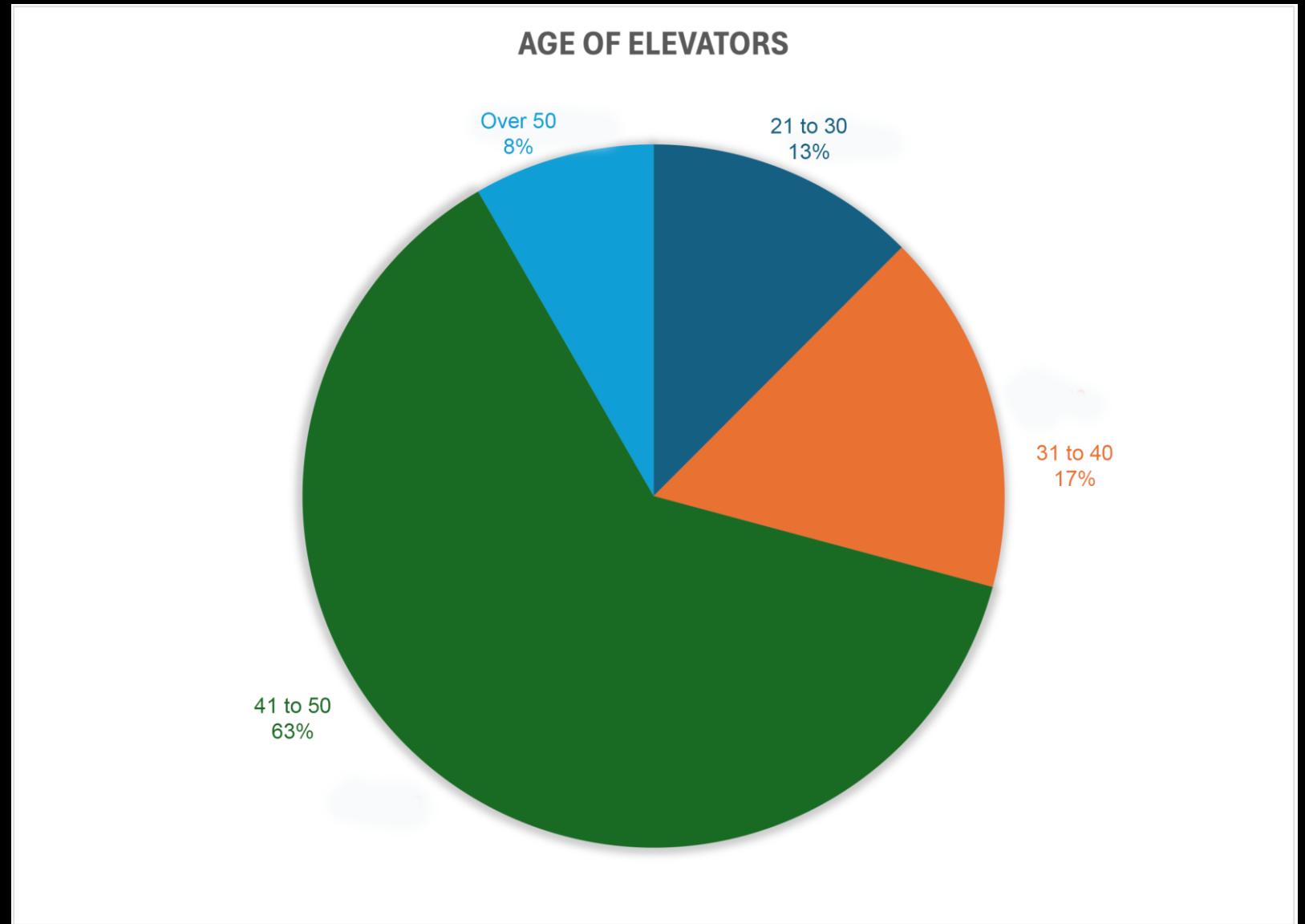
2nd youngest: 12
years

41 roofs over 25 years
(life time per
manufacturer)



Elevator Ages on Campus

Youngest elevator
22 years



Attachment D for the 3/24/26 Meeting – Legislative Committee

a. SECTION IV: DELEGATES-AT-LARGE:

- i. Fifteen (15) Full-Time Instructional Staff Delegates-at-large ~~(equal to the number of instructional departments)~~ must be elected by members of the full-time instructional staff ~~who have faculty rank~~, **which includes all full time faculty, all full time HEO series employees, all full time CLT series employees, and all ECP employees.** ~~faculty status or, who have received notification of reappointment for the third or succeeding years of full-time service.~~ The term of office for these delegates-at-large must be three years, with elections staggered so that approximately one-third must be elected each year. Each person eligible to nominate may cast a secret nominating ballot containing no more than two (2) persons. Those eighteen (18) eligibles who receive the highest number of nominations, plus ties, must appear as candidates on the final ballot.
- ii. Two (2) Part-Time Instructional Staff Delegates-at-large must be elected by members of the part-time instructional staff (“Adjunct faculty”). All current adjunct faculty, **which includes adjunct faculty and adjunct CLT series employees**, must be eligible to vote for delegates-at-large. However, members of the full-time instructional staff or administrative staff who are concurrently teaching in an adjunct capacity at the college are ineligible to participate in the part-time elections. Part-time faculty serving on a Substitute Full-Time line are eligible to participate in the part-time elections. The term of office for these delegates-at-large must be two years, with elections staggered so that one delegate must be elected each year. Each person eligible to nominate may cast a secret nominating ballot containing no more than one (1) person. Those six (6) eligibles who receive the highest number of nominations, plus ties, must appear as candidates on the final ballot.

Commented [E1]: From Bylaws

Elections Calendar 2026

1. UFS Senators: Nominations: March 16-17, 2026, **Elections: March 19-20, 2026**
2. UFS Alternates: Nominations: March 23-24, 2026, **Elections: March 26-27, 2026**
3. CC HEO and CLT: Nominations: April 13-14, 2026, **Elections: April 16-17, 2026**
4. CC Support Staff: Nominations: April 20-21, 2026, **Elections: April 23-24, 2026**
5. CC PT Faculty: Nominations: April 27-28, 2026, **Elections: April 30-May 1, 2026**
6. CC Delegates at Large: Nominations: May 11-12, 2026, **Elections, May 14-15, 2026**

***Department Elections, May 4-7, 2026**

March/April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 16 UFS SENATOR	17 NOMINATIONS	18	19 UFS SENATOR ELECTION	20 UFS ELECTIONS	21	22
18 UFS ALTERNATES	19 NOMINATIONS	25	26 UFS ALTERNATE ELECTION	27	28	29
30	31	April 1 Spring Break	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 CC HEO & CLT Nominations	14	15	16 CC HEO & CLT ELECTION	17	18	19

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20 CC FT Support Staff Nominatio ns	21	22	23 CC FT Support staff elections	24	25	26
27 CC PT Faculty Nominatio ns	28	29	30 CC PT Faculty Election	May 1		

May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				May 1	2	3
4 Dept Elections	5 Dept Elections	6 Dept Elections	7 Dept Elections	8	9	10
11 CC FT FACULTY Nominatio ns	12	13	14 CC FT FACULTY Elections	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24