

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

May 12, 2009

- (5624) Call to order The final meeting of Faculty Council for the 2009-2010 academic year was called to order at 3:30 PM. in Room 150 Woody Tanger Auditorium by the Chair, Prof. Charles Tobey.
- (5625) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archaeo), Tenenbaum (CIS), Amoo (Economics), Shanley (Education), Powell & Cranganu (Geology), Ebert (History), Walker (Library), Alonso (Modern Lang.); Divisional Delegates: Parmar (Arts), Fairey & Viscusi (Humanities), Dexter & Velling (Science) were absent (-14); Rabin (Social Science) was excused (-1); Administrators: Perez, Little, Green, Wagner, Hewitt, Gilbert, Czirak & Sillen were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5626) Minutes of March 3, 2009 The minutes of the March 3, 2009 meeting were approved. The April minutes will be presented for approval in the fall.
- (5627) Steering Committee
 - There will be a memorial service in this room at 5:30 pm this evening for Prof. Marion Lynch of the School of Education.
 - Prof. Tobey noted that this was to be the last Faculty Council meeting in which President Kimmich would participate. He thanked him for his support of faculty council over the years and wished him luck in his future endeavors. President Kimmich received a round of applause at the end of Prof. Tobey's remarks.
- (5628) Communications from the Administration President Kimmich thanked Prof. Tobey and the members of Faculty Council for their kind applause. He said he wanted to speak about two things, the first of which was the Blackboard debacle. Coming especially at the end of the semester, the situation is particularly grievous. In an attempt to remedy the problem, CUNY has transferred some 6 and a half million files down to Virginia

to the vendor's servers in the hope that that their equipment can handle the demands and the pressures of CUNY's Blackboard needs. President Kimmich commended Mr. Howard Spivak on his efforts to keep the campus informed. If faculty notice any problems during the next few weeks, they should be reported to Mr. Spivak, VP Steve Little, or President Kimmich, so that they may be passed on to the University. The situation cannot be allowed to continue.

The second thing President Kimmich spoke of was the upcoming visits next week of the four presidential candidates. Their names and resumes will be made available on the portal. Public open forums, or town hall meetings, will be set up, so that everyone will have an opportunity to meet with and assess the candidates. President Kimmich noted that the presidential search provided a major opportunity for the college to shape its future. He urged everyone involved to make a real attempt to reach a relative consensus on ranking the candidates. The new President should be approved at the CUNY Board meeting on June 22nd and she will probably arrive on campus some time in August.

Finally, President Kimmich took his farewell of Faculty Council, reprising his experience with Council since 1976. "The credit for what the College has accomplished over the years," he noted "is in no small measure yours. At its best, Faculty Council is a serious forum where serious business gets done. I think you'll probably agree with me that we don't always rise to that occasion but we're certainly capable of it and it is one of the things that I am very much beholden to you on because I think we can be a model in that respect. I'm confident that you will extend a welcome in the same spirit of shared values, the same spirit of shared collaboration to my successor. My successor will work, obviously, with the faculty, with the college community to shape the future, to talk about future goals and future priorities. We all know that Brooklyn College is a work in progress -- always has been, always will be. There will always be a 'to do' list. Those on my list -- maybe not my successor's -- are students, enrollment, the quality and number of students that we can serve effectively, the maintenance of our offerings -- to have them as current as possible, to have them of unimpeachable quality. On my list, would be to encourage and to facilitate the research that our faculty does, to deal with the totally unacceptable workload in some fashion or other (that has to be some kind of collective process). On my list would be to respond creatively to pressures for greater accountability that is coming not only from the outside but also from parents and students. On my list would be to deal with the competing demands for scarce resources: they are going to be there both internally and externally. Also on my list would be to do what we've always done over the last ten years and that would be to replenish and to build faculty, which is, after all, a major resource that we have. At the heart of all this, the values for Brooklyn College are the same: we educate, we train, we teach, and we create knowledge -- that's not

going to change. At the same time, I think we should not forget, however, that the world is constantly in flux – that we need to be responsive to change, that we need to be adaptable, that we need to be flexible, that we need to be able to respond to what we see among our students, what we see among the disciplines, what we see in the world of research, what we see in the world at large. I think that's very central. And here, Faculty Council, I've always thought, plays a significant role. The talent is there. And, what I wish you is the strength and the wisdom and the foresight to play that role effectively. Thank you very much."

The President received a standing ovation.

- (5629) Committee on Committees Prof. Langsam reported one correction on the list: For the Committee on Master Planning, Michael Meagher, Education, should be added to the list to bring the total number of members to six. There is a complete slate, except for the Committee on Course and Standing, on which there is still one opening. Those wishing to volunteer to serve or to nominate others should contact Prof. Langsam. Prof. Langsam presented the list to Council on behalf of the Committee on Committees. Prof. Tobey called for any further nominations. The list was approved unanimously.
- (5630) University Faculty Senate Report from Professor Martha Bell
- At the May 5th meeting there were three resolutions: one was against filtering on the university's web sites; a second was in support of part-time enrollment; and a third was against the proposal for term limits on department chairs that is being proposed to the Board by CUNY counsel Rick Schaeffer. The Chairs at Brooklyn College met on Wednesday, May 7th and passed a resolution opposing term limits. Prof. Bell presented that resolution for Council's consideration:
- "The department chairs at Brooklyn College strongly feel that department governance is a right of the faculty. We reaffirm the election of chairpersons by faculty, as expressed through their academic departments, in consultation with the campus president."
- The motion was seconded. Prof. Tobey called for a vote. The motion passed by a substantial majority.
- (5631) Degree Lists: Prof. Langsam, reporting for Prof. Bowdoin, noted that for the first time since the lists have been posted electronically, rather than distributed in paper, there was a long list of corrections. He offered to read the changes on the floor or to simply

put the changes in the minutes. The Body approved the latter. Degree Lists 2009/27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, having been reviewed by the Faculty Council Committee on Student Records, were approved as revised.

Faculty Council approved the awarding of the degrees and certificates to the students on these lists.

(5632) Report of
Standing
Committees

Report from the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements (Professor Harrow) –

- Curriculum Document 333 was considered seriatim and approved.
- The Committee's annual report was accepted.

Report from the Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements (Professor Florence) –

- Curriculum Document 187 was considered seriatim and approved.
- The Committee's annual report was accepted.

Additional annual reports were received from the following committees: Academic Integrity, Admissions, Basic Skills, Campus Planning, College Integrity, Core Curriculum, Graduate Admissions & Standards, Intercollegiate Athletics, Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget, Research and Review of Programs.

(5633)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Tobey, Chair

Bill Gargan, Steering Committee for

George S. Shapiro, Secretary

