



Bethune College Council Meeting #14
November 17th, 2020
5:30PM EST via Zoom
Chaired by Emily Panzarella

Start Time: 5:35PM EST

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

Non-Voting Members: Sara Sarwari, Akin Adewale, Emily Panzarella, Helia Zamani, Justin Calcada, Teodora Neagu, Valeriya Tolstineva, Sharon Musa, Ali Bashar

Absent: Adam Brihmi, Syed Naqvi, Ahmad Ali, Suzanne Park, Andrew Skelton

Guests: 5

President's Update

- The Executive Vice President has resigned as of November 11th
 - *Resignation letter was forwarded to council members with permission of the EVP during this meeting*
 - Resignation email indicated that she left due to being uncomfortable and unhappy in the current work environment, as well as stating “emotional and mental abuse”
 - Further discussion included in the “Other” section of the minutes
- For clarification, VP Finance resigned at the end of the summer for reasons not due to council and left on a positive note
 - The Director of Finance has been hired as our current VP Finance and is being trained
 - Looking into hiring last year's VP Finance for additional support with the audit and other duties
 - In the future, ensure that the Director of Finance is trained alongside VP Finance (was supposed to happen this year and did not)
- Since EVP is an elected position, the interim EVP will also be voted on at the next meeting
 - The position opening will be promoted on Bethune platforms
- Stong College is looking to work with us to host a similar event that was run during Frosh (Pride and Privilege) focusing on race

Vice President Social Update

- Health Week is coming up — beginning on November 30th and events will occur on all 5 days
- Continue to promote events on social media

Vice President Communications Update

Budget attached at the end of the minutes



- Motion to approve of the merchandise budget
 - Seconded by Meryl
 - Discussion
 - Merchandise will be partially subsidized for constituents (rounded down to even numbers)
 - Originally was planning to order all of the merchandise outright, but still open to doing pre-orders instead
 - 11-0-0 motion passes

Vice President Athletics Update

- Council members are encouraged to promote and attend more athletics events

YFS Director Update

- Continue to share YFS events on social media

Commuter Representative Update

- Looking to open up Bethune study sessions via Zoom throughout the exam season
 - Council members were asked to complete a form with availability to host sessions
- The Bethune jobs event was very successful

Other

- Office hours will not continue for the remainder of the term
 - Due to issues with scheduling, availability, and how they are currently being run
 - Look into changing the nature of office hours next term (duration, frequency, and encouraging constituents to attend through promotions)
 - Social media has been the best tool for answering constituent questions as of now
- Recent resignation of the EVP
 - Reason for leaving is unclear, can only speculate
 - Resignation occurred the day after the honorarium meeting
 - General reminder to seek professional resources regarding mental health, as it is not anyone's role on council to do mental health check-ups
 - Look into implementing ways to ensure that council members feel comfortable in the current work environment and prevent similar instances from happening in the future
 - This might include more one-on-ones with other members and council bonding events

Meeting Adjourned: 7:10PM EST

Next Meeting: TBA

