

December 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Room: MAC Rotunda

Meeting of the College Council Volume 53 Number 4

The College Council met on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 3:00 PM in the MAC Rotunda. In attendance were:

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alley-Young, Gordon | Escobar, Andres | Parker, Stuart | <u>Students</u> |
| Armstrong, Rick | Faucette, Azure | Pashkovskiy, Igor | Abdunayimov, Amirjon |
| Berco, Jaime | Franquiz, Juan | Polizzotto, Kristin | Adigun, Abimbola |
| Berran, Bridget | Friedman, Shoshana | Repetti, Rick | Anjorin, Faruq |
| Cally, Scott | Gartner, Matthew | Polizzotto, Kristin | Hussein, Reem |
| Caravello, Shannon | Hume, Don | Repetti, Rick | Kamil, Fatima-Zahara |
| Cohen, Judith | Jaret, Steven | Risolo, Paula | Makhmudova, Fotima |
| Cook, Sharon Warren | Jedlicka, Carrie | Rothacker, Thomas | Olu-Obazee, Nosagieagbon |
| D'Alessandro, Mark | Kalin, Amanda | Schnee, Emily | Rehman, Hassan |
| Dawson, Mary | Kane, Daniel | Segal, Jacob | Simmons, Carlos |
| DeGrazia, Thomas | Kapetanakis, George | Shah, Ashiza | Turchin, Sophia |
| Delgado, Jeffrey | Kirby, Michael | Spear, Michael | Zan, Myat Khine |
| Dillon, Sarah | Matthew, Martin | Wilson-Mooney, Catherine | |
| Duitch, Suri | McKinney, Ryan | Zaloom, Joan | |
| Eaton, Mark | Mikalopas, John | | |
| Elmore, Hattie | Olvina, Cynthia | | |

College Council Chair, Daniel Kane, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM

AGENDA

I. The minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2025 were approved by acclamation.

II. Reports

A. Remarks from the Chair of College Council, Daniel Kane

Good Afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the final College Council before the New Year. We are finalizing dates for the winter and spring semesters and expect to have them completed soon.

I want to thank our President, Suri Duitch, the Kingsborough Community College Foundation, and the Office of Institutional Advancement for inviting me to last night's Thanks for Giving Event, a donor appreciation event. Last night, two students presented what Kingsborough scholarships meant to them. Both the students' stories were engaging and highlighted the importance of scholarships here at Kingsborough. It is always wonderful to hear about the positive impact of scholarships and how members of our college enhance our students' experience. I think it would be wonderful in the Spring to have a representative from the Office of Institutional Advancement present at Council to highlight the extraordinary events throughout the year that benefit our students.

At the last Steering Committee meeting, we discussed participation in Standing Committee Meetings, which is required of College Council members. Standing Committee Chairs have been asked to not only note the attendance on the meeting minutes (which they are doing) but also those who are absent. This can help the council keep track of quorum and membership.

On today's agenda, you will hear updates from the Standing Committees about all the wonderful work that each member is doing. By the end of the meeting, if there is a topic that you are interested in, reach out to a chair of the standing committee. I hope everyone has an excellent end of the semester, and let's have a great council meeting.

B. President's Remarks

College events

Congratulations to our advancement staff, and thanks to everyone who has contributed to our recent fundraising events. Last night, we had a small reception to thank current donors and updated our donor wall. The event was successful; special thanks to Kawther Saadia and Carlos Simmons for speaking and inspiring the donors present at the event.

And thanks, especially to everyone who participated in our Giving Tuesday event. We will count all donations through the end of the year as part of this campaign, so are still actively fundraising. We initially had modest expectations of this year's Giving Tuesday, and I'm glad to say that we have so far raised over \$50K.

Personnel Updates

I'm excited to let you know that we have a Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance starting on January 6th, 2026. Her name is Sheila Thimba. She has held this type of role for the past twenty-seven years – at the Columbia School of Journalism, at Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences (where she identified and rectified a \$17M deficit), and, for the past eleven years, as Dean of Administration and Finance at Harvard College. Thanks again to the search committee for its hard work. I don't think we could have done any better in terms of the result, and am very much looking forward to starting to work with Sheila.

To turn to another position – Nadine Browne, our chief of staff, was the first person I connected with at the college, and has been hugely supportive in helping me get through my first two years on the job at KCC. Nadine is in the middle of a personal transition, and, as you know, I have been wanting to bring in a vice president for strategy to lead finalizing and implementing our 2025-2030 strategic plan. The new position is posted and will close on January 8th. Thanks to the search committee that will be working in mid and late January on selecting finalists for the position.

College Finances

KCC is on track for a balanced budget in the second quarter of the year – so making progress on the road to the positive revenue margins we need for financial security and a greater ability to reinvest in our programs and personnel.

Middle States

Work is continuing on our Supplemental Information Report for Middle States, due February 3rd. As I've stated previously, we will ask a small internal group to review a draft of the report prior to submission. The provost, Dean Davy and I will also be at the annual Middle States conference this week in Philadelphia.

I look forward to seeing people at our holiday party on December 18th in the MAC Rotunda, and wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

C. SGA President, Nosagieagbon (Nosa) Olu-Obazee

The SGA President updated the College Council on the work of the SGA members for the semester. Highlighted included campus engagement, funding of club activities, such as the Fashion show and new clubs. SGA is aiming to make club matters more visible and accessible to the student body.

D. Standing Committee Updates:

- Curriculum Committee, Scott Cally, Chair
 - Highlighted the creation of new concentrations for the A.S. Theatre Arts and A.A.S. Tourism and Hospitality, which were in line with industry demand and will benefit our students. These curricular items were passed by the Council at the November 18, 2026 meeting.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, Cynthia Olvina, Chair
 - Highlighted their work this semester that focused on Defining DEI at Kingsborough, gathering reflections from current DEI efforts across campus, and researching DEI practices CUNY wide.
- Facilities Committee, Steven Jaret, Chair (**See Attachment A**)
 - Highlighted the following since the Committee's establishment in May 2025: wrote and approved their mission statement, worked with Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration, Andres Escobar, to get signage for the campus shuttle bus, passed a motion recommending Facilities Committee representation on three outside

committees, and shared the current and ongoing discussions which included recent instances of locked classrooms and current/future technology needs and desires.

- Instructional Committee, John Acosta, Chair
 - Juan Franquis, Secretary, presented Committee updates on behalf of Chair, John Acosta. Highlighted were receipt of the SmartEvals Faculty Advisory Report, which presented revised student evaluation questions that incorporate Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) requirements, discussion on recommendation that the KCel RSI course be required or strongly recommended for faulty teaching online asynchronous courses, and noting that Artificial Intelligence (AI) remains a complex and evolving issue with a faculty survey being suggested in order for the Instructional Committee to explore how colleagues are approaching AI in their teaching. Student representatives, Fotima Makhmudova and Arielle Francis, were thanked for their thoughtful participation on the Committee. Discussion followed with a focus on AI. A motion was made and seconded to close discussion which **passed** by majority with **2 (No) and 0 (Abstentions)**.
- Legislative Committee, Shoshana Friedman, Chair
 - Highlighted attention to the Spring election season to verify systems and ensure information is accurately updated. An election calendar will be shared at an upcoming College Council Meeting.
- Shared Governance Committee, Matthew Gartner, Chair
 - Highlighted that the Committee will continue work on the Procedural Guide to be shared at a Spring meeting of College Council as well as scheduling sessions on shared governance and a training session for newly elected members. The Committee shared that they created an Academic Freedom Subcommittee (**see Attachment B**), where discussion followed. At 4:21 p.m., Daniel Kane vacated his position as Chair for the purpose of sharing his opinion during the discussion, the Vice-Chair, Cynthia Olvina, presided. A motion was made and seconded to close discussion which **passed** unanimously. At 4:32 p.m. Daniel Kane resumed his role as Chair.
- Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, Thomas DeGrazia, Chair
 - Highlighted the Committee's focus on review of the Budget and plans for financial development and the work on the College's 5-Year Strategic Plan, stressing the need for metrics and an implementation plan.
- Students Committee, Paula Risolo, Chair
 - Highlighted the strength of SGA membership with seven new members being elected mid-November, current discussions on Navigate, the College's early alert system, and stakeholder use, and utilization of a basic student survey on Artificial Intelligence (AI) use.

III. New Business

There was no New Business

IV. Events/Announcements

- KCTL announced their 2026 Winter Workshop “Teaching for Authentic Student Learning in an AI Age” with guest speaker Flower Darby on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Information concerning the Theatre program’s Spring production of “Ordinary Days” a musical by Adam Gwon, was shared with College Council. Performances will take place beginning 3/18 through 3/21 at the Acting Studio (M-103).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amanda Kalin, Secretary

COLLEGE COUNCIL CALENDAR 2025-2026

- Winter and Spring 2026 TBD

Attachment A for the 11/18/25 Meeting – Facilities Committee

Fall 2025 Facilities Committee Report

- Committee began in May 2025
- Wrote and approved mission statement
- Worked with VP Escobar to get signage for the campus Shuttle
- Passed a motion recommending Facilities Committee representation on 3 outside committees
- Current and ongoing discussions include recent instances of locked classrooms and current/future technology needs and desires



Attachment B for the 11/18/25 Meeting – Shared Governance Committee - Academic Freedom Subcommittee

Resolution to create an Academic Freedom Subcommittee

presented by Jacob Segal to the College Council standing committee on Shared Governance

November 10, 2025

Whereas, academic freedom is central to the life of an institution of higher learning like Kingsborough; and

Whereas, we are living in a time when academic freedom is broadly under attack; and

Whereas, the CUNY University Faculty Senate has urged the creation of academic freedom committees in all the CUNY campuses to bring attention to this important issue across the university; and

Whereas, academic freedom falls within the responsibilities of the Shared Governance Standing Committee; and

Whereas, the College Council Constitution empowers standing committees to create subcommittees made up of individuals who are not College Council delegates; therefore

Now, There, Be it Resolved, that the Shared Governance Standing Committee will create an Academic Freedom Subcommittee, open to all members of the College Community

Be it, Further Resolved, that the Subcommittee will organize itself, set standards for membership, if necessary, elect its own Chair and Secretary and create its own schedule of meetings

Be it, Further Resolved, that the Subcommittee will have the following charges

- Consider College, University and national issues of academic freedom
- Consider the place of academic freedom in Kingsborough Governance
- Pass resolutions pertaining to academic freedom
- Inform and educate the College Community on academic freedom

Be it Further Resolved, that all resolutions passed by the subcommittee must also pass the Shared Governance Committee.