

Baruch Faculty
Senate Plenary
October 6th, 2022
Minutes

A total of 87 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.

I. Approval of the Agenda: The agenda is approved by assent and without additions.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the September 1st, 2022 meeting is approved by assent.

III. BFS Reports

a. Chair's Report: Professor Terry Martell

BFS Executive Committee's support of research at Baruch

Professor Martell begins by noting that the executive committee has been highly engaged with the issue of support for faculty research at the college. Goal #4 of the college goals set by the President reads as follows:

Promote faculty research, scholarship, and creative activities toward an intellectually stimulating learning environment.

A number of subgoals also are listed under goal #4 one of which is the following

Promote and support high quality faculty research, scholarship and creative activities consistent with the expectations at per and aspirant institutions.

During the course of several meetings over the summer the executive committee developed suggestions as to how to realize this research goal. Professor Martell notes that the success Baruch has as a college for the college at CUNY in both its capacity to attract students and its ranking is due to the quality of our faculty and the curriculum they deliver. It is in the executive committee's view that impactful research is a validation of the quality of our faculty which directly impacts this reputation of Baruch. The executive committee has some general points that have already been shared with a committee chaired by Provost Essig and its attendant members Dean Huss, Lang, Ryan and Professor Martell. These include:

1. The Deans and the respective department chairs are knowledgeable as to who is doing impactful research and are most likely to know what is impactful for their respective disciplines, e.g. appropriate publishers, journals, conferences, etc.
2. Significant additional dollars must be allocated to these research activities.
3. The allocation of support for research should be consistent over time.

The executive committee made more specific recommendations which will be shared with this plenary at the November meeting and Professor Martell will allocate time at the Nov meeting to have an opportunity for wider faculty input.

Discussion

Professor Lehr Samuels notes the importance of a research active faculty. Professor Grein notes that at Baruch that it is challenging to do research given the way in which Baruch as an bureaucratic body is set up. It is challenging for example to find coverage for classes that need to be taught, the classes are larger and hence more labor intensive. It is challenging to make the claim that we are a research school. Referenced in the chat for the plenary Professor Gareis notes the finding of the *Task Force Report, 2019* that “Each School’s selective, merit-based process for allocating SS-U-RRT should be continued, with suitable modifications to accommodate lean times, provide strategically targeted support, and ensure that SS-U-RRT appropriately leverages long-term productivity.” Professor Bellamy also notes that it is in the interests of the faculty to become literate on the college budget and how monies are distributed.

Assistant VP Mary Rivers, College Budget

It is on that note that we are introduced to Assistant VP Mary Rivers who, with Professor Martell, introduces the following spreadsheet titled *FY2023 College Financial Plan, Baruch College 8/30/2022, Multi-Year Spending Plan*. The table (see [here](#)) consists of generalized resources and expenditures at the college. The college budget is identified for the fiscal year 2022 and subsequent projections for the FY 23, 24, and 25. Of particular note is the projected end of year balance for F22 being \$15,687 million and F23 \$12,783 million and its rapid decline over the next two years to a projected \$735 thousand. This near-term balance is in large part due to the funds received from the federal government in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent Covid Relief Funds and the CARES Act passed by the federal government. These resources are reflected in the line “Pandemic-Related Resources” and total \$5,175 million in F22 and \$12,783 million in F23. These pandemic-related resources are already spent or must be spent on covid-related expenditures. We also experienced a rapid spike in enrollments in 2021 which also contributed to an increase in tuition related funds. Well over 95% of our expenditures are spent on full-time staff payroll costs. While we have been awarded new lines at the levels of lectureships and professorial full time staff the existing PSC contract also includes pay increases and reduced teaching loads. These expenditures go from \$155,171 million in F22 to a projected \$174,105 million in F25. The loss of federal relief aid from the covid pandemic coupled with these increased expenditures go a long way to explain our projected end balance of \$735 thousand in F25 from the \$15,687 million we have now.

Any influence over our base budget calculations then is largely impacted by three variables: (1) increase/decrease in enrollments, (2) increase/decrease in tuition fees, and (3) any combination of (1) and (2). The political environment in which we live as a public institution can also impact our budget given any increase or decrease in funding at both the state and the federal levels.

President Wu notes that it is important for the senate to see this breakdown of the budget as indeed this is the overall picture that he is working with. President Wu adds that one of the main issues he has been advocating for is that student tuition payments remain at the campus and directly support the campus operations. It should also be noted that some 30% of the budget is managed centrally by CUNY Central and pays for rent, lease, and deeds of the physical buildings and is not reflected in this breakdown of the budget.

b. Updated Report and Resolution of the Vice Chair Professor Carla Bellamy for College-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Professor Bellamy reports on the corrections made to her committee's *Recommendations for documents (including syllabi) containing undergraduate course information and guidelines*. See appendix 1.

These are approved by assent.

c. BFS Secretary Professor Richard Wilkins, Nominations to serve various senate committees

Professor Wilkins fields nominations for various BFS committees and subcommittees. See appendix 2.

All are approved by assent.

IV. Reports from College Officers

a. Report from Provost Essig

As part of the goal to advance the research profile of the college, Provost Essig introduces *McAllister & Quinn* as consultants on the research grant process. These consultants have been recruited to assist in the number and quality of submissions to largely federal grant awarding institutions. Their introduction and presentation of the grant writing process can be found [here](#).

Question and Answer

Professor Seltzer asks whether in addition to working with federal agencies that they work with local and regional grant awarding agencies. All manner of grant awarding agencies are worked with and the databases for these agencies updated on a regular basis. Professor Mitchell asks with whom exactly are they working with at the college and is the service available to all faculty? The Provost is in the process of identifying specific faculty groups that they will be

working with and the outcome will be training and workshops. There will be direct writing on four large proposals of which one has to do with student outcomes and success.

b. Report from Associate Provost Slavin

Online Bookstore Akademos, Chelsea Megie and Weeli Ko

Associate Provost Slavin introduces *Akademos* as our new online bookstore. Our physical bookstore will no longer have a presence at the college. Chelsea Megie and Weeli Ko walk us through an introduction and tutorial on how to access textbooks and assign them and other readings to classes. These tutorials can be found through the links below and should answer any of the questions faculty might have on integrating the online bookstore into their classroom tasks. PDF versions for administrative purposes ([here](#)) and portal guidelines for faculty ([here](#)) were also made available.

Faculty training (via zoom)

<https://akademos.zoom.us/rec/share/N4CNF9o50DW34shFQWHWfdk-F-FOQchOZ1JEA11fdXUyUwvlnylbCTVDA0PQJuV3.sqIcmEIRldFbr8VR?startTime=1665155195000>

Passcode: .qr4p.L1

V. Old Business

Professor Grein and Koufaris make a renewed call ofr the campus community to engage in the array of strategic planning listening sessions and town halls.

Comments can also be posted here: <https://strategicplanning.baruch.cuny.edu/>

Professor Heinrich asks if there are any agendas set for the town hall meetings Provost Essig notes that we are still in the process of community engagement and fact gathering and hence the purpose of the town hall.

VI. New Business

Professor Gordon references the recent article to appear in the New York Times (see [here](#)) about the difficulties students are facing in math and reading preparedness for college given the effects of the pandemic. Where is CUNY on this issue? Provost Essig notes that the issue is very much on the minds of the Provost's Council. All that we know right now is that students coming out high school are far less prepared for a college education than they once were.

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:15pm.

Appendix 1

College-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Recommendations for documents (including syllabi) containing undergraduate course information and guidelines

Committee Members AY 2021-2022: Carla Bellamy (committee chair); Seth Lipner; Thomas Teufel; Sonali Hazarika; Joselyn Muhleisen; Zoe Sheehan Saldana; and Allison Lehr Samuels.

Documents containing course information and guidelines for undergraduate courses (including syllabi) taught at Baruch College must contain, discuss, or in some way mention the following:

1. **General Information**
 1. Course Number & Section
 2. Course Modality
 3. Meeting Times & Place
 4. Instructor Contact Information
 5. Student Drop-in Hours
 6. Course Platform(s)
 7. Course Description
 8. Course Readings & Materials
 9. Course Requirements
 10. Contact Information for Office of Dean of Students
2. **Course Mechanics**
 1. Weekly Prep
 2. Instructions for managing modalities, meetings, platforms, materials
3. **Course Policies**
 1. Paper/Assignment Policies
 2. Late Submission Policy
 3. Attendance Policy
 4. Plagiarism and Academic Honesty Policy
 5. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
4. **Learning Goals**
 1. Course Learning Goals
 2. Program Learning Goals
5. **Grading**
 1. Grading Scheme(s)
 2. Grading Rubric(s)
6. **Course Schedule**

Appendix 2.

Nominations to various BFS Committees

BFS Executive Committee:

Stephen Francoeur (Lib)

Educational Policy Committee

Chair, Andres Grein

Myung-Soo Lee (MKT/IB)
Christina Christoforatos (Eng)
Karthik Sridhar (MKT/IB)
Armen Hovakimian (ECO/FIN)
Rebecca Merkin (Communication Studies)
Betsy Yoon (lib)

Academic Freedom and Responsibility Committee

Chair, Elliot Axelrod

Anne Swaetz (Fine and Performing Arts)
Steven Melnick (Accountancy)
Clifford Wymbs (Mkt/IB)
Linda Rath (Lib)
Albert Croker (Stats)

SCHOOL ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE		
Chair: TBA		
WSAS	Benedetto Fontana (1) Elizabeth Wollman (1)	Political Science Fine and Performing Arts
ZBS	Ann Brandwein (2) Hagit Levy-Shalev (1)	InfoStat Accountancy
MARXE	Jerry Mitchell (1)	MARXE

Independent Units	Lisa Ellis (1)	Library
Student Representative	TBA TBA alternate	
(#)= Year on the committee during 2022-2023 term		
COLLEGE ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE		
Chair: Provost		
WSAS	Wayne Finke (1) Glenn Petersen (1)	Modern Languages Anthropology
ZBS	Christos Giannikos (1) Theodore Joyce (1)	Economics and Finance Economics and Finance
MARXE	Jonathan Engel (1)	MARXE
Independent Units	Sheau-yueh Chao (1)	Library
Student Representative	Jason Galak Alt: Stephanie Jimenez	
(#)= Year on the committee during 2022-2023 term		