



Bethune College Council Meeting #23
April 6th, 2021
6:30PM EST via Zoom
Chaired by Emily Panzarella

Start Time: 6:35PM EST

Voting Members: Nicole Shwartz, Arman Sadr, Myra Whitfield, Samantha DeVera, Valentina Acosta, Celina Chhuok, Masood Syed, Meryl Pirasol, Remie Taza, Issay Amaha, John Amanatides (early leave), Clifford Baker

Non-Voting Members: Sara Sarwari, Akin Adewale, Justin Calcada, Emily Panzarella, Helia Zamani, Valeriya Tolstineva, Teo Neagu, Ali Bashar, Suzanne Park

Absent: Sharon Musa, Andrew Skelton, Adam Brihmi, Syed Naqvi, Ahmad Ali

Guests: 41

CRO Update

- Motion to accept the official CRO report presented at the last general BCC meeting
 - Seconded by Meryl
 - Discussion
 - Election ratification is not to debate the election results, but rather to pass the CRO report
 - The report provided at the last general BCC meeting did not include the vote count for EVP
 - EVP results include:
 - Gemner: 143
 - Arman: 133
 - Abstained: 39
 - Vote Count: 315
 - Our constitution states that all complaints must be reported by the last day of voting period, and the CRO may choose a penalty for any infractions (which can be appealed by the BCC)
 - College elections generally have low turnouts (around 3% to 8%) and was more common this year due to the pandemic
 - Some councils require candidates to receive a certain percentage of votes relative to the number of abstained votes, but this is not built into BCC's current constitution
 - To clarify, the option to abstain is provided for constituents who wish to vote for one part of the election but are not comfortable with voting on another
 - Constituents are notified about the election via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and email
 - Some constituents feel that additional promotions for the election period was necessary
 - Jair: We do not motion to ratify each position, we motion to ratify the report as a whole
 - 8-0-4 motion passes



- Includes 2 FOR proxy votes

President's Update

- Currently working on transitions for next year's council
- There were meetings held with 2 new potential College Heads

Executive Vice President's Update

- Town Hall was a successful event
 - Notes that were taken at Town Hall will be included in the Google Drive for next year's council

Vice President Social Update

- Social events have wrapped up for the year and was pretty successful considering the circumstances
- Prizes from all of the events are still being distributed
- Minecraft Survival Competition is being held this Saturday @2PM
 - The sign-up form is on the Pentadragon discord

Vice President Finance Update

- Currently working on fixing the link for members to pay for council merchandise
 - Payments for the embroidery on this merchandise has gone through
- Payments for the entire college merchandise is also in the works
- Gift cards and all other prizes are still being distributed
- Attended the student roundtable meeting to discuss how this year went and what can be improved on next year
- Year-end audits are coming up

Vice President Communications Update

- College merchandise deliveries are just about done, and the remainder of deliveries will be completed after exam season

Vice President Athletics Update

- Intramural events have wrapped up for the year
- The jerseys are all done and merchandise is still on track
- Virtual Intramural Banquet is being held on April 26th through Instagram
 - There will still be award winners for virtual and online leagues

YFS Director Update

- Stress buster events have been planned for exam season, beginning tomorrow (April 7th)
- Tax support events are happening from April 12th to April 16th

Other

- Motion by Masood to not go in-camera
 - Seconded by Arman
 - 8-2-2 motion passes



- Motion to censure General Member, Masood Syed, on the following grounds:
 - 2.d. Acting in any manner detrimental to the intent, image, and direction of BCC
 - Masood used an anonymous account to write hateful comments on an Instagram post by a YFS campaign account
 - The post was of a current BCC member running for a position on YFS
 - Discussion
 - An executive meeting was held and it was revealed that the account belonged to Masood
 - Accusation: In the executive meeting, it was also said that the reason for motion to censure was to give the upcoming hiring committee a reason to not hire Masood for any positions, regardless of whether the motion passes or not
 - President has clarified that the reason for this motion is because a council member was negatively affected by this comment and constituents were the ones to bring it to her attention
 - Masood states that his intention was to express his opinions about YFS as a constituent, not attack the BCC member specifically
 - Whether there was intent to attack this BCC member or not, the outcome was the same
 - There is a difference between freedom of speech and attacking / mocking / bullying others, especially online
 - It is concerning that of all posts for Masood to comment on from the YFS campaign page, it was of a current BCC member
 - Accusation: The reason for the comments on the post was because another BCC member was running for the same YFS position, who Masood was supporting
 - Masood has clarified that his comments had nothing to do with his personal relationships with each member, but rather because this post was gaining the most attraction and wanted his opinions about the YFS to be seen
 - As a representative of Bethune, members should not behave in a way that would be detrimental to the reputation of the College
 - It is important that members remain professional, especially on public platforms and in public spaces
 - Masood states that he was not trying to comment anonymously, but rather use an account that was not affiliated with Bethune College in order to preserve the college's image
 - Council members feel that there are major inconsistencies when it comes to holding members accountable for their actions
 - For example, the former EVP resigned after expressing mental abuse by the President but there were no consequences or accountability for this
 - There are concerns that BCC is involving itself in YFS elections, and these concerns should be brought to the YFS instead
 - 5-7-0 motion does not pass
 - Includes 2 AGAINST proxy votes
- Motion by Masood to extend the meeting time until all agenda items have been discussed
 - Seconded by Remie
 - Discussion



- If we do not extend the meeting time, the next meeting will be too close to exam season
 - 9-3-0 motion passes

 - Motion to censure Commuter Representative, Ali Bashar, on the following grounds:
 - 2.a. Incompetence
 - 2.d. Acting in any manner detrimental to the intent, image, and direction of the BCC
 - Discussion
 - Ali has consistently spoken out of turn at meetings and in the private council group chat, and has used this chat to speak to other members in a disrespectful manner
 - When issuing his apologies to these members, they appear to be disingenuous
 - Ali admits that the comments made were unprofessional, inexcusable, and rash, but feels that these comments made were taken out of context based on the specific situations at hand
 - Instance 1: Ali used the group chat to express concerns about a comment left on the YFS campaign page by the President, which addressed the current affairs of BCC as it relates to the comment left by the former EVP
 - Ali expressed that he did not approve of the comment left by the President on the post on behalf of the entire council and believed that council should have been consulted with first
 - Instance 2: Ali made a comment about how the VP Communications was answering another member's question about when/if a constitution meeting would be held
 - Ali expressed that the VP Communications was not in any position to decide what BCC will or will not do
 - Accusation: At a finance meeting, the VP Communications brought up the issue and said he was owed an apology, and later said he was ready to fight Ali
 - Ali issued an apology to the VP Communications after speaking with the EVP and expressed his own concerns privately about power imbalance and overstepping; however, this apology came off as disingenuous and turned into a disrespectful interaction
 - There are concerns about why BCC did not pursue mediation as recommended earlier in the academic year in order to address underlying conflict
 - Accusation: The motion for this censure and Masood's censure were submitted right after the motion for impeachment of the President
 - VP Finance has clarified that these motions are not a retaliation, as similar instances have been ongoing
 - EVP expresses that if this situation is deemed as censurable, then many other actions within council would also be deemed as censurable
 - 3-8-1 motion does not pass
 - Includes 2 AGAINST proxy votes
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- Motion to impeach VP Athletics, Myra Whitfield, on the following grounds:
 - 2.a. Incompetence
 - 2.d. Acting in any manner detrimental to the intent, image, and direction of the BCC
 - 2.f. If any Council member is habitually late for meetings of Council, consistently misses office hours, or consistently fails to perform his/her duties
 - Discussion



- Communication within Athletics has not been the best, as there have been little to no meetings throughout the year
 - Since everything was moved online for this academic year, there was no need to have several meetings throughout the year
 - EVP did not find out that he was hired to be an Executive on Bethune Athletics Committee (BAC) until 3 months after the fact, as communicated by VP Operations of BAC
 - This position was hired out of necessity, as with all of the BAC positions this year
 - Overall demeanour during council meetings is being questioned
 - There are concerns about how the VP Athletics speaks to other members and constituents
 - VP Athletics has apologized if she ever came off in a negative way towards members and constituents, and always tries to promote a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive environment
 - Some members felt that they were unaware about the Athletics events taking place over the course of the year
 - VP Athletics provided updates at every general BCC meeting about the ongoing events
 - President has stated that our VP Athletics is one of the few VP Athletics college-wide to be showing up and actively participating in SIRC meetings
 - 1-10-0 motion does not pass
 - Includes 2 AGAINST proxy votes
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Meeting Adjourned: 10:02PM EST