



Tuesday, March 22th, 2022 | 3:30 - 5:00 pm |

Alumni Room, O'Malley Library

Recording: https://drive.google.com/file/d/11h_nmylYHRJOYuQ003tFEzK0d9X_jheh/view

Minutes

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Speaker Amy Handfield, First Deputy Speaker Tim Ward, Second Deputy Speaker Lina Baroudi, Secretary Nicole Rodi, Senator Sonny Ago, Senator Steven Schreiner, Senator Karen Nicholson, Senator Michael McEneney, Senator Min Jung Kim, Senator Enrico Forti, Senator William Merriman, Senator Trace Lahey, Senator Swaminathan Krishnan, Senator Maeve Adams, Senator Michael Quinn, Senator Sarah Wacker, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Kevin Nipal, Senator Marin Bultena
- b. Absent: Senator Esmilda Abreu, Senator Juliette Rodrigues, Senator James Washington, Senator Pat Brady, Senator Matthew Carrigy, Senator Emma Piazza
- c. Excused Absence: Senator Richard Gustavson

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved by a quorum

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved by a quorum

4. Reading from the “Green Book”

- a. “Faith and reason are the two forces that lead us to knowledge”-Saint Augustine of Hippo

5. Speaker’s Report

- a. Senator Richard Gustavson just welcomed a baby boy and is on family leave
- b. The next Senate meeting and the last of the academic year is on April 19th, 2022
 - i. A brief election meeting will take place about a week and a half after the 19th (a specific date will be provided soon)
 - ii. Speaker Handfield will be reaching out in the event that your term has expired

6. Reports from the Standing Committees

- a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner
 - i. Senator Shreiner spoke on items discussed at the March 1st meeting
 - 1. College-Wide Curriculum Committee: EM3C program has been approved which will allow students to get a 5-course certificate. Program from Italian and Italian Diaspora is being reviewed by Senator Shreiner and Dean Blad. School Curriculum Committee meeting minutes need to be sent in.
 - 2. College Technology Committee: The faculty laptop initiative is trying to work its way back into the normal cycle. Looking to make sure the same-based machine is being awarded regardless of inflation.
 - 3. The College Library Committee had not met.
 - 4. Graduate Council: Graduate administrative restructuring. Feedback will be available within the next week or so and is being used to finalize recommendations.
 - 5. Dismissal Appeal Policy has passed. This clarifies the timeline for the dismissal appeals process and the basis of appeals. The emphasis is that dismissal is a final action that comes after many steps intended to get a student back on track. Passed unanimously
 - 6. SCPS Transfer Policy Proposal: based on market analysis and what other schools in professional studies for adult learners do. Increasing

the number of credits allowed for transfer up to 75. Passed
unanimously

7. Academic suspension: no motion to move forward

b. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago

- i. The CLC has not met for the month of March
- ii. The CLC is beginning the process of recruiting new student representatives to the committee. Working with student engagement to identify students to be put through elections as a part of the SGA and looking closely at the underrepresented student of color organizations to which they can get involved. There is one candidate in mind and the CLC is looking for faculty and the Senate to recommend potential students.
- iii. The CLC is looking forward to a great 2022-2023 academic year

7. Old Business

- a. None

8. New Business

- a. Senate Proposal: Resolution to Endorse Faculty Membership on the Manhattan College President's Cabinet
 - i. **Sponsors:** Senators Maeve Adams (Faculty, SOLA), Sarah Wacker (Faculty, Science), Richard Gustavson (Faculty, Science), and Swaminathan Krishnan (Faculty, Engineering)
 - ii. Senator Adams thanked those who have taken the time to read the resolution and wanted to provide some context to those who may not have been in discussion about it prior, provide their concerns, address why this is coming from Senate, and answer questions
 - iii. This is the first year since Covid that groups have been able to meet and discuss issues of shared governance. A number of bodies have discussed such issues;

one of which is the working group on shared governance chaired by Senator Shreiner. Senator Adams and her colleagues applaud the work they are doing

- iv. The committee that composed the self-study for Middle States accreditation also has been working on issues of shared governance trying to account for the concerns of faculty, students, and staff has expressed about having their voices be a part of advising and decision making on campus.
- v. A number of measures have already begun to take form. For example, Senator Krishnan is on the budgetary committee
 - 1. Looking into ways to get input from across the campus for ways to improve the budgetary processes, Early stages and trying to understand the challenges ahead
- vi. History: Past Senators Toth and Fuery brought forward a proposed resolution to put faculty, student, and staff members on the board of trustees. That resolution passed in Senate and the president took it to the Board of Trustees.
- vii. In a conversation with the President, he illuminated some unknown dimensions of the resolution. Namely that the Board of Trustees did not decline to put such individuals on the Board but asked the president to gather more information about what was driving this felt need. Therefore this became the reasoning behind the working groups.
- viii. This is why the Senate is looking to improve structures of shared governance because we are one of the identified structures of shared governance.
- ix. The President's Cabinet is one place where faculty, student, and staff representation is not present
- x. The cabinet advises the president but does not put forth votes
- xi. Why did we not recommend that a student, staff, and faculty member be put on the President's Cabinet?

1. The resolution last year fundamentally failed. TO the college this may have been seen as a fairly radical change and so this is now a more incremental approach to modifying governance bodies and shared governance bodies on campus
 2. Have spoken to the staff council, student government, CFA to whom all have unanimously supported this resolution
 3. Senator Nipal (representative of staff council): Staff council supports this resolution and believes it is a great opportunity for shared governance. There should not be an issue for this resolution to be passed by the President
- xii. Opportunity to blend our work into this effort
- xiii. Not terribly radical; several universities and colleges have faculty representation in Cabinet
- xiv. Now that the president is leaving, why would we send this resolution forward?
1. Senator Wacker: the opportune time given that the president chose his own cabinet. The experience of the faculty provides continuity within a time of transition
- xv. Every president's cabinet serves at his will therefore anything is possible. This could potentially provide a model of thinking about shared governance to further improve moving forward.
- xvi. Questions for Senator Adams and Senator Wacker
1. Senator Merriman: to whom would this person report?
 - a. CFA, Senate, and President collaboration. There may be an election however because the president chooses there is no way to know for sure. The suggestion would be the Chair of CFA.
 2. Senator Merriman: How would the faculty representative relay the information from the cabinet?

- a. The president is open to that conversation. The representative could be present at every meeting or at a select few when appropriate. If it does become the chair of CFA the information would trickle down through CFA.

xvii. The resolution was moved to the table for the following discussion

1. Senator Shreiner responds

- a. Senator Shreiner appreciates the discussion around shared governance but clarified that he is not the chair of the working group. He does not wish to impose his provost administrative powers into this sector. He enjoyed his previous meeting with Senators Adams, Wacker, and Krishnan in providing him with a new perspective on how the community wishes to approach shared governance.
- b. However, he is not in favor of the proposed resolution and suggests that others not vote for it. He wishes priority would go to the already existing structures to improve communication flow. Surveys have shown that faculty, students, staff, and administration are all frustrated with current processes
- c. Premature to suggest that adding faculty to the President's cabinet will solve the problem. Instead it would create more concerns and problems as to how information flows from one channel versus another.
- d. There are many structures that meet that do not include representatives from across campus. Shared governance does not mean that every instance of a meeting needs to have representation. The cabinet is an important place but it is not

the only place where decisions are made. Most decisions are coming from the grassroots forwards and not all top-down. Most are highly informed by the community to which credit is due.

- e. The cabinet is not a shared governance location. There needs to be a time at which administration can have an open, frank conversation with individual advisors. Senator Shreiner has not spoken about this resolution with the president. Personally, Senator Shreiner has an advising group to whom many perspectives are brought through those advisors.
 - f. The EAC, in his opinion, is the strongest example of shared governance.
 - g. Any recommendations that the working group comes up with will be shared directly with the entire community.
 - h. There will be a panel discussion on shared governance tomorrow Mar 23, 2022 in Kelly at 4pm. Senator Shreiner promotes attendance. Different models of structure will be discussed by two panelists.
 - i. Senator Shreiner's vote against this resolution is not against shared governance, instead he does not believe this particular venue is the appropriate outlet.
2. Senator Nipal responded: The staff community feels that for the past three years, their voices have not been heard and there has not been proper representation. Big decisions, such as turning physical plant into Aramark, could have been conducted differently if representation had been present in the cabinet. Staff council has not had a raise in three years and ultimately feels as though something has to be done.

3. Senator Krishnan: Reviewed a few sections of the Middle States report, one of which was on mission and governance. It was found that the school was severely lacking in shared governance. When Senator Krishnan was approached by Senator Adams regarding the resolution, he originally had similar feelings to that of Senator Shreiner. He proceeded to take the opinions of his constituents and found that it was agreed upon that these two efforts should be synergistic. This is not to create competition with the working group, instead it is one way to bring in another effort of shared governance
4. Speaker Handfield raised a question: How would a position in the President's cabinet affect that individual's employment? Service to the college? Lessened schedule as a means of compensation? Would this call for revision of the resolution or is that too detailed?
 - a. Senator Quinn responded that if this were to pass, such details would be made clear by the President and Provost
 - b. Senator Adams: If it were to be the CFA chair it may fall under CFA duties. Perhaps a separate decision down the road. There may be some ways that exist in addressing this concern however it may not be necessary to include in the resolution because it is not of the author's purview.
 - c. Senator Wacker: The resolution is vague because the President has overarching say as to what will happen if the resolution were to pass.
5. Senator Quinn notes that this is a gesture to shared governance. There is a feeling among faculty members that things are happening at different levels that are not accessible. This resolution would be a way to show that this is not happening. This would represent our open

campus and that the vast majority of decisions are not made top-down.

This is not a powerful position, it is a listener who provides a voice.

6. Senator Adams: this is an opportunity to experiment and receive information back that may be helpful for all shared governance bodies.

Could theorize but unless we attempt certain things we will never know how beneficial they may be.

xviii. The question was called

xix. **Proposed Resolution:**

Whereas the Manhattan College senior administration has expressed a commitment to shared governance and transparency in decision making;

Whereas the Manhattan College senior administration has expressed a commitment to communication to all constituencies;

Whereas the Manhattan College senior administration has expressed a commitment to improving or developing new shared governance structures;

and

Whereas existing shared governance structures put faculty constituents in an advisory role with only limited or indirect participation in decision making; therefore, now be it

Resolved, that the Senate requests the President of Manhattan College to appoint a faculty member to his cabinet, empowered equally with respect to fellow cabinet members, with nomination forwarded to him, and selected by, the Council for Faculty Affairs or via some other equitable voting procedure decided in consultation with the Senate and the Council for Faculty Affairs.

xx. Motion to vote

1. In favor of the motion: fourteen
2. Opposed to the motion: one
3. Abstain: three
 - a. Motion was approved by a quorum
 - b. Passed by simple majority

xxi. Speaker Handfield will send the resolution

b. Other?

- i. Possible agenda topic for the next meeting: re-opening of Cafe 1853

9. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm