Bank Street
College of Education

# March College Advisory Council Meeting

## Meeting Details

**Date:** March 10, 2020
**Time:** 3:30PM-5:00PM
**Location:** (@112) Room 612

## Members Present

**Graduate School:** Alex Iwachiw, Deb Vilas
**Strategy and Ops:** Cori Boudreaux
**Children's Programs:** Lisa LaFlamme
**Development (DARO):** Maggie Cely
**President's Office:** Regina Wright ***(Co-Chair)***
**Bank Street Ed Center:** Maried Rivera Nieves, Gretchen Mills, Monica Garcia ***(Co-Chair)***
**Ex-Oficio Reps:** Akilah Rosado
**Staff Associate Trustee:** Robin Hummel
**Members Absent:** Evi Rivera-Williams, Emmett Cooper, Frank Mercedes, Susie Rios, Sylvie Fan

## Agenda

- **Check-In** (5 min)
  - Quick community check-in
    COVID-19 updates
    - School for Children is taking precautions, including planning for online instruction
    - Graduate school is not closing (as Columbia & Barnard have) because students are not in campus housing
    - Cabinet is continuing to plan for containment and possible new measures for containment
  - Approval of January minutes: Approved
  - Notetaker role/volunteer (April): Alex

- **Bank Street Sustainability-** Erin Hellman & Maggie Cely (10 min)
  - Erin, Maggie, Monica are involved with a youth-led organization focused on climate change, they're joining together with a number of other organizations in the city to lead a huge climate strike on Earth Day 2020 (April 22)
  - Looking to create the next big push for policy change around the climate (50-year anniversary of first/largest climate strike in U.S.)
  - How can Bank Street approach this work and engage staff members/students in conversation about climate?
    - Potentially hosting breakfasts focused on learning about climate and policy to increase engagement
      - Proposed dates (8:30am to 9:30am): April 8th @112th, April 9th @ICC, April 16th @112th, April 21 @ICC
    - Participating in strike starting at 112th and moving towards Midtown on April 22
  - *Discussion of potential activities*
    - Akilah
      - Undoing Racism is scheduled for April 8/9—something to consider
      - COVID-19 concerns may also be a factor in both Undoing Racism and Climate Strike.
      - Students have historically participated in some climate-focused walkouts, and Bank Street staff/faculty have also engaged in organizing and community actions. Recommend talking to Jed, Cabinet about past engagement and potential options for bringing Bank Street community into this work
    - Maggie: Engagement: how can those who aren't able to walk out participate? Liberty LEADS students?
    - Consider how to highlight/maximize engagement—social media, branding, marketing. Time together to make signs and get folks excited about marching together.

        - Thinking about making people aware of social issues tied to climate & engagement, considering timing of breakfast/learning events, budget. Being careful not to overburden leadership
    - *Questions and ideas about climate strike: get in touch with Maggie (mcely@bankstreet.edu) or Erin (ehellman@bankstreet.edu)*
- **Staff Associate Trustee** (5-10 min)
    - About the role
        - One typically from graduate school and one from school for children
        - Evi is cycling off, two candidates have applied for the position
        - CAC should interview and provide insight/feedback about candidates because one will be sitting on this Council
        - Interview and provide recommendations to leadership before April 2
        - Using WhenToMeet to schedule a time that a majority of CAC members can interview candidates - Please fill out link that Monica sends out (Robin suggests prioritizing Monica and Regina for scheduling)
            - Ideal time after 3:30 for School for Children faculty
            - Continuing conversation about using Zoom to participate in interview - will do if necessary
    - Application
    - Interviews
- **Departmental Updates/Data Collection** (10 min)
    - Please continue to add to the data collection folders so that we can bring more information together
    - Don't worry about polishing materials/links/quotes that might be helpful—this is a running list of resources and a living document, so we're more interested on hearing from everyone and focusing in on equity across the college
    - Following up on conversation about equity from January meeting
        - Monica & Regina met with Akilah to talk through how to approach conversations about equity with Cabinet
        - Need to 1) invite Shael to a CAC meeting and 2) identify a Cabinet meeting that CAC can attend
        - What are the issues and conversations that we want to prioritize for presentation to Cabinet?
            - Robin: can share decks that she and Kelly put together (history, where we stand, and where we want to go), can help plan meeting with Cabinet. It's a good experience to present and will help us understand what we've already accomplished and how we can further CAC's work
            - Regina: we want to identify what we're doing as a council (or what we want to do), and make sure that we have a piece in the strategic planning & social justice/equity work
            - Akilah: highlighting outcomes—but remember this is a new group, still learning how to work together and what the best systems are for our group. Additionally, the work of flipping the All College meeting and making it more engaging and more reflective of the Bank Street community is major—we should highlight this and continue to think about how we can use these meetings to maximize community building. Serving as conduit/liaison to other parts of the community is key—CAC can establish talking points and systems for communicating key facts about the work that each division/group/team/council/etc is taking on. Remember to ask Cabinet questions about what we can do, what they need, and how they're able to support our work
            - Lisa: Cross-team collaboration has been really helpful for both professional development and community building. More FC staff have been able to participate in Undoing Racism and School for Children PD. Folks have also made an effort to reach out about the role of CAC and how it plays into community building or organizing for opportunities in/across divisions
            - **Action item:** will share some of these community building activities and developing priorities around collaboration
            - Maggie: we can & should include how we're prioritizing equity in our approaches to all work. DARO is trying to be thoughtful about including ideas about equity in their work with foundations

| Department | Update |
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| **Children's Programs** | • Checking in with leadership and trying to stay updated on division priorities<br>• Hoping to get more updates from leadership soon |
| **Ed Center** | • Need to reconnect with Ed Center Leaders about the Protected Learning Time<br>• Start prepping for April event—getting in touch with leaders and starting to plan |
| **DARO** | • Rethinking approaches for development and fundraising in light of the economy and COVID-19 reponse<br>  ○ Canceled conferences and events will limit networking opportunities<br>  ○ Changes in giving due to economy |

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| **Graduate School** | ● Great meeting with Cecelia to talk about communication with newly restructured departments<br>○ Need to keep up momentum after establishing systems<br>○ This information was shared at the divisional meeting, brought focus to this issue for all faculty<br>● First Spanish language children's book of the year awards are tonight—starting at 6pm and being streamed by Kid Lit |
| **President's Office** | ● COVID-19 response changing much of the work that leadership is taking on<br>● Board meeting prep<br>● Continuing to think about equity and Bank Street's role/messaging |
| **Strategy & Operations** | ● |

- **Climate Survey** Katie Connelly (30 min)
  - Preparing to send out Climate Survey in the next couple of weeks
  - Small group from SJEC reviewed questions
  - Thinking about putting out a specific, more robust social justice and equity survey in late fall or early winter
  - Will be tracking information over the last few years—some questions go back 4 to 5 years, others are newer
  - Many requests to add questions around race and equity, so we're getting concerned about length. Potentially going to split the survey into two—one about leadership, working conditions, etc. and one (to go out 4 to 5 months later) about equity and racism
  - Question: reminding staff about time to take survey - option for leadership to provide 20 minutes at a meeting or give reminders, survey is anonymous but does allow admins to see who filled it out and who didn't for follow up purposes. CAC can also play a role in encouraging folks to participate in the survey.
  - Framing around the survey and reminders should highlight the importance of participating, not "if you have extra time"
  - People are worried about anonymity (including those on small teams who might be able to be identified, although there are precautions for this)—how honest can they actually be? Messaging should be: this isn't mandatory, but it is essential for understanding where are community stands and how we can improve. It's hard to come to terms with the fact that a place like Bank Street that has been considered progressive for so long is not perfect
  - Can we energize people to take the survey by creating buzz? Stickers like for voting?
  - If there are questions that we'd like to add, please let Katie know. Don't want to add to much to make the survey long, but it should be useful for everyone, including CAC
- **Next Steps** (10 min)
  - April All College
    - Everyone can contribute to these meetings and the planning that goes into them
    - Potentially highlighting voting/primary season since NY votes on April 28
    - Bringing book on Brenee Brown - activities that we could potentially use
    - VoteTogether organization - resources that could be useful
  - Pushed Out
    - Akilah - to talk about next meeting