

Michael J. Grant Campus

# Academic Assembly

## **November 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

1. Alexander Kasiukov called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m.
2. The minutes of October 2, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Chair's Report (Alexander Kasiukov) – see <http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2018-11-13/index.html#Grant-Campus-Academic-Assembly>
   1. Executive Director Kaliah Greene agreed to hold a Faculty Focus Group on the Strategic Process immediately following this Assembly meeting.
   2. Discussion regarding the Course Outline Template being developed by the Academic Affairs
      1. Alexander Kasiukov – this is being done to standardize what has to be there by law and to specify some of the expectations the College has in terms of the syllabus; it should go through Governance review.
      2. Elia Colon-Mallah – question regarding the attendance for students that are observing religious holidays. It is stipulated in the current policy that it has no repercussions. However, when students miss an exam and then do not contact the professor for 2 weeks – there are repercussions. There should be standards as to when the students should report their anticipated absence and when the work they miss should be made up; the professor should be able to determine what is required to make up the work. It should be vetted out and standardized.
      3. Marc Fellenz – since it is a matter of legal requirements, can there be a more efficient way of getting this information to the students instead of infringing on a faculty member’s course outline? The Pedagogy Committee has done workshops regarding the ways to use your course outline as a way to convey things about you and your pedagogy that are unique to your class and not having it littered with legal requirements. Why not have these College policies automatically posted to every course in BlackBoard instead of in each course outline?
      4. Alexander Kasiukov – not everyone posts in BlackBoard and the course outline is the lowest common denominator in terms of distributing necessary information to the students. But there is a concern that the course outline may grow into a student handbook or catalog. This is the opportune time to influence the decision.
      5. Ginny Horan – disagrees with the statement that BlackBoard is an imposition, more students have already been accessing their course in high school through a centralized school management system. It really should not be considered a burden on us. We have to change with the times and upload to BlackBoard.
      6. Sharon Niggemeier – is this a place where there is a template that we should be using.
      7. Alexander Kasiukov – no there isn’t. Individual departments may, but not for the whole College.
4. Resolution from the Grant Campus Curriculum Committee:
   1. Resolution 2018-09-[05] Approving the COL 125 – Service Learning through College Seminar New Course Proposal Approved [30-4-0]
5. Resolutions from the Faculty Council on Community Colleges:
   * 1. Resolution 2018-09-[06] Supporting Childcare Funding - Approved [33-2-2]
     2. Resolution 2018-09-[07] Supporting New Funding Model for Community Colleges – Approved [31-1-3]
6. Campus Update (James Keane) - Recap of the initiatives:
   1. Dedication of the new Veteran’s Plaza on Nov. 14, 2018
   2. 12 candidates from the Grant Campus are up for promotion
   3. 3 or 4 programs to focus on: the Study Hour program, Dr. Sepulveda admissions program with Brentwood and Central Islip high schools. One failure – the mid-semester alert follow-up for those students who had an academic concern on a campus-wide program.
   4. Liberal Arts/General Studies Students – trying to work with this student population to help guide these students. Question: Joe Gansrow – what’s the issue/problem that is being addressed with the LAGS student. Dr. Keane – colleges across the country struggle with retention of the undecided students. We are looking to guide them and not feel like being undecided is a negative and give them more of an academic home. Alexander Kasiukov – this issue is also being discussed between the Governance Chairs and VP Beaudin, the statistics support the idea that the students that are undecided need a home.
   5. 2 new lines to be posted: Nursing and Library.
   6. Spring applications are up which is a good indicator. Please remind student to register for next semester.
7. Update from the Student Government Association (Allie Domingo, VP SGA)
   1. The SGA appreciates the fact that are welcome on the various committees
   2. One complaint that SGA receives is about purchasing scan-trons for tests. As a result the SGA has made free scan-trons available in the SGA office, student lounge and information booth in HSEC. SGA would like to form a collaborative effort with the faculty to provide free scan-trons to students. Scan-trons are available to the faculty through Dean Keane’s office and it would be appreciated if they were provided to students. Dean Keane – just contact Janet Fenton and she will send you whatever scan-trons you need.
8. Tri-Campus Governance - Ginny Horan distributed a handout that outlines how the Task Force operated and what they accomplished. The other 2 campuses have been moving forward on the issue. There will also be a BlackBoard discussion forum for all regarding the proposal that the Task Force put forth. The focus was on shared leadership, balanced membership and resolution of disagreements and put faculty first, that faculty must make their voice heard, flexibility for unforeseen issues, and campus responsibilities. It must be made clear that the Task Force’s draft is just a starting place, see the latest draft of the [Constitution of the Governance Coordinating Body](http://kasiukov.com/assembly/updates/2018-10-02/governance-coordinating-body-constitution-2018-09-25.docx). Please use the BlackBoard forum to discuss these issues.
   1. Resolution 2018-09 [08] *On Renewed Shared Governance Process*  - Approved [25-3-6]
      1. Alexander Kasiukov – The resolution has been adopted by the Eastern Campus Congress. It is stating that the job of the Task Force is complete and that the result is the initial draft.
      2. Marc Fellenz – How do the governance leaders see the subsequent discussion transpiring, what’s their timeframe?
      3. Alexander Kasiukov – I would like to ask that of the Assembly members about the next steps and you should guide this process. It should not be rushed, there should be face-to-face discussions as well as the BlackBoard forum. I would like to distribute 3 index cards (green, red and yellow) and ask that you write down what you like about the Task Force’s proposal on the green card, what you don’t on the red card and suggestions for the process on the yellow card. The cards can be returned tonight or at a later time to any member of the Executive Committee.
   2. Discussion
      1. Marc Fellenz – apologies to Ginny and the Task Force for sharing the new model for the direction of the College-wide Governance. There was no intention to be subversive to the Task Force’s work or cause any tension.
      2. Karen Dovell – thanks the Task Force for their hard work and it’s a good thing to have additional ideas considered, there is a lot of information in the Task Force’s proposal and I hope that we will have campus-based discussions because I have questions about it and would like to talk to the Task Force members about it.
      3. Alexander Kasiukov – The Assembly meeting can be used for a discussion forum for this as a start – it will be a long process.
      4. Ginny Horan – please feel free to email the Grant Campus Task Force members with specific questions or if they are posted on the BlackBoard forum then everyone can see them. Selden wanted to just start with the draft that they started with, so they did not share the other proposal with the whole Ammerman faculty.
      5. Alexander Kasiukov – Clarifying that the Ammerman Senate is a representative body, not a direct democracy; the alternative proposals were not emailed to everyone on the Ammerman campus, but were distributed among the senators. The BlackBoard forum is just about ready to go and the email should be out soon.
      6. Ginny Horan – we need to be invested in this and read everything, and think about it, we have a governance body for faculty members and we’ve been disjointed and the longer this goes we don’t have a voice with administration. Some of the problems arise because not enough people were involved. You need to weigh on how we do this and how we coordinate the 3 campuses.
      7. Alexander Kasiukov – I feel as though I am preaching to the converted since those in the room already expressed their commitment by coming to the Assembly meeting. It’s those that are not here that should hear this. My burning question regarding the Task Force proposal is what happens if in the future we have the same situation of disagreement among the campuses? What will happen under the proposed rules if one campus suspends participation in the Tri-campus governance?
      8. Ginny Horan – This was the toughest negotiation that we had – the idea that one campus could say we don’t want to participate. We didn’t say specifically that no you can’t do that but instead put in place steps to prevent that and stop something from festering. Technically, that issue is up for discussion. But that’s where the discussion broke down because the people that left felt as if that was what it took in order to be heard. It can be looked at as if by leaving they dropped the ball and forfeited your voice. But they do not want to give up the right to leave because that is what caused all of the issues to be dealt with. Headway was made because there are layers to prevent it from getting to that point again.
      9. Alex – as far as I can tell based on the reading of the draft, there are 4 steps to process: the formal recommendation of the coordinating body, formal mediation process, mediation utilizing the FA mediation team, finally the vote of the constituents.
      10. Marc Fellenz – same concerns as last time, if there is no language that prevents the opt-out option, then it provides a tool for dividing the faculty and the College. In the spirit of Dr. McKay’s “one college” vision, we should start thinking of Faculty Governance as a one college, one faculty process. As long as we take the position that governance is campus-based take we take positions on academic principles that are campus-centric and not for the benefit of the college as a whole we will always have a weakened campus governance. We don’t have 3 FAs, we should look to the model of the FA as a college-wide unit.
9. For the Good of the Assembly
   1. Danielle DiMauro-Brooks – COL 295 class presented information about the Victims Information Bureau about intimate partner abuse. They are also collecting toiletries for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Center.
   2. Davorin Dujmovic – FA Negotiating Forums are coming to an end. The last one is Friday, December 14th, 2018 at 11am in the Eaton’s Neck Room, Babylon Student Center, Ammerman Campus.
10. Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.