



BCC Student Government Association

Meeting Minutes

September 27th, 2022

Members Present: Autumn Bateman, Mariangel Dus, William Garrity, Mike Guertin, Kathaleen Mogul, Christabel Morkeh (arrived at 2:35pm), Gavin Sommers, Gloria Souza (arrived at 2:35pm), Lorena Souza, Christopher Supacela, Cameron Turner, Tina Schettini (advisor)

Members Absent: Bryson Laughner (excused)

Guests: BCC President Ellen Kennedy

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 4th at 2pm in the Susan B. Anthony Lounge

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by President Mari.

2. Roll Call

Secretary William called the roll.

3. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to approve.

4. Congratulations to the New Executive Board Members, and to the Appointed SGA Members

President Mari congratulated the new executive board members of the BCC student government association, as well as to the recently appointed members to the SGA.

5. Thank William for his First Day as Secretary

President Mari thanked Secretary William for all of the hard work he has put in to make sure SGA runs smoothly this year.

6. Please Carefully Read the SGA Constitution

President Mari reminded members to read over the SGA constitution and highlighted the following portion of the SGA constitution:

* Structure

- A. All SGA members must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 per semester and a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
- B. Students are elected for a one (1) year term.
- C. Each member is responsible for knowing and following Roberts' Rules of Order.
- D. The members must fill all the open student seats on the College Standing Committees. Any member of the SGA may run for any of these positions. A majority vote of the SGA is needed for the position to be filled.
- E. All votes and resolutions made by the SGA members shall be made public. A roll call vote shall be required if one (1) SGA member requests it.
- F. Each SGA member is responsible for following policies set forth by the SGA and conducting oneself in a manner becoming a member pursuant to college policy on or off campus, as set forth by the Student Policy Guide.

President Mari also reminded members that they must be an example for the rest of the college and must behave accordingly.

7. Welcome BCC President Kennedy and Forum with President Kennedy

Mari introduced BCC President Ellen Kennedy to the group and SGA members introduced themselves to President Kennedy.

President Kennedy introduced herself to the group, mentioning that she has been in the position of BCC President for 11 years, and before that was the Vice President of Administration and Finance of BCC. She mentioned that she grew up in Lynn, Massachusetts and attended North Adams State College (now Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts), where she was involved with the college's student government association.

She mentioned that she came to today's SGA meeting to listen to us, and that she wants to hear from us about thoughts we have about BCC, issues that we may have, and any questions we wanted to ask her.

Trustee Autumn asked President Kennedy when the Melville Hall elevator will be fixed.

President Kennedy responded that she doesn't not know but will follow up when she gets an estimate time when it will be fixed.

Trustee Autumn raised her concerns about getting to class without being able to use that elevator, and mentioned in a discussion with a maintenance person that they believe the elevator should be replaced outright, but BCC probably doesn't have the funds for a new elevator.

Trustee Autumn also raised her concern that the food in BCC's café Burke's Café is expensive, especially for a community college. She also mentioned that food in the vending machine is expensive as well. President Kennedy said that she will look into that issue.

President Mari asked what other food options will be available on campus, and on the status of the BCC cafeteria.

President Kennedy responded that the BCC cafeteria will not be coming back and it has been repurposed as a teaching kitchen for the culinary program. She brought up however that the college is looking into different food options and is trying to gauge the "demand" for food on campus, especially that now 40% of course components are now online. She mentioned that the old cafeteria was underwritten a lot, and BCC is now trying to create a model that is more economical for everyone.

Mari brought up that under the model BCC had for grab and go food service with Kevin last semester the food was "fresher" and more affordable.

President Kennedy mentioned that program was underwritten as well, and that Kevin now works for the contractor providing services for the BCC café. She will look into this more and she mentioned exploring the possibility of using ARPA funds to help students out with food costs.

Trustee Autumn brought up that she found it weird that the café didn't have any milk. Member Gavin brought up that there is milk available but raised alleged concerns he had about the company in which makes the milk.

Member Mike mentioned that there is no cereal available in the café. President Mari mentioned that they do have breakfast sandwiches.

A small discussion occurred about a price hike for the food available in the café, and President Kennedy mentioned that had to do with a contractor taking over the café.

Member Gavin raised concerns about supporting an outside "corporation" when going to the café as he thought he was supporting the college. Advisor Tina asked if students even knew the café is run by an outside contractor and not by BCC.

President Kennedy responded that they are paying an outside contractor to run the café, and that the cost is less to pay the outside contractor than it is to have BCC run it. The President recommended having Andrea Wadsworth – Vice President for Business and Finance at BCC come speak to the SGA to talk about the issue of food cost. Advisor Tina said she will reach out to her about coming to speak with the SGA.

Vice-President Lorena wanted to remind fellow members to be careful about the words they use to talk about matters before the SGA.

President Kennedy mentioned that there will be a “ribbon cutting” ceremony on Wednesday, October 19th at 11am for all of the new spaces on campus. She mentioned that it will be a big event with the community, students, and faculty invited to attend. She also mentioned that there will be food and tours provided, and she was looking for possible tour guides to tour people through the new spaces. Advisor Tina suggested that Secretary William, President Mari, and Vice-President Lorena could help with the tours. Secretary William said he is busy on Wednesdays and will be unable to do it, and President Mari said that she will be able to do it after 12:15. Advisor Tina will reach back out to the whole group about being tour guides for this event after talking to President Kennedy more about it.

President Kennedy mentioned that BCC is about to launch the fall shared governance committees. She went through a brief overview of what committees are a part of the shared governance group, including meeting times each month. Advisor Tina mentioned that she will send out an email to everyone with a list of committees that have open slots on them for members to join, and appointments will be conducted by email if there is no objection to someone signing up for a committee.

Secretary William mentioned that he is glad that BCC has this system of governance as at his high school there was no real governance structure, and that he had to create a student government-like organization from scratch. He mentioned that he is really glad that it exists at BCC. President Kennedy responded that people at BCC really wants to reach out to students to hear their thoughts are about the college, and to be honest about their thoughts.

President Mari mentioned that the Student Affairs Committee wants SGA members of the committee to prepare reports to send to the committee. A discussion occurred about having student members of the committees prepare a report to the whole SGA to keep the group informed on the happenings of their committee, as well as having student members prepare a report to the committees on what is happening in the SGA.

President Kennedy mention that the renovation projects on campus are still not done yet. She mentioned that the college recently did some renovations in the Robert Boland Theater with adding handrails. She also mentioned that the Koussevitzky Lobby will be renovated and most likely the bathrooms, the walkway in front of Koussevitzky will be renovated, the whole Koussevitzky building will be getting new windows, and a project involving adding AC and heating to Paterson Field House and the Library will be occurring. She also mentioned that Paterson should be reopening by February of 2023.

President Mari mentioned that she didn't know that Burke's Fitness Battle was canceled for this semester, and that she has been sharing it out to other people because she thought it was going to happen. She also mentioned that there is student interest in the fitness battle and other athletic events not involving Paterson's field house. President Kennedy said she will look into it.

President Kennedy also mentioned that Daryl Shreve is the co-chair of the campus's DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) committee, and mentioned the Stories for Good event that is coming up on October 7th. A discussion occurred discussing the event and concerns raised about whether or not the email sent to students about the event was clear that the event is focusing on multicultural food and not just Hispanic heritage food. President Kennedy will look into it, and Advisor Tina said that she will look into clearing up the confusion in the Weekly Buzz newsletter.

Members Gloria and Christabel arrived late at 2:35pm, and they introduced themselves to President Kennedy.

President Kennedy mentioned that back in 2016 – 2017 when a terrible hurricane hit Huston, Texas before BCC classes started, BCC decided to purchase a Huston flag to show solidarity with the city and raised the flag on the flagpole out front. After that BCC decided to get flags that represented different world issues that year and decided to hang those flags in the Connector to show solidarity with those groups. She mentioned that she wants to ask students “what’s missing from up there” wants to see what flags students feel are missing on the display pertaining to their identities and wants to order those flags. She also mentioned that she would like to start inventorying the flags already on display so BCC doesn’t order duplicate flags.

Trustee Autumn mentioned that she would like to see Native American flags on display, in particular Canadian Blackfoot and Cherokee Nation flags. Autumn also mentioned that there are flags that represent all of the Native Americans. President Kennedy commented that after discussions with some students BCC decided to purchase and put up a Black heritage flag.

President Mari asked where students would be able to present the flags they would like to see on display. President Kennedy responded that a form will be sent to all students to ask what flags they would like to see on display.

President Kennedy mentioned that the new One-Stop was open for half a day but had to move out as construction wasn’t finished in the new space and being in the space would have caused issues with getting that work done.

Member Mike suggested to get lights for the BCC emblem that is hanging in the SBA Lounge. President Mari mentioned that she didn’t recognize that the emblem was on the wall until last Wednesday. President Kennedy mentioned that the emblem actually came from the old South County center. She also mentioned that the BCC logo is actually made up of 4 Bs.

Being 2:45pm President Kennedy thanked the group for their time and for raising their issues, and that she will follow up on those issues. She also mentioned that anyone can stop in and talk to her about anything as she loves to hear from students.

8. Introduction of Rose and Thorn

Vice-President Lorena introduced to all of the SGA members the activity “Rose and Thorn” to end off each SGA meeting.

9. Adjournment

a. Rose and Thorn

Members discussed their “rose” and “thorn” for the week.

b. Adjournment

Motion by Secretary William, seconded by Trustee Autumn to adjourn the meeting, was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56pm.