

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the

April 30, 2025 General Meeting

5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Interim Vice President Yasmin Ali, Vice President Todd Michael Galitz, Executive Legal Counsel Jaclyn Helms, Interim Dean James Lynch, Dean Philip Napoli, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Dean Peter Tolias, Professor Douglas Geers, Professor Karen McFadden, Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Joseph Entin, Professor Beth Evans, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mona Hadler, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor MJ Robinson, Professor Malka Simon, Professor Sophia Suarez, Professor Patricia Antoniello, Noam Abrahams (USG), Carrie Ebbin (USG), Taseen Islam (USG), Jaia Jones (USG), Haritha Lakshmanan (USG), Cyle Paul (USG), Carmine Tepedino (USG), Jamie Jones (GSO).

Absent: Provost April Bedford, Professor Brian Sowers, Anna Belenko (USG), Malak Elsaidy (USG), Nitu Farhin (USG), Doha Nemr (USG), Jonathan Colon (GSO).

Non-voting: Sadiya Hoque, Jesus Perez, Judith Kenny, Kristina Rosales, Shannon Dyett, Fia Sanchez, Aharon Grama.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
2. President Anderson provided updates on the second Know Your Rights session and the Immigrant Student Services Summit. She reported on the IGLTP annual report, recent course cancellations due to low enrollment, the status of inactive courses, and upcoming faculty elections for Policy Council.
3. Jamie Jones (GSO) moved to approve the March 26, 2025 minutes; Taseen Islam (USG) seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Aharon Grama reported on Governance and Policy, noting a proposed resolution to amend the Brooklyn College Governance Plan to include professional staff appointments to the administrative constituency. The resolution did not pass in the committee.
5. Noam Abrahams (USG) motioned to add the proposed resolution to the agenda under New Business. Taseen (USG) seconded. President Anderson called the question. The motion passed.

6. Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert provided a written report on behalf of Fiscal, Infrastructure, and Planning Committee.
7. Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio reported on Faculty-Student Relations, noting that updated signage supporting vulnerable students was well received. A downloadable color version may become available on the website, and Communications will produce decals.
8. Vice President Todd Michael Galitz provided a written report on External Relations. The committee discussed recent lobbying efforts, the new Perinatal Mental Health program and updates regarding the activity at the Brooklyn College Art Gallery.
9. An update was provided on multi-year rotational scheduling. The Council also reviewed online resources for student research opportunities. Provost April Bedford noted that Professor TR Muth is developing a searchable database on Handshake that will list available student research opportunities.
10. President Anderson summarized major outcomes of the academic year. These included the development of research opportunity websites and databases, a formalized protocol for campus events, progress on Degree Maps and course rotation planning, the launch of a student-centered survey, clarification of procedures involving law enforcement, and new initiatives recognizing student contributions.
11. The resolution from the Governance and Policy committee was introduced to the Council to revise the administrative constituency to include professional staff. Interim Dean James Lynch moved to approve the resolution; Jamie (GSO) seconded. The resolution passed by a majority with no opposition. Professor Mobina Hashmi abstained from voting.
12. Jamie (GSO) motioned to adjourn; Professor Malka Simon seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Report of the April 24, 2025 Committee Meeting

To: Brooklyn College Policy Council

From: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: April 25, 2025

The Governance and Policy Committee met on April 24, 2025, to consider a proposed amendment to the Brooklyn College Governance Plan and to discuss an institutional effort to centralize access to governance documents and resources.

The primary item on the agenda was a proposed amendment to Article I, Section A(1)(b)–(c) of the Governance Plan. The proposed change would expand the definition of “administration” to include full-time professional staff whose responsibilities support executive or administrative functions of the college. If adopted, this amendment would allow such staff to be eligible for appointment to Policy Council by the President.

The resolution was moved for committee approval on the condition that it would be supported by the Presidential Advisory Committee for Staff (PACS). At the time of the committee meeting, PACS had not yet voted. Later that day, PACS convened separately and voted in favor of the resolution.

Five members of the Governance and Policy Committee were present for the discussion. One member departed prior to the vote. Of the four remaining members, three voted in favor and one voted against. The resolution did not pass.

Although the resolution was not adopted, committee members expressed consensus in supporting PACS’s continued development, including the creation of internal bylaws and exploration of formal recognition as a governance body.

The committee also discussed the ongoing development of a centralized repository on BC Knowledge for Brooklyn College’s governance documents. This repository will include the Governance Plan, bylaws for Policy Council, Faculty Council, and student government, meeting minutes, and other procedural resources such as the New York State Open Meetings Law and Robert’s Rules of Order. The work is currently in progress and aims to enhance transparency and access for both employees and students.

The following documents are submitted with this report for Policy Council’s review:

- *Governance Plan Amendment Memo*
- *Proposed Resolution Text*

RESOLUTION

of the Policy Council of Brooklyn College

WHEREAS, the current Brooklyn College Governance Plan, effective May 15, 2023, restricts the president's appointment of administrative representatives on the Policy Council to vice presidents, assistant and associate vice presidents, and deans; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of Policy Council depends on the inclusion of a broad range of unique perspectives from individuals who contribute to the executive and administrative functions of the college; and

WHEREAS, there are professional staff members who play critical roles in college operations and strategy and who should be eligible to serve as members of the administration on Policy Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Article I, Section A(1)(b) and (c)** of the Brooklyn College Governance Plan be amended as follows (strikeout = removed text; underscore = added text):

b. Additional members of the administration selected by the president. ~~from among the vice presidents, assistant and associate vice presidents, and deans. These~~ may include vice presidents, assistant and associate vice presidents, deans, and full-time professional staff who support executive or administrative functions of the college.

c. Any additional members needed to bring the total ~~members of the administration to 10, which shall be the minimum. These members are to be selected in a manner determined by the members of the administration designated in 1(b) above with the approval of Policy Council.~~ number of administration representatives to 10 shall be selected in a manner determined by the members of the administration designated in 1(b) above, with the approval of the Policy Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the president shall retain the discretion to identify professional staff whose responsibilities support the executive functions of the college, in accordance with this amendment and in keeping with shared governance principles.

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Brooklyn College Policy Council

From: Aharon Grama, Pro Temp, Committee on Governance and Policy

Date: April 25th, 2025

Subject: Summary of Proposed Amendment to Article I, Section A(1) of the Brooklyn College Governance Plan

This memorandum provides an overview of a proposed amendment to the Brooklyn College Governance Plan, specifically to Article I, Section A(1), which governs the composition of the administration representatives on the Policy Council. The proposal is scheduled for consideration by the Policy Council at an upcoming meeting.

Overview of the Current Language

Under the Governance Plan currently in effect (approved May 15, 2023), the administrative representatives on the Policy Council are:

- The President of Brooklyn College (serving as Chair);
- Additional members selected by the President from among the vice presidents, assistant and associate vice presidents, and deans;
- Any additional members needed to bring the total number of administration representatives to ten, selected by the designated administrators with Policy Council approval.

Purpose of the Proposed Amendment

The amendment seeks to expand the pool of eligible individuals whom the President may appoint as administrative representatives. Specifically, it proposes allowing the inclusion of full-time professional staff who perform executive or administrative functions at the college. These roles may include responsibilities related to institutional planning, operations management, cross-divisional coordination, or direct support to senior leadership.

The amendment maintains the requirement that any additional appointees beyond those designated in the initial categories must be approved by the Policy Council, preserving the existing framework of shared governance.

Clarification of Scope The proposed amendment:

- Seeks to reflect the evolving structure of college administration;
- Aims to provide greater flexibility to the President in appointing staff members whose work is aligned with institutional strategy and leadership;

- Does not include instructional faculty, who are separately and fully represented under the provisions of Article I, Section A(2) of the Governance Plan.

Support

This proposal was raised during April meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee for Staff (PACS), where it received significant support from staff participants. Members emphasized the importance of inclusive representation on Policy Council and recognized the need to formally incorporate staff who contribute to executive and administrative functions.

Contextual Consideration

While the amendment does not name specific committees or offices, it is informed by current practices at Brooklyn College, including the participation of staff in advisory roles such as PACS. The language of the amendment is designed to remain adaptable in the event that specific structures evolve.

Procedural Note

Any amendment to the Governance Plan must follow the process outlined in Article VIII:

- Approval by a two-thirds plus one vote of the Policy Council;
- Approval by the President of Brooklyn College;
- Final ratification by the CUNY Board of Trustees.

This memorandum is provided for the information of Policy Council members.

Sincerely,

Aharon Grama

Pro Temp, Committee on Governance and Policy

Policy Council – Fiscal, Infrastructure, and Planning Meeting Summary *April 25, 2025*

Meeting notes:

- **Meeting Overview:** Alan announced that this is the last meeting of the academic year and the final Policy Council committee meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday. He emphasized the goal of discussing any follow-up actions before the end of the academic year and during the summer.
- **Open Forum Feedback:** Alan mentioned that the recent open forum received good feedback, and they are working on an FAQ to send out. He also plans to communicate progress on these items before Commencement.
- **Budget and Communication:** Joseph suggested having another open forum about the budget early in the fall to address people's curiosity about the new fiscal year. Alan mentioned that they are still waiting for information about the budget.
- **Food Services Update:** Alan provided an update on the food services RFP and that the process is on track.
- **Campus Improvements:** Alan and Joseph discussed the ongoing and upcoming campus improvements, including the community spaces project. They also talked about the importance of communication and the positive impact on morale.
- **Construction Updates:** Alan discussed the importance of keeping people informed about construction projects on campus. He mentioned the idea of having physical postings or notices about the changes.
- **Wi-Fi and Fiber Upgrades:** Alan and Charles discussed the ongoing Wi-Fi and fiber upgrades on campus. Alan mentioned that the Wi-Fi project is in DASNY procurement, and the fiber upgrade will be more disruptive but is critical for improving connectivity. The fiber upgrade project is still in design.
- **CUNYWork Implementation:** Alan and Michael discussed the implementation of the new CUNYWork system, which will replace the current CUNYfirst system for HR and Finance. They mentioned the timeline for the rollout and the expected improvements.
- **Track Reopening:** Alan announced that the track will be reopened for walking during the day, allowing people to have walking meetings or take a walk during their breaks. This initiative aims to promote physical and mental well-being.

Policy Council External Relations Committee Report

April 30, 2025

- The External Relations Committee met on April 25. Ludovic Leroy, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Support, joined the meeting as a guest.
- Mr. Leroy updated members on recent lobby efforts. He noted President Anderson's multiple trips to Albany since February, and more than 20 individual meetings with New York State legislators in support of Brooklyn College and the CUNY priorities. Several meetings and events have also included faculty and students. Particular focus was given to full funding for the collective bargaining agreement and mandatory budget increases, campus capital priorities, and programmatic initiatives. Legislators were very supportive of Brooklyn College's needs and requests. However, the FY2026 New York State Budget is now nearly a month late and is not expected to be resolved until May.
- He also noted a series of meetings this spring with U.S. Senators and Representatives to discuss Brooklyn College and CUNY needs.
- Mr. Leroy provided an update on Brooklyn College's Perinatal Mental Health Program, which was initiated with support Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso to address the borough's maternal health crisis. A new Advanced Certificate in Perinatal Mental Health, spearheaded by Associate Professor Jaqueline Shannon, was announced by President Anderson earlier this month in a press event at Borough Hall. A daylong Perinatal Mental Health Summit the following day in Brownsville brought together interdisciplinary health experts and community leaders to discuss solutions to one of the most urgent health care challenges facing Brooklyn and the nation today. Participants also thanked Brooklyn College for serving as an important bridge between academia, health professionals, and frontline community-based organizations to drive meaningful change through innovation and collaboration.
- Malka Simon presented committee members with an overview of new opportunities for community engagement through the Brooklyn College Art Gallery. She highlighted lessons learned from their first series of exhibitions, which attracted audiences from across campus and the broader arts community. Programming has also included a range of lectures in the gallery. Looking ahead, the Art Gallery anticipates increased collaborations to deepen the engagement with the NYC arts community and with neighborhood audiences.