

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President David S. Wu, presiding.

1. The following members of the Baruch College faculty and administration were in attendance: (sign-in sheets)
2. Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2025, were approved.
3. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda was approved.
4. **Report from the President, S. David Wu:**

President Wu began the meeting by encouraging everyone to read the posted reports. He also thanked the student representatives for attending the meeting.

Strategic Initiatives

Update on the expansion of 63 Madison – President Wu reviewed the status of the expansion. As discussed at the November 13, 2025 meeting, Baruch is no longer co-occupying the space with Hunter College. Baruch will now be occupying one-third of the concourse space as well as the first and fifth floors. The expected move-in date is December 2026, and the expected completion date of the concourse is spring 2027.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Baruch AI Leadership Initiative – The provost's office is leading an AI think tank to make recommendations to strengthen foundational skills, ethical use, faculty development, hands-on/applied learning and to “build institutional capacity, not chase hype.” The college had a strategic plan mid-point summit on these issues. President Wu stressed that this think tank is moving from planning to active implementation with seed funding to help launch the effort. The taskforce is focused on three objectives: 1. Student success - ensuring students have AI fluency and understand the implications of AI for their careers. 2. Institutional capacity - building an “upscaling mechanism” that will translate into shared resources among faculty and staff. 3. Industry and organizational partnerships – building on our business and alumni connections to keep our practices current. President Wu reviewed the roadmap to ensure broader impact. Year 0: Build a foundation through the leadership of faculty and staff. Year 1: Build a capability prototype, including an applied intelligence lab for experimentation. Year 2: Campus adoption via tools,

modules, and infrastructure. Year 3+: Extend and expand, creating a replicable model that can be sustained over time. President Wu concluded his report by emphasizing the rapidly evolving landscape of AI and the importance of adapting to ensure students are prepared to compete successfully.

Q&A

Rebecca Spokony, Department of Natural Sciences shared that companies creating AI tools are interested in having users and would likely donate their time to deliver workshops to Baruch. She suggested that Baruch reach out to these industries (e.g., Google). She noted that the report indicated a need for faculty training and Baruch should not wait until year 3 to begin the process.

President Wu agreed and added that we must also understand how companies are using AI tools in hiring and other areas. He noted that CUNY recently signed a contract with Google Cloud, which includes free training tools.

Katherine Pence, Department of History, asked if there would be pressure on departments to adopt AI tools, when it does not align with the pedagogical goals of their classes (e.g., the humanities).

President Wu stated that faculty always have the final decision on whether to adopt AI and that there is no mandate or pressure to adopt.

Professor Pence followed up with a question about the availability of enhanced support for non-AI foundational skills.

President Wu responded that over 75% of Baruch College students major in business and undergo humanities and social sciences training in their first two years. He offered assurance that various resources and support will continue to build foundational skills.

5. Provost Report

Provost Essig gave a “backstage” overview of the achievements of the Division of Academic Affairs.

Faculty Affairs, Research, and Innovation (FARI)

- Managed 31 faculty searches.
- Supports 10 institutes and 3 strategic research clusters.
- Processed 11 faculty tenure reviews.
- The Faculty Mentoring Network grew to 47 mentees with 37 mentors.

- The Office of Research Compliance and Outreach (ORCO) processed 179 submissions for IRB or HRPP protocols. The average review time for expedited IRB is fewer than 2 days.
- SPAR processed 87 external grant proposals.

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment

- Self-study Institute and self-study design are now completed for the Middle States reaccréditation process.
- Output from the data governance council will soon be available.
- Academic assessment – 4 of 8 pathways areas were assessed. 21 instructors and approximately 704 students were involved in the process.
- Institutional Research has provided data supporting national reporting on rankings.
- Several Dashboards are now available (e.g., dashboards on enrollment trends in majors).

Learning and Student Success

- 4 new academic programs approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees with 2 others in progress.
- Transfer Transition Initiative offers “concierge service” to support transfer students.
- The EXCEL office has developed 13 new community partnerships. Provost Essig directed attendees to the flyers provided by Anthony Maniscalco that guide faculty on how to embed these partnerships into their curriculum.
- Macaulay Honors College initiated an early decision program. Baruch reviewed 191 applications (the highest of all partner campuses).
- The New Student Programs Office grew its first-year seminar pilot and its transfer student network. Students have a peer mentor and are part of an online transfer student community.
- SACC logged over 21,000 hours of service and almost 6,000 tutoring appointments.
- Tools for Clear Speech has served 380 unique students.
- The Writing Center held almost 1,900 one-on-one consultations, serving over 4,000 students.

Pedagogy and Online Programs

- Co-leading an effort with the Student Disabilities Services to comply with accessibility guidelines.

- The Schwartz Communication Institute is leading AI working groups.
- The Digital Learning Hub is launching a new EDD this spring (MSPIA). This is the first online doctoral program at the College. In addition, the hub is launching a post-baccalaureate degree in Psychology (Weissman).
- Akindi roll-out planned for the fall 2026.

Provost Essig shared that her office works closely with the President and Kenya Lee on a variety of initiatives and asked attendees to respond upcoming surveys. She discussed ongoing work related to AI and the Copilot Community of Practice. She also emphasized the “Next Level Student Success” program, which focuses on identifying how to help students advance to the next level of success. With the aid of a consultant, the institution conducted a deep dive assessment and developed a series of workshops aimed at building the infrastructure needed to move from our current state to future goals. This initiative will be implemented over the next year.

Provost Essig also noted that she hosts regular coffee chats, which are typically attended by an equal mix of faculty and staff. The most recent topics have included AI and research funding and assessment. The next session will be an open discussion without a set topic. She also provided updates on academic facility design and development.

6. Governance Review Committee

Robert Wagner, Dept of Law and Ryan Smith, MSPIA (Co-Chairs of the Governance Review Committee)

Professor Smith began with a quote from Charles Darwin – “It’s not the strongest of the species who survives nor the most intelligent but the one most responsive to change.” He encouraged attendees to “think of the governance charter as a species that has not been responsive to change since 1998, a full 28 years.” The charter and bylaws must be revised this year, including faculty, staff, and students in the decision-making process. The charter is proposing an additional 13th article to address staff issues. Professor Smith shared a PowerPoint slide with the charter members, including 3 faculty co-chairs, administrative co-chairs, and 14 other members. In 2025 the charter conducted a series of focus groups (14) involving faculty (115), staff (89), and students (223). The charter presented the findings of the focus groups at a Baruch Town Hall in May 2025. Revisions were drafted and approved through the summer and fall 2025. Professor Smith shared a summary of the main feedback received from the community. There were concerns about including students on SARC and CARC committees. Other concerns involved

curriculum processes and desires to see a clearer rationale for the changes. The charter responded to this feedback and created an annotated document to summarize the changes. Major changes included establishing a staff council with elected representatives, recognizing the library as the only remaining independent unit, revising the personnel and budget committees to align with the CUNY bylaws, allowing student government to decline sending a representative to the college P&B.

Professor Wagner shared a QR code that offered the details on changes, including a clean version, a version with tracked changes, and an FAQ document. He shared a list of the FAQs. Some examples of questions included what is governance, what does the charter accomplish, how will voting work, who can vote, etc. He reiterated that a major revision was including a staff council. He then covered the formal process for amending the charter. He stressed that everyone who is entitled to vote for faculty senate and student government is entitled to vote on the charter. The charter is required to get 20% of faculty and 15% of student participation for approval. Furthermore, 2/3 of support within each voting constituency is required for adoption and Board of Trustees approval. Electronic ballots will be distributed at the end of March with a unique link for each voter. The voting window is from the end of March to the last day of the semester. Tabling events, raffles, and email reminders will be utilized to encourage voter participation.

7. Committee Updates and Elections

Kimmy Szeto (Library Department and Chair of the Committee on Committees)

Professor Szeto shared the nominees for Faculty Senate – Terrence Martell (3-year term 2026-2029) and Anna D’Souza (1 year term 2026-2027). A vote was taken with unanimous approval.

Professor Szeto shared a list of nominees on various committees.

Committee on committees – 3 seats with 2 nominees

Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee – 6 seats with 5 nominees

Committees on Prizes, Scholarships, and Awards - 4 seats with 1 nominee

Committee on Undergraduate Honors – 4 seats from Weissman with 8 nominees; 4 seats from Zicklin with 4 nominees; 2 seats from Marxer with 3 nominees

Committee on the Library - 6 seats with 6 nominees

Committee on Financial Aid – 7 seats with 10 nominees

Committee on Collegiate Athletic Activities – 3 seats with 3 nominees

Committee on Educational Technology – 6 seats and 9 nominees

Committee on Ceremonial Occasions – 5 seats and 0 nominees

Joint Committee on Research – 2 seats with 2 nominees

Nominations were received from the floor for the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee and the Committee on Ceremonial Occasions.

The slate was unanimously approved. Competitive slates will be handled through electronic ballots.

Adjournment

With no old or new business, the meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn, ending at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Beeman

Professor and Secretary of the General Faculty