

Tuesday, March 16th, 2020 | 3:30- 5 pm |Google Meet

Meeting: [meet.google.com/gcg-coti-ogj](http://meet.google.com/gcg-coti-ogj)

**Livestream:** [**https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/2a4ecb8b-24b3-452d-9042-6d6bccbef53e**](https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/2a4ecb8b-24b3-452d-9042-6d6bccbef53e)

**Minutes**

1. Roll Call
   1. Present: Speaker Amy Handfield, First Deputy Speaker Karen Nicholson, Second Deputy Speaker Eunice Nazar, Secretary Isabel Frazza, Senator Sonny Ago, Senator Richard Satterlee, Senator Steven Schreiner, Senator Tim Ward, Senator Michael McEneney, Senator Min Jung Kim, Senator Jimena Gonzalez Ramirez, Senator William Merriman, Senator Ian Levy, Senator Lina Baroudi, Senator Mohab El-Hakim, Senator Heidi Furey, Senator Margaret Toth, Senator Angel Pineda, Senator Sarah Wacker, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Sebastian Deguisto, Senator Maura Mead.

Presenters: Gregory Cowart, Physical Plant Administration.

* 1. Absent: Senator Luis Garcia, Senator Xavier Kyle, Senator Bryan McKeon, Senator Alexander Nieves, Senator Michael Rafferty.

1. Approval of the Agenda
   1. The agenda was approved by a quorum.
2. Approval of Previous Minutes
   1. The minutes were approved by a quorum.
3. Reading from the “Green Book”
   1. Page 34: “Don’t be discouraged by anxieties and struggles, life is full of them.” -St. John Baptiste De La Salle
4. Speaker’s Report
   1. Speaker Handfield encouraged everyone to complete the Great Colleges to Work For survey.
      1. The survey was sent out to the college community on March 16, 2021 and reminders will be sent out later in the semester.
      2. The survey is an important tool for college assessment and Middle States accreditation.
      3. The survey allows the college community to voice their concerns and opinions anonymously.
      4. The committee in charge of the survey includes Ronny Roy, Associate Provost, Bruce Libby Physics, Kelly Marin Psychology.
5. Reports from the Standing Committees
   1. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner
      1. Provost Schrenier March 2nd.
         1. The Collegewide Curriculum Committee has approved a new Air and Space minor in the School of Engineering.
         2. The College Technology Committee reported that the systems developed for the pandemic will remain in use.
         3. The College Library Committee reported that they are working on an assessment of the library’s collection keeping subjects of diversity, equity, and inclusion in mind.
         4. The College Library Committee reported that the JOLT test will no longer be used to assess Freshmen students. It will be replaced with an assessment of Freshman writing samples.
         5. The Graduate Council reported that the committee charged with looking over the Graduate Assistantship that current policy, website, updating the positions is continuing to do so.
         6. It was also reported that summer classes within the Graduate Program will be held in a hybrid fashion, with most classes online, and some held in person.
   2. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago
      1. Senator Ago reported that Margaret Mckiernan has retired
      2. The Quadrangle article quarantine
         1. An evaluation of the process by which students can get food was conducted.
         2. Additional ways for quarantined students to receive food have been put in place.
      3. By May 1st, all people over the age of 18 will be eligible to receive a COVID vaccination.
         1. TheCollege becoming a vaccine site for our campus community is being discussed..
         2. Whether or not the college will mandate vaccines for staff and students is being discussed.
         3. The Financial Aid website for student employment has been updated with resources for student employees and employers.
         4. Jasper Baseball is returning to Van Cortlandt Park for the 2021 season.
         5. A commuter student survey has been put together to allow these students to voice concerns and opinions. Marilyn Carter-Stevens, the Director of Commuter Services and Outreach, has orchestrated this survey.
6. Old Business
   1. No old business was brought up by the senators in attendance.
7. New Business
   1. Discussion regarding the nature of open forums, Provost Schreiner
      1. Provost Schreiner addressed the question as to why the open forum was open to the entire college community, rather than being a meeting for the senators. The open forum was intended to be co-sponsored by the Senate, with the opportunity for more individuals to ask questions, voice opinions, and express any concerns.
   2. Governance Resolution
      1. Senator Toth acknowledged that Senator Furey and herself have held meetings over the past few months with representatives of all five schools. The goal of these meetings were to have conversations about how to advocate for faculty, staff, and students having more of a say and direct voice in decision making. As a result of these meetings, and as a result of suggestions from constituents, the resolution was written.
         1. Gregory Cowart questioned if the proposers of the resolution have reached out to the Diversity Committee.
            1. Senator Toth answered that the two proposers have limited their conversations around the resolution to the Senate community. She stated that she thinks that it is a good idea to reach out to the Diversity Committee, as well as other bodies outside of the senate in the future.
         2. Senator Ward suggested that the proposers add various revisions to the resolution before it is brought to the table including:
            1. A change to the wording, noting that the Senate can request the President to do things, but cannot tell the President what to do.
            2. The Senate should not be stating how the nomination of members of groups should occur outside of the Senate, in this case the Board of Trustees.
         3. Senator Schreiner acknowledged the common concern in regards to shared governance, among administration, faculty, staff, and students. He proposed that the changes that are needed are located on a deeper level. He suggested that our existing governance structures are improved as they are now, with changes being made in regards to the processes of communication.
         4. Ira Gerhardt shared his support for the resolution due to its potential to reduce the proxies and filters that are currently in place between the Board of Trustees and students, staff, and faculty.
            1. He acknowledged the prior comment made in regards to the particularity of the resolution, and expressed that he feels that the resolution benefits in that it is simple in its presentation.
            2. He expressed that the students, staff, and faculty, by holding seats without voting powers on the board, are able to speak, with those opinions then being filtered as decisions are made.
         5. Senator Pineda commented that he, as a member of the Board of Trustees, has appreciated his position at the table. He stated that he is under the impression that the members of the board would be open to having students, staff, and faculty holding voting powers.
         6. Jeff Horn expressed his appreciation for the resolution. He urged that the concerns around shared governance practices are found in the lack of communication between the various levels of these committees, and have been for a very long time. He stated that the resolution is an opportunity that the Senate should take advantage of sooner, rather than later.
         7. Senator Furey thanked the Senate and the community for providing their feedback, and creating a space in which difficult discussions can take place, and collaborative work can be done.
            1. Senator Furey acknowledged that the resolution is not going to be a complete and final fix, and that changes in the overall climate of shared governance in the college community.
            2. Senator Furey communicated that constituents have urged for concrete changes in the process of shared governance, which is offered by the resolution.
         8. Gregory Cowart applauded the efforts of the proposers and the community, and echoed that more time be put into strengthening the resolution.
         9. Senator Satterlee agreed that the resolution should be relooked at, taking the feedback into account, and editing it to be as strong as it can be.
            1. He mentioned that the Provost, and himself do not have voting powers on the Board of Trustees.
         10. Senator Pineda questioned whether the President, a member of the Executive leadership, is granted a vote on the Board of Trustees.
             1. Senator Satterlee answered that the President does have a vote, being the only member of the Executive Leadership that does.
             2. Senator Schreiner added that the bylaws of the Board of Trustees include the acknowledgement of the differing responsibilities to the college held by the President, versus other groups such as the staff, which is provided as the reasoning for which the president has voting powers, while the staff representatives do not.
         11. Speaker Handfield acknowledged the time left for the current meeting and reminded the Senate that there is only one more meeting this academic year.
         12. Senator Toth expressed wanting the opportunity to revise the resolution, if possible, taking into consideration the feedback and suggestions that were provided.
             1. Senator Ward answered that the resolution has not yet been put on the table for consideration, so that the proposers would be free to edit the resolution before it was brought to the table.
         13. Ira Gerhardt asked if Senator Toth would be able to share the revisions suggested by Senator Ward.
             1. Senator Ward offered the proposed revisions that he provided to the proposers of the resolution which included:

A generic statement can be made for all three groups, with identification of those groups.

The resolution can only recommend that the President suggest a change to the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

* + - 1. Senator Ward recommended that the resolution be put on the agenda as the first item of old business for the next meeting.
         1. Speaker Handfield agreed.
      2. Senator Toth asked the members in attendance if they have suggestions as to which groups that they should reach out to, and consult with about the resolution.
         1. Secretary Frazza recommended the student representatives of Student Government.
         2. Speaker Handfield recommended the Staff Council.

Senator Furey encouraged student representatives to reach out to students, and staff representatives to reach out to staff.

* + - 1. Senator Ward commented that a quorum is necessary in order to conduct a vote at the next meeting. He also mentioned that the virtual voting procedure would need to be discussed and decided prior to the next meeting.
      2. Senator Satterlee asked if it has been decided how the voting members would be recommended to the Board of Trustees.
         1. Senator Toth answered that the resolution mentions that the faculty representative will be nominated through a vote by all full-time faculty members.
         2. The process by which the staff and student representatives will be nominated has not yet been decided.
  1. Heating/Cooling of college buildings, Gregory Cowart, Physical Plant Administration
     1. Gregory Cowart thanked the senators for the invitation to speak at the meeting.
     2. Mr. Cowart introduced the system by which the Physical Plant manages the heating and cooling of all buildings on the campus.
     3. Mr. Cowart acknowledged the questions that were asked of him, in regards to the heating and cooling of two buildings, RLC and Leo.
        1. First, the RLC building was addressed. He showed that the rooms scheduled to be occupied are kept track of on the system. When the rooms reach temperatures that are of concern, the systems alerts the Physical Plant, and the rooms are visited, and checked by the staff in order to sort out the problem.
           1. Senator Pineda asked if the temperatures of a room being too high or too low, may be due to the person in the room not scheduling the time in which they are using the room.

Gregory Cowart answered that complaints are often made, not out of a scheduling error, but due to individual temperature preferences. Mr. Cowart acknowledged that different individuals have varying particularities of temperatures that they like or dislike, but they work to accommodate the preferred temperatures of faculty, aiming to reach a happy medium for all.

* + - 1. The second building of concern, Leo was addressed by Mr. Cowart.
         1. The Leo Engineering Building has undergone renovations and updates recently. New technology has been added.
      2. The floor was opened for questions from those in attendance at the meeting.
         1. Senator Wacker questioned whether the system used for heating and cooling RLC and Leo is the same system used across all buildings. She also inquired about the process by which individual faculty members can request temperature changes in their buildings.

Mr. Cowart answered that the system is used across all buildings, and the temperature changes can be handled on a case by case basis.

* + - * 1. Senator Pineda questioned whether a smaller zone would be able to be put in place, in order to decrease the variability of temperatures in different rooms.

Mr. Cowart answered that changing the zone size is not feasible at this time.

* + - * 1. Senator Baroudi expressed concerns for temperatures within specific science labs, which may be impacting the ability to conduct the labs.

Mr. Cowart answered that there are rooms that continue to cause problems. They are being worked out by the contractors, and information as to when these problems will be fixed will be relayed to the community as soon as he is made aware of an expected timeline.

* + - * 1. Ira Gerhardt questioned whether the Higgins Building and the Leo Building HVAC systems are connected. He also asked if these systems have been tested.

Mr. Cowart answered that they are only connected via the boiler systems.

Mr. Cowart answered that they have been tested, but they are not all functioning.

1. Adjourn
   1. Meeting called to an end at 5:04 pm. The next Senate meeting will be held on April 20th, 2021 at 3:30 pm.