

Below is background and contextual information on the search:

- The Search Committee was formed in the Fall of 2014. The position was advertised in October 2014. The committee interviewed ten candidates using SKYPE and invited four candidates to campus for in-person interviews and a job talk.
- Our final candidate, Leigh Patel, visited The Graduate Center on March 30th.
- The Search Committee recommended four candidates, Janelle Scott, Leigh Patel, Joyce King, and Laurence Parker. All four candidates were people of color and three of them were women. The search exceeded expectations of CUNY's commitment to furthering diversity.
- The membership committee approved the candidates on April 21.
- We waited over three weeks for the Executive Committee to approve the candidates due to a combination of scheduling conflicts. (April 23)
- The Chair of the Search Committee shared the ranking of each candidate with the Provost
- The offer to Janelle Scott and negotiations began as early as May.
- President Robinson announced budget reductions and a thorough review of position replacements/search in early July, although negotiations with Dr. Scott continued beyond this point.
- Negotiations with the candidate took much longer than anticipated. Janelle Scott turned down the offer in early August.
- Urban Education Faculty and Students wrote Dr. Picciano and Provost Lennihan this summer advocating for the search to be moved along.
- Search Committee members also emailed the provost about an offer to the following candidate in line.

- The Chair of the search committee asked Provost Lennihan to move to the next candidate, Dr. Patel. She said at that point that search was not going forward until the budget was clearer. She promised that our position would be in the institutional memory so we would be first when searches resumed.
- The Chair also met with President Robinson to review the search and expressed concern that with the announced resignation of Provost Lennihan, the institutional memory would be lost. At that time the President said one of three things could happen: the search could continue with the recommended candidates, the search could continue and add other candidates, or the search could be cancelled until the budget situation is clearer. He assured the chair that the institutional memory would not be lost.
- The Chair of the search committee communicated with the candidates personally when it appeared that there had been no other communication. The candidates confirmed that they had heard nothing since spring. The Chair then informed them that a candidate had turned down the position and asked them if they remained interested in the position. All three said yes enthusiastically.
- We are told the search is now closed because there is no money available even though we had the money in August for Janelle Scott.
- While the search has officially ended, we believe that a case can be made about CUNY fulfilling its mission of diversity, since we are one of the most diverse student bodies at the GC and all four of our search finalists are prominent scholars of color.
- If we are truly committed to diverse faculty then we cannot stop with Janelle Scott's declination. We must continue the search and offer the position to the next deserving candidate.