

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

FACULTY COUNCIL

February 9, 2010

- (5675) Call to order The fifth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2009-2010 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in room 150 of the library by the chair, Prof. Pérez y González.
- (5676) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff & Cavanaugh (Anthro & Archaeo), Chamberlain & Cranganu (Geology), Alonso (Modern Lang.), Pipe (Psychology), Thompson (Speech); Divisional Delegates: Grubbs (Arts), Schwab (Humanities), Raphan (Science), Estey & Wills (Social Science) were absent (-12); Emmer (Speech), Tung (Physics) were excused (-2); Administrators: Little, Faria, Green, Hewitt, Gilbert, Sillen & Czirak were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5677) Minutes of December 8, 2009 The minutes of December 8, 2009 were approved.
- (5678) Steering Committee Notice was taken on the deaths of Dr. Vincent Quinn, former Chair of the English Department and Faculty Council delegate, and Professor Hans Trefousse of the History Department. A moment of silence in their honor was taken. In addition, a moment of silence was taken to remember those affected by the Haitian earthquake.
- The Steering Committee presented a resolution to change Faculty Council by-laws Article 1, Section 5 so that "a 2/3 vote of the members present" should read "a 2/3 vote of the members of Faculty Council" and to add Article 1, Section 10 so that all motions in Robert's Rules requiring a 2/3 vote should be construed as requiring a 2/3 vote of the members of Faculty Council. A friendly amendment replaced "2/3 vote" with "60 %." The motion failed with a vote of 49 ayes, 23 nays, and 3 abstentions.
- Steering announced elections for University Faculty Senate (to be held on line).
- (5679) Communications from the Administration President Gould opened her remarks by letting Faculty Council know that members of the Brooklyn College community would receive an e-mail in the event of campus closure due to snow. In addition, an announcement would be posted on the homepage of the website and a CUNY alert message would be sent out as soon as information was available (by 6 am at the latest). The president urged faculty members to e-mail their students if they were not going to be on campus. A member of Faculty Council asked if Brooklyn College would activate a phone alert system, since some members of the college community may not have internet access at their homes and internet service providers may have difficulty given the weather.
- President Gould announced the visits of the three candidates for the position of Vice President of Enrollment Management. They will be on campus on February 17, 23, and 24. She thanked the members of the search committee and hoped that there would be a strong showing at the public meetings with each candidate.
- President Gould discussed her upcoming visits to Albany, where she will make her pitch for the most critical capital projects (including the final \$16.5 million needed to break ground for the performing arts center). She asserted that there is funding for the Roosevelt Science Center design and that a working committee will be in place, which will allow the project to be shovel-ready by the time New York State funding

is available. A member of Faculty Council asked if there was a process in place to revisit the design of projects during later building phases. In response, President Gould noted the experience of the architectural firm and the extensive design phase for the ambitious buildings currently underway at Brooklyn College. The design process, she declared, is a lengthy one (one to two years) and can accommodate discussions about the architectural needs and desires of the Brooklyn College community. At this point, there is little financial wiggle room for changes in the performing arts building. Provost Tramontano described the timeline: a year and a half for design, a year for document registry so that the project can be shovel-ready, and one to one and a half years of construction. As soon as New York State registers the contract with the architects for the Roosevelt Building, the administration will call together a steering committee, including the president's cabinet and individuals from CUNY design and construction. Once that group "kicks off," the Provost will charge a working committee that will involve a number of different facets of the campus community. The architects will report to that group. Most importantly, there are funds for the design phase of the building. However, Brooklyn College is attempting to restore capital funds that were diverted from the project.

President Gould announced the Herb Kurst Endowed Chair in Constitutional Rights in the Political Science Department.

President Gould reminded Faculty Council that there would be two commencement ceremonies: a Masters commencement in Whitman Hall the evening of May 26 and a Baccalaureate commencement the following day.

President Gould reminded Faculty Council that divisional conversations about school organization will begin on Thursday, February 11 in the Woody Tanger Auditorium. They will continue throughout February and March (the last day will be March 18). At these meetings, the president and provost will make brief comments about why a stronger, more robust structure is need at Brooklyn College. Following their comments, faculty will have the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. She encouraged all to attend conversations appropriate to their areas, though all are welcome to go to all of the conversations. A member of Faculty Council asked if the administration had plans to circulate information about the restructuring, including possible governance plans, administrative responsibilities, and the size of returns expected from the restructuring. President Gould responded that the administration would be sharing this information at each meeting. She pointed out that the meetings would be an opportunity to learn about other issues with which people may be concerned. She asserted that there would be many, though not all monetized, advantages for restructuring. Another member asked if other CUNY schools were models for best practices for the school structure. President Gould responded that every other CUNY senior college has a school structure and that every other institution that she knows of, with greater than 15,000 students, has this structure. Brooklyn College, she declared, is an anomaly and that the current structure is not serving us well. There are many versions of best practices for the school structure and there is no single formula that is the right one for Brooklyn College; in fact, there are quite a few models that the Brooklyn College community needs to talk about during these conversations. A member of Faculty Council asked if there had been an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the previous school structure. President Gould responded that a lot has changed at Brooklyn College, CUNY, and in public higher education since that time but that it was important to know what people remember. President Gould declared that she had heard that there was dissatisfaction with deans during that time because they fought with each other over resources. She understands that issue, as she has seen administrators use a structure to foster disagreement, disunity and competition that is negative. She is not supportive of that approach to leadership. On her watch, she said, Brooklyn College will not have that. It will have a transparent, equitable, and fair allocation of resources.

A member of Faculty Council raised concerns about the Brooklyn College community garden. President Gould responded with a description of the extensive conversation with the community board and community itself, the process of changing the community garden and the college's commitment to it: Brooklyn College is rotating the parking and will create a committed space for gardening, rather than for shrubs and trees; there will be a reduction in cost for community gardeners and the provision of tools and water. In addition, a faculty member will be identified to be the coordinator of the garden. She asserted that Brooklyn College will take responsibility for the garden and follow guidelines for it. Brooklyn College will transplant the shrubs and trees to another location to safeguard them on campus. There will be a "harmony garden" in front of the West Quad Building in recognition of the Brooklyn College community's need for more of such space. Parking too is necessary, as teams and faculty members need parking. Lack of parking affects the community as members of the college take up spaces on the street.

Provost Tramontano announced the presence of Pfeiffer Partners Architects. They will start interviews on February 22. A number of offices on campus will participate in the first phase of interviews. Departments will be in the second phase of interviews, which will take place around the second week of March. Information may be found at http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/bc_history.htm. He read a notification from Executive Vice Chancellor Alan Dobrin. Title IV Federal regulations require that financial aid be disbursed only to students that actually begin attending in a given semester. The university requires professors to certify attendance at the beginning of the semester. Brooklyn College had a high number of professors who failed to verify attendance or did so late. Such non-compliance affects students' financial aid and exposes the college and university to audit and liabilities. He urged all faculty members to verify attendance rosters. Failure to do so will result in serious liability for Brooklyn College. He agreed to send the excerpt to department chairs to share with the faculty.

(5680) Committee on Committees

Prof. Rebecca Boger, of the Geology Department, was nominated to the Committee on Review of Course & Standing to replace Prof. Frederick Wasser of the Television and Radio Department. She was elected.

(5681) Liaison with University Faculty Senate

Prof. M. Bell reported that the major theme of the last meeting was advocacy for the budget. Members of the state office that lobbies the legislature attended that meeting. They encouraged all to visit www.supportcuny.org. She also made Faculty Council aware of lobbying rules. All those who go to Albany should register with the college. Those who lobby may not offer legislators anything in excess of a cup of coffee. She described a meeting with the new head of the higher education committee, Councilman Rodriguez, who is a City College alum and a bilingual education teacher in Washington Heights. He is eager to work with the university. He is particularly interested in diversifying the faculty and is open to working with diversity efforts on the campuses. Prof. M. Bell reminded Faculty Council of the University Faculty Senate elections.

(5682) Degree lists

Degree lists 2010/15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 were presented by Prof. Bowdoin and were approved unanimously.

(5683) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Prof. Florence presented Curriculum Document 192. Changes in existing courses from the Department and Television and Radio (pages 4-7) were postponed. CIS 6003 and CIS 6004, from the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, were withdrawn. Curriculum Document 192 was passed with those changes. Prof. Florence reminded Faculty Council of the deadlines for the Undergraduate and Graduated Curriculum Committees.

Committee on Review of Course & Standing: Prof. Remy presented two resolutions. Prof. Remy first presented the Resolution Concerning Unresolved Grades. Members of Faculty Council requested clarification about a number of issues: the resolution itself, the timeline for students' informing faculty members in writing of requests for incompletes and absences from the final, deadlines for the completion of work, recommendations about registration for the following semester, and other recommendations in the discussion of the resolution. Faculty Council agreed to defer consideration of the resolution until the next meeting. Members of Faculty Council who wish to comment on it are encouraged to contact the Committee on Course & Standing directly.

After a discussion, the Resolution Concerning Departmental Grade Appeal Process was passed with the following changes (49 ayes, 8 nays, 0 abstentions). Step Two of the Resolution shall now read: "Step Two: Appeal Option: If the matter is not resolved, the student has the right to appeal the grade to the Department Chair or designee.

2. Formal Appeal to the Departmental Grade Appeals Committee:
When the department chair or designee receives a formal grade appeal following the student's informal appeal to the instructor, the chair or designee may attempt mediation and upon failure of mediation, the chair or designee shall convene a Grade Appeals Committee to investigate the appeal and to render a decision. To assure that all departmental committees conform to the principles of due process, the following procedures apply:"

(5684) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,
Chairperson

Martha Nadell,
Secretary