

Baruch Faculty
Senate Plenary
February 3, 2022
Minutes

A total of 82 members of the faculty senate, general faculty, staff, and students logged into the Zoom meeting.

Professor Terry Martell, Chair, Baruch College Faculty Senate, convenes the meeting at 12:30 p.m via Zoom.

- I. Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda is approved by assent and without additions.
- II. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting is approved by assent.
- III. BFS Reports**
 - a. Chair's Report: Professor Terry Martell**

Professor Martell begins his report with a description and interpretation of the Fiscal Year 2023 State Executive Budget (see [here](#)). Of particular importance is the funding of \$59.6 million to close the TAP gap and the \$53.0 million for 540 new full-time faculty hires. These new hires are in addition to those announced in January. The college has typically funded all fringe benefits on it own and now we see state support for these. There is \$284.0 million assigned for the maintenance of senior colleges and \$425.0 million for senior college expansion. While the Lexington Ave project has not been specified one must hope that we will receive additional monies for this project. There are no state budget cuts planned for the for next five years.

Professor Glenn Petersen notes that PSC has gone to Albany and protested the budget cuts to CUNY on a consistent basis. This, coupled with a change in the Governor perhaps, has finally forced a hand to support CUNY.

Professor Martell notes that the only possible issue in this budget plan is that SUNY is mentioned more than CUNY. The Executive Budget calls for an increase of 1/3 in the size of the student body over the next few years. Stonybrook and Buffalo have been designated international research institutions. Baruch must remain cognizant of our enrollment challenges (four of our senior colleges had increases, six had decreases, and all of the community colleges had decreases in enrollment). Nassau County Community College is expanding and perhaps will encroach on CUNY enrollment numbers. The budget remains good, but we will be challenged by the expanding competition.

The CUNY Board of Trustees adopted two resolutions this past week. The first is a Faculty Vaccination Mandate, the second makes SAT's and ACT's optional through 2025. No public comment was available at the meeting.

Professor Martell notes the sad passing of Professor Jean Boddewyn. Professor Myung-Soo Lee of Marketing and International Business and the Director of the Weissman Center for International Business offered the following remarks:

Dr. Jean Boddewyn had been a Professor of International Business at Baruch College and Coordinator of the International Business Program from 1973 to 2006 when he retired as

Professor Emeritus. Jean was the recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Scholarship at Baruch in 1994 and received the 2002 Academy of Management's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his creating and serving as Founding Editor of *International Studies of Management & Organization* (ISMO) from 1971-2006. He was a Fellow of the Academy of Management (1974), Academy of International Business (1980) and the International Academy of Management (1984). He was the author, co-author, editor or translator of 33 books and reports, plus more than one hundred articles and monographs on international business management, comparative management and marketing, foreign divestment, international business-government relations and public affairs, market-entry modes, reciprocity as a governance mode, and the regulation and self-regulation of advertising worldwide.

Professor Glenn Petersen noted that Dr Jean Boddewyn was a role model to him and a champion to faculty governance.

Professor Martell asked the senate body to recognize Dr Boddewyn's contributions to Baruch.

Professor Martell reminds the members of the senate that elections for Category III and IV senators will be conducted in May. Nominations to these positions must be accompanied by three signed endorsements and the nomination form can be requested from the BFS Secretary. The nomination period will commence March 1st and close on May 1st. Voting will be conducted electronically and is open to the entire faculty body.

The University Faculty Senate Elections are also open. There are three vacancies.

The Provost contacted the BFS Executive Committee in January and asked for feedback on the *The Bearcat Commitment*. Its current iteration is a product of the executive committee's input and collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The Provost, with the endorsement of the BFS, has encouraged faculty to include the commitment in their syllabus.

b. Report from the BFS Secretary: Associate Professor Rick Wilkins

Letter sent to President Wu on behalf of the BFS Executive Committee

The BFS Executive Committee gathered at the time of the recent hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville on Jan 14th 2022. Professor Bellamy crafted a message condemning anti-Semitism in all its forms and was wholly endorsed by the BFS Executive Committee. This message was sent to President Wu and asked that a statement be circulated that expressed solidarity and offers of counseling and mental health resources. President Wu responded immediately and communicated that he was working with College Communications and the Chief Diversity Officer's offices on crafting a message to address antisemitism and other recent incidences (e.g., a woman of Asian descent was pushed onto the subway tracks to her death in our home city only a few days earlier). The message will acknowledge the ongoing racial-, ethnic-, gender- and religious-based violence we see in our country, while offering the Baruch community appropriate and tangible support via our HR and mental health resources. Elliott Dawes, The Chief Diversity Officer, sent out this message via email to the campus community on Wednesday February 2nd under the header "Diversity News."

c. Report of the Education Policy Committee: Chair, Professor Elliot Axelrod

The Education Policy Committee Report can be found [here](#).

Professor Axelrod notes that the report has undergone a number of iterations from the time that it was first compiled in November 2021. Professor Axelrod invites both oral and written feedback on the report.

Professor Allison Lehr-Samuels, Director of the Baruch Center for Teaching and Learning, encourages that the committee check the current academic policies. For example, there is no requirement for faculty to record their in-person class. In fact, there is no policy that says faculty must record any classes. Is this perhaps a departmental preference? There is also the concern around the way this recommendation is worded as it may cause some confusion. The updated policies can be found here: <https://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/ctl/teaching-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

Professor Lehr-Samuels also notes the recommendation to "establish policies to mitigate student cheating". While it is understood that that faculty may not be satisfied with the current policy and set of resources, this makes it sound like there is no policy in place at all. Perhaps it is in the interest of the committee to adjust to "Review and update policies...."

In an email to the BFS Secretary, Professor Waisanen notes the following:

I was looking at the educational policy document circulated a couple months back, and that has returned to the agenda again this month (attached to your email). One of the last points on this document states: "Maintain classroom discussions of ideological and political views in an unbiased, balanced manner. Separate and clearly identify opinions from facts." (The original formulation started with "Keep politics out of the classroom", which has since been changed).

I'd reached out to Allison Lehr Samuels (cc'ed) and Hector Cordero Guzman, who were both on this committee, to inquire about the purpose, actions proposed, and consequences of this line item. I get the good intent in which it was written—I think we'd all agree to its general spirit. But as I'm deeply enmeshed in these issues in both teaching and research, there's far more nuance needed than its blanketing offers. I understand the overall gist of this point in terms of how opportunities for engaging multiple perspectives is an incredibly important academic value, but it feels shoe-horned into a place it doesn't belong for present purposes. As phrased, three things:

1. If this moved forward as any kind of policy, I'm not sure how I can teach my political communication course—part and parcel of every topic we cover is that you can't get the politics out. It's a subject where entertaining a range of views is always needed, but not at the expense of precluding strong political offerings/standpoints.
2. Approaching topics in an seemingly unbiased, balanced manner is itself a political position that effaces other viewpoints offering "we should get moral and pointed about this!"
3. Cases in point: personally, from BLM to the climate crisis, the last thing I want to do is advance a "manufactured controversy" that signals all viewpoints deserve balance and are created equal (as media sources often use as a strategy to undermine particular political positions), when the weight of evidence supports being unbalanced on particular topics.

Before Hector Cordero Guzman became the interim head of the research foundation, he had offered up this too: "There is also the broader view that being 'non-political' is itself a political stance while others tend to think that you simply cannot take politics out of certain topics and discussions. When I teach regression analysis, there is very little that is political about that and there is no need for politics to enter into the discussion but when we discuss poverty or inequality and the various public policy approaches that inform the definitions of the problem, whose affected (or not), and the potential public policy 'solutions' to those challenges, clearly values,

beliefs, personal histories and experiences and political approaches all play some role and that needs to be openly acknowledged and managed as opposed to wished away.”

I could offer many more examples, and if a highly nuanced analysis on this is needed, Martin Carcasson’s *The Case for Principled Impartiality* digs deeply into these issues (https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/ncr-article/the-case-for-principled-impartiality-in-a-hyper-partisan-world/?fbclid=IwAR22bbQtr1UWSbfbBE9WeF_he4usHcxh1DyjH063UbsL1DzKLbeCSI5--Ucbut)

I just wanted to flag that, again, while I know this final point in the document is coming from an earnest place, I don’t think it belongs and would be better put up in another forum.

IV. Reports from College Officers

a. Provost Linda Essig

The following represents a summary of Provost Essig’s report:

- Baruch One-Stop-Shop is an integrated student services center. Currently there is a pop-up tent in the lobby and is receiving quite a bit of traffic. Information about the one-stop-shop services can be found here: [Contact Us - Enrollment Management \(cuny.edu\)](#)
- CUNY has rolled out a new academic momentum program, AcMo 2.0, which focuses on successful vertical transfer within in the CUNY system.
- The provost received the final report and recommendations of the Hybrid and Online at Baruch Advisory Council. This report focuses on internal organizations and processes. This report can be found here: [Hybrid and Online at Baruch Advisory Council - Office of The Provost | Baruch College \(cuny.edu\)](#)
- The provost received the first report from Office of Research Compliance and Outreach (ORCO) drawing on the new data available from IRB manager. The report covers the fourth quarter of 2021 and seems to indicate that, for this quarter at least, long periods of review are outliers, rather than the norm.
- The Marx Dean search is continuing.
- After a long hiatus due to Covid-19 we are turning our attention to our study abroad programs.
- We have a pilot group of faculty in place to advance the implementation of Faculty 180 (Interfolio’s annual reporting module). Chairs had a demonstration of the module at its meeting in November. There is senate representation in the pilot group.
- We have a new member of the Provost’s office staff: Folasade Ogunjimi is our college assistant events coordinator.
- There’s a new “guide for new faculty” posted on the “New faculty” page and can be found here: <https://provost.baruch.cuny.edu/academic-affairs/academic-administration/new-faculty/>
- Mark your calendar for the May 13 Faculty Research Symposium. Information on how to submit your proposal for a brief “Pecha-Kucha” style presentation will be coming soon.
- Mental Health Awareness Week is coming in March, March 7-11.

Questions and Answer:

Professor Glenn Petersen reaffirms the need for our study abroad programs to begin reopening. Mr Osvaldo from the USG asks a number of student-related questions and VP Art King suggests that these questions be fielded at upcoming meetings where students are invited to attend. Professor Abdullah Tensel notes some difficulties faculty are facing when first returning to campus. ID cards are not working and security is being asked to open up classrooms. VP Arthur Downing notes that there have been data

issues with Cunyfirst and that ID's are not being updated. Patience is requested as these will issues will be resolved. Professor George Mitchell asks if there have been any changes with faculty travel requests and the process for notification for travel. The current conditions remain the same.

b. VP Mary Gorman and Enrollment

VP Gorman prefaces her opening statement by saying that everything is still in flux as students are still able to register with some students being dropped for vaccination non-compliance. As of yesterday, our headcount stood at 18,701. This represents a 2.3% drop from the same date last spring. However, it remains about 3% ahead of our spring 2020 enrollment which also saw a big swell of almost 6%. We had also anticipated that our intended targets for new students to be down slightly from last spring by about 100 students, but we are currently down by approximately 450 students. Undergraduate enrollment is down 1.5% or 230 students. Graduate enrollment is down 5.4% or 220 students. We are currently about 300 students down from our transfer enrollment targets. The reinforcement of the vaccine mandate for students has resulted in us dropping over 700 individual students from in-person and hybrid courses. Some of these students have been dropped on a recurrent basis as they have failed to upload their vaccine documents. One other marginal effect is that since the beginning of the pandemic CUNY has been lifting bursar holds for students with outstanding balances to permit them to continue to register. This has helped bolster enrollments across the system for the last year and a half, but this semester, this did not happen. Students with accumulated balances are not able to register until those are cleared, or at least until they're partially addressed so that has had some effect as well. While students have welcomed a return to campus with in-person teaching. Others still remain cautious and we've had difficulty meeting student demand for fully online courses. Vaccine hesitancy is still very real. We will need to pay close attention to how much enrollment is tied to a larger shift towards people living more hybrid existences and we will need to determine what our appropriate enrollment mix should be as regards teaching modality.

VP Gorman displays a slide that indicates enrollments across the CUNY colleges. It is noted that all enrollments across the CUNY system are down. In addition, it should be noted that compared to prepandemic numbers all colleges are down even further. Overall, the senior colleges are down 8% over the last two years, the Community colleges are down 27% over the last two years, and the university overall is down 15% year-to-year over the past two years. It is important to note that we are in competition with SUNY and other institutions across the tri-state area.

Question and Answer

There is some debate over whether or not SUNY has experienced the same declines in student enrollments. Provost Essig notes that the digital hub being launched at the college represents the some of the forward thinking we need to be engaging in and that its integration needs to be strongly considered as we move forward with developing our new strategic plan.

V. Old Business
None

VI. New Business
None

VII. Adjournment at 1:30pm