

Baruch Faculty  
Senate Plenary  
March 3, 2022  
Minutes

A total of 50 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 February 3, 2022 meeting is approved by assent.
- III. BFS Reports**

- a. President Wu

President Wu thanks Professor Martell for moving him up on the agenda. He begins by thanking faculty for providing a positive learning experience across the array of teaching modalities from online, hybrid, and in person. He also notes that this is the first time since joining the college that he has seen so many students on campus. President Wu also joined Provost Essig in welcoming 23 new faculty at a face-to-face luncheon. This was the first in person event that he has attended as President. As many already know since they are on hiring committees and we have begun a fairly aggressive hiring period. The high number of hires in due in part because of the new State Budget and the advancing of funding to our institution. In reference to the recent Presidents Blog ([here](#)) we are experiencing a fairly healthy enrollment increase which is due in part to the combination of excellence and value that we offer our students. Fall applications are up, but it is still quite early to read anything into this. We are starting to see the end of the tunnel with the covid pandemic and now is the time to kick off our strategic planning process. Being able to engage as many stakeholder groups is our priority and so we wish to have sufficient time to do this. Working with Provost Essig we are promoting academic excellence and learning. Seed funding is available through the Provost's office and in particular we are interested on supporting the integration of teaching and research. We are also putting a representative group together to advance the strategic planning process and at this point we a deliberating the need for a facilitator. President Wu takes the opportunity to invite faculty to contribute their ideas and advancing our strategic planning forward.

- b. Nominations for Baruch's Representatives to the UFS:
  - i. Stanley Wine, Statistics & CIS, Adjunct Faculty Member
  - ii. Arie Harel, Statistics & CIS
  - iii. Myung-Soo Lee, Marketing and International Business
  - iv. Kevin Frank, English
  - v. Lisa Ellis, Library
  - vi. Clifford Wymbs, Marketing and International Business
  - vii. Anna D'Souza, Public Affairs.

The above nominations were approved by assent and will be sent to the University Senate.

- c. Report on BFS activities

Professor Martell notes that the BFS Executive Committee met with the Provost Essig on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and with President Wu on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting with Provost Essig included a discussion of the newly released report from the Hybrid and Online at Baruch Advisory Council ([here](#)). Discussions ensued around the areas of (i) online learning, (ii) the new lecturer lines that are largely devoted to teaching the lower division pathway requirements, (iii) the potential for unwanted hierarchies to manifest across lecturers and professorships (amplifying an already existing “elitism” found in previous COACHE surveys), and (iv) managing academic dishonesty already present in the online teaching environments.

The meeting with President Wu included discussions on how the Baruch community is handling the transition back to campus. It also included the strategic planning process and the importance of providing faculty input and focus on what issues concern us.

Professor Martell also notes of his participation in a cabinet meeting to discuss 17 Lex and the *incentive based budgetary* (IBB) process. IBB will bring significant change to the ways we manage our budget. Professor Martell also references the work of Professor Carla Bellamy on the BFS *College-Wide Curriculum Committee* and the issue of standardizing syllabi across the campus. Professor Chandrika Kulatilleke chairs the BFS *Enrollment Committee* and this committee will meet in the near future to discuss the so-called “seamless” transfer process and the emerging competitive environment across CUNY and SUNY.

## 2. Secretary Report on Elections of Cat III Senators

Professor Wilkins invites nominations for Category III and IV senators. The nomination period is now open and will close on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Nomination forms can be requested at [Richard.wilkins@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:Richard.wilkins@baruch.cuny.edu).

*At this point in the agenda there is an interruption by an unwanted guest and the meeting is momentarily suspended. A new meeting invitation is shared via the email list of BFS Senators and those parties presenting at today's plenary.*

## 3. Reports from College Officers

### a. Provost Linda Essig:

#### i. Update on the incentive-based budget model process

Provost Essig provides an update on the incentive-based budget and its process. It is projected that this model will replace the current centrally allocated budget model over the next few years. Her report can be found here: <https://facultysenate.baruch.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2022/03/Incentive-Based-Budgeting-Provost-Essig-March-3-2022.pdf>

### *Question and Answer*

Professor Gordon asks if proposed new model will hurt the smaller departments on campus. Provost Essig notes that the unit of analysis are the three schools and not individual departments. Professor Tansel asks if there are other revenue streams other than tuition; if tuition is the only revenue stream then this should be going to students. The Provost notes that the primary revenue stream is student tuition and the intent is to build a more robust structure for student participation and subsequent success at the college.

### b. VP Arthur Downing

i. Update on BCTC issues

Vice President Arthur Downing provides an update on issues related to Baruch's Computing and Technology Center and his report can be found here: <https://facultysenate.baruch.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2022/03/Faculty-Senate-IT-Infrastructure-Upgrade-VP-Downing-March-3-2022.pdf>

c. VP Cathy Cobb

i. Report on 17 Lex (ventilation systems)

Vice President Cathy Cobb provides an update on the renovation work currently being conducted on 17 Lex. VP Cobb notes that the development of hyflex classrooms has been made possible because they qualify for the federal stimulus funds. A strategic approach on acquiring the technology for these classrooms was undertaken as we didn't have the enrollment losses like other colleges were experiencing. VP Downing and his staff will provide us with this incredible service structure that will advance student participation and success at the college.

There are 69 classrooms that are in use at 17 Lex. In all instances all these classrooms are functioning according to the CDC guidelines. The ventilation systems involve bringing in (1) outside air and exchanging that air with what is inside and/or (2) air filtration. The basic tool is the window and we can open them to invite air in and out of the building. We have window units with settings that provide fresh air flow involving air intake and air exhaust. All units are functioning as intended and in many cases the units themselves give us the air exchange that we need. In addition to these units we also have HEPA filters and now also UV filters that can also disinfect the air.

*Question and Answer*

Professor Bellamy notes that the equipment in the rooms are challenging to use and in some cases since the units have been changing and the instructions are complicated. Secondly, the sheer volume of air exchange and filtration are very loud and interfere greatly with discussion and interaction. The AC units at 17 Lex have always been challenging for this reason. Prof Gordon also seconds this complaint and adds that the whiteboards need addressing as they are dirty. VP Cobb notes that microphones and amplifiers can assist with voice projection and can be sourced from BCTC.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

a. CARC and SARC nominations

- i. We have received nominations from Weissman and are awaiting nominations from Zicklin and Marx

8. Adjournment