

Guidelines on Public Comment at Board Meetings

The Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Baltimore City Community College currently allow for public comment and state as follows:

The process to address the Board or its committees at a scheduled meeting, requires that the individual or group submit a written request to the President at least 48 hours before the scheduled meeting. The request shall be acted upon by the Chair, who may at his or her discretion deny it, grant it, or grant it subject to limitations on the scope [or] time of presentation.

The following guidelines will facilitate an orderly and efficient public comment period during open meetings of the Board of Trustees:

1. Only individuals who have requested and received written permission to address the Board, as set forth in the Bylaws, may do so.
2. This portion of the agenda is designated for comments from the public and, as such, the Board will listen but not engage in debate.
3. If the meeting is held via video-conferencing, members of the public addressing the Board must appear on camera.
4. Comments will be limited to three minutes or less at the discretion of the Chair. Speakers will have received a notice informing them of the time they have been allotted. Time will be monitored by staff through use of a timer. When that time expires, the speaker is permitted to complete a sentence but should make no further remarks.
5. Public comments should not address personnel matters or complaints about individuals. The Board Chair has the discretion to interrupt a speaker in the event the individual's remarks address personnel matters and complaints about individuals or are disruptive.