

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the
October 22, 2025 General Meeting
5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Provost April Bedford, Interim Vice President Yasmin Ali, Executive Legal Counsel Jaclyn Helms, Dean Peter Tolias, Interim Dean James Lynch, Dean Paula Massood, Randall Clarke, Judith Kenny, Aharon Grama, Professor Patricia Antoniello, Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Dov Fischer, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Kip Marsh, Professor MJ Robinson, Professor Brian Sowers, Professor Jolie Tong, Hailey Johnston (USG), Cyle Paul (USG), Ajadah Simms (USG), Gulnara Zaynullina (USG), Venus Blue (GSO), Beth Rocco (GSO).

Absent: Dean Philip Napoli, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Deborah Bernfeld (USG), Haikeda Hilliman (USG), Doha Nemr (USG), Ailyn Paz (USG), Fia Sanchez (USG), Nilgun Gungor (GSO).

Non-voting: Sadiya Hoque, Ajwad Raed.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
2. President Anderson reviewed the Standing Committee appointments and welcomed Professor Jolie Tong and the alternates serving for absent members.
3. Aharon Grama moved to approve the minutes of the September 17th, 2025 meeting. Hailey Johnston seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Aharon Grama submitted a written report on the Governance and Policy Committee.
5. Dean Peter Tolias reported on behalf of the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Planning Committee, noting discussions regarding legacy projects, project timelines, and communication of upcoming changes. Professor Namulundah Florence recommended strengthening communication about campus upgrades. President Anderson will follow up with Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications Catherine Freeland to ensure Student Services are appropriately highlighted.
6. Interim Vice President Yasmin Ali promoted increased student club visibility through BC Buzz and reaffirmed her commitment to enhancing mental health services. Professor Jillian Cavanaugh noted communication gaps between faculty and students. A proposal to

merge campus newsletters and improve event promotion was referred to the Faculty-Student Relations Committee.

7. Concerns were raised about limited accessibility in the Whitehead Building and nonfunctional automatic doors near the Library Café. These matters were referred to the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Planning Committee for review.
8. President Anderson reported that the Faculty-Student Relations Committee will meet prior to the next Policy Council meeting to review classroom and office recording signage, student discipline processes, and strategies to strengthen campus trust.
9. A request to draft a policy regarding recording and privacy was referred to the Governance and Policy Committee and the Faculty-Student Relations Committee. Professor Brian Sowers suggested coordination with the External Relations Committee on issues related to external postings. Professor Cavanaugh recommended including a representative from the Center for Student Disability Services.
10. Ajadah Simms (USG) proposed clarifying the Henderson Rules and student rights. The item was referred to the Faculty-Student Relations Committee.
11. Venus Blue (GSO) raised concerns regarding confidentiality in disciplinary processes. The item was referred to the Governance and Policy Committee.
12. Professor Kip Marsh reported on behalf of the External Relations Committee, highlighting outreach strategies for non-traditional students.
13. Professor Mobina Hashmi proposed developing a policy defining bullying. The item was referred to the Governance and Policy Committee.
14. President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Report of the October 21, 2025 Committee Meeting

To: Brooklyn College Policy Council

From: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: October 21, 2025

The Governance and Policy Committee met on October 21, 2025, to set its agenda for the academic year, discuss governance issues, and receive updates on pending governance actions.

Governance Plan Amendment Staf Representation: The committee received an update regarding the Governance Plan amendment that would expand the administrative constituency on Policy Council to include full-time professional staff through Presidential appointment. General Counsel and Labor Designee Jaclyn Helms confirmed that the resolution package is being processed to be presented at the CUNY Board of Trustees Committee on Education Policy. If approved, this change will provide an interim mechanism for PACS representation while formal bylaw development remains ongoing.

Recording in Classes: A request from Policy Council prompted the committee to begin considering whether Brooklyn College should adopt a campus wide policy regarding student recording in classrooms.

The initial discussion identified several key considerations:

- Academic freedom and faculty autonomy, including the existing practice of governing recording through syllabi.
- ADA accommodations and students' right to access course content.
- Institutional clarity regarding where such policy should originate (Governance & Policy, CAP, or Academic Affairs).

The committee agreed to develop a structured discussion for its next meeting and explore coordination with Faculty Council and CAP before making any formal recommendation to Policy Council.

College-wide Election Review Committee (CWERC) Outdated Bylaws: The committee identified outdated language in the CWERC bylaws, which still reference the former CLAS & SGS structure and do not align with current student government configuration. This poses a potential risk if election challenges arise under obsolete governance provisions.

The committee will scope the required updates and determine whether this work should be undertaken directly or referred to another governance body, with the goal of ensuring institutional clarity before the next election cycle.

Stated Meeting of the Faculty: The committee discussed the ambiguity surrounding the Stated Meeting of the Faculty, which is not clearly integrated into the current Governance Plan despite its historical role as a core governance structure.

Members noted that the Faculty Council has historically been viewed as a delegated body of the stated meeting, but source documentation is fragmented or missing. MJ Robinson and Dov Fischer will consult with former parliamentarian Yedidya Langsam to locate authoritative materials, clarify the intended structure, and identify possible governance plan amendments or formal definitions.

Governance Repository: The committee reviewed progress on the creation of a centralized **governance document repository** on BC Knowledge. This resource is intended to improve transparency, archival integrity, and ease of access for students, faculty, and staff.

The repository will include:

- Governance Plans and bylaws for Policy Council, Faculty Council, and student government
- Constitutions and bylaws for affiliated entities such as the Brooklyn College Association, Auxiliary Enterprises, and Student Services Corporation
- Open Meetings Law, Robert's Rules of Order, and other procedural references
- Version tracking and visibility to ensure clear public access to the most current documents.

Policy Council

Fiscal, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee

October 17, 2025

The following topics were discussed as items to be worked on during the academic year:

- A Facilities Open Forum
- Using Brooklyn College Knowledge to provide scheduling information on Facilities Capital Projects, including the East Quad project
- Academic Program Funding Model
- Review staffing and the possibility of setting up administrative hub

External Relations Committee Report October 20, 2025

- The External Relations Committee convened on October 20 to discuss Brooklyn College's government relations and lobbying efforts, as well as strategies for engaging non-traditional students in collaboration with Enrollment Management and Marketing & Communications.
- The Committee reviewed the scope of ongoing lobbying and government relations initiatives designed to strengthen support for Brooklyn College. These efforts include year-round engagement with elected officials at the city, state, and federal levels. President Michelle J. Anderson and Ludovic Leroy regularly meet with policymakers to advocate for the college's funding priorities and to raise awareness of Brooklyn College's mission and impact within the broader CUNY system.
- Most recently, President Anderson met with Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman, Chair of the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Higher Education. During her visit to campus on October 15, they discussed the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in the age of artificial intelligence. Five Brooklyn College students participated in the latter portion of the meeting, contributing valuable perspectives.
- Additional meetings in October included discussions with Assemblymembers Phara Souffrant Forrest and Clyde Vanel, further reinforcing Brooklyn College's commitment to sustained legislative engagement.
- The Committee also explored strategies to better market the college to non-traditional students. Recommendations included partnering with Marketing & Communications to highlight the stories of current non-traditional students and developing outreach initiatives in collaboration with large Brooklyn-based corporations to support recruitment efforts among their employees.



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-President Michelle J. Anderson

Yesterday, President Michelle J. Anderson welcomed [@assemblymemberaliciahyndman](#) (D-29), who serves as Chair of the New York State Assembly Committee on Higher Education, to campus for a meaningful discussion on the future of public higher education, as well as critical issues impacting students, faculty, and the broader community.

Edited · 5d

nataliagarink Way to go students from [@bees.club](#) [@magnercareer_brooklyncollege](#) [@macaulayhonors](#) for representing the best of BC.

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