

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the
February 18, 2026 General Meeting
5:00pm, Gold Room, Student Center

Present: President Michelle J. Anderson, Senior Vice President Alan Gilbert, Interim Vice President Yasmin Ali, Chief Diversity Officer Danielle Haynes, Interim Dean James Lynch, Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio, Dean Peter Tolia, Aharon Grama, Professor Patricia Antonello, Professor Jillian Cavanaugh, Professor Dov Fischer, Professor Mobina Hashmi, Professor Kip Marsh, Professor Sreyashi Samaddar, Professor Brian Sowers, Deborah Bernfeld (USG), Haikeda Hilliman (USG), Doha Nemr (USG), Cyle Paul (USG), Fia Sanchez (USG), Ajadah Simms (USG), Beth Rocco (GSO).

Absent: Provost April Bedford, Executive Legal Counsel Jaclyn Helms, Dean Philip Napoli, Randall Clarke, Judith Kenny, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor MJ Robinson, Malak Elsaidy (USG), Hailey Johnston (USG), Ailyn Paz (USG), Nilgun Gungor (GSO).

Non-voting: Sadiya Hoque, Jamie Chan, Charles Carr, Robert Echevarria, Lisa Millsaps-Graham, Illan Saji.

1. President Michelle J. Anderson called meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
2. President Anderson provided updates from the Institute on Gender, Law, and Transformative Peace (IGLTP) for the past year and referred several items to the appropriate committees for further review.
3. Aharon Grama moved to approve the minutes of the November 19th, 2025 meeting. Professor Patricia Antonello seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Grama submitted a written report on behalf of the Governance and Policy Committee. He noted that the April 2025 Governance Plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. He also reported progress on creating a repository of all governance policies for the College website. Professor Mobina Hashmi requested details regarding the webpage. President Anderson stated that the webpage must align with Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) requirements.
5. SVP Alan Gilbert submitted a written report on behalf of the Fiscal, Instructure, and Planning Committee. He announced that a campus-wide forum is planned for this

semester, tentatively scheduled for April 28. Professor Antonello reported that the committee discussed ensuring student representation during the forum. SVP Gilbert also noted that construction on the East Quad continues with appropriate momentum.

6. Dean Maria Scharron-del Rio delivered an oral report on behalf of the Faculty-Student Relations Committee. She stated that the committee had not met prior to this meeting but will review all referred items before the next Policy Council meeting.
7. Professor Kip Marsh provided an oral report on behalf of the External Relations Committee and expressed support for the proposed Institute of Democratic Renewal. Yifat Susskind, MADRE Executive Director, discussed her involvement with the IGLTP and democratic renewal initiatives, noting that the programming would create opportunities for students.
8. Professor Hashmi asked where the institute would be housed, and President Anderson confirmed that it would be housed at Brooklyn College. Professor Hashmi also requested discussion regarding potential contradictions between Brooklyn College's own practices and the proposed institute's mission and goals. Professor Brian Sowers stated that the current Events Policy does not align with the proposed institute and requested that the policy be abolished; President Anderson requested feedback.
9. Fia Sanchez (USG) reported student concerns related to fear and safety. CDO Danielle Haynes asked those expressing opposition to clarify whether the offer to establish the institute at Brooklyn College should be declined. Ajadah Simms (USG) recommended internal work to mediate unresolved issues from past events. A general discussion followed.
10. Grama moved to approve the establishment of the Institute of Democratic Renewal at Brooklyn College. Dean Peter Toliás seconded. The motion passed with two abstentions.
11. President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Report of the February 13, 2026 Committee Meeting

To: Brooklyn College Policy Council
From: Governance and Policy Committee
Date: February 13, 2026

The Governance and Policy Committee convened to receive an update on the Governance Plan amendment, review a draft of the new centralized governance document repository.

Governance Plan Amendment Update: General Counsel Jaclyn Helms confirmed that the CUNY Board of Trustees officially approved the proposed change to the governance plan. The committee discussed next steps for officially announcing the change, noting plans to coordinate with the President's office and campus Communications to ensure the updated plan is published on the website and formally celebrated.

Governance Repository Development and Review: The committee reviewed a draft web page designed to combine essential governance documents into a single, centralized repository. This project is a direct response to concerns raised in Policy Council regarding the difficulty of locating governing documents.

- **Legal & Compliance:** The committee agreed to add a clear disclaimer stating that the repository is not an exhaustive list to mitigate future compliance issues. The page will link to the overarching CUNY Policies and Resources page for CUNY-wide items, while hosting Brooklyn College-specific policies locally.
- **Accessibility & Design:** Members recommended incorporating visual aids, such as a short explainer video, flowchart, or infographic, to help users easily understand the governance structure without relying on dense text.
- **Next Steps:** The committee plans to present the repository project at an upcoming Policy Council meeting. The campus community will be invited to participate by submitting any missing documents they believe should be included by a firm deadline (e.g., May 1st) before finalizing the repository.

Priorities and Continuing Work

- Updating College Wide Election Review Committee (CWERC) documents.
- Updating the Stated Meeting of the Faculty Bylaws.
- Collaborating with the Middle States Committee to share relevant governance work.

Policy Council

Fiscal, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee

February 13, 2026

Summary

The meeting focused on planning a campus-wide open forum about facilities and budget after spring break. Topics would include East Quad, HVAC, IT, and Community Spaces for capital projects, shared services for facilities operations, and the current and projected tax levy budget.

We would work with faculty, staff, and student leaders to promote the open forum. For students we will consult with Cyle and Luis, in addition to Student Affairs.

Next steps

- Identify a 90-minute time during club hours after spring break. Set up Zoom session.
- Get a three-week look ahead from DASNY on the East Quad project and an estimated full project outline to post on Brooklyn College Knowledge (linked to the website).
- Prepare an outline of the presentation for the committee to review at its next meeting.
- Coordinate promotion of the open forum with faculty, staff, and student leaders.
- Attend Policy Council on February 18, 2026. and get further suggestions.