Call to order

The third meeting of Faculty Council for the 2010-2011 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Pérez y González (PRLS).

Roll call

The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Thomas (Africana Stud.), Bankoff (Anthro & Archaeo), Powell (E&ES), Sardy (Economics), Druks (Judaic), Girelli-Carasi (Mod. Lang.), Zeng (Phys. Ed.), Thompson (Speech); Divisional Delegates: Ball & Grubbs (Arts), Fairey (Humanities), & Wills (Social Science) were absent (-12); Bell (Fin. & Bus.), Jones (Science) were excused (-2); Administrators: Green, Hewitt, Gilbert, Joyner, Czirak, & Sillen were also absent and excused. All other members were present.

Minutes of September, 2010

Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of September 7, 2010 and October 12, 2010. The minutes were approved.

Steering Committee

Professor Pérez y Gonzálećz thanked President Gould, Provost Tramontano, Associate Provost Mirotznik, James Eaton, and Andrey Postoyanets for their remarkable efforts and help in conducting multiple, recent on-line elections. She expressed tremendous gratitude for their efforts.

Professor Pérez y González announced the standing Committee on Review. Professors Jacobson (H&NS) and Harrow (CIS) were elected. Professors Day’ (Africana) and Okome (Political Science) were elected as alternates.

Communications from the Administration

President Gould announced that Brooklyn College is cooperating with Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs on a food drive. As of November 10, food will be collected on campus. President Gould urged faculty and staff to participate during this holiday season and in the spring, as many in our community do not have enough food. Donations will be distributed across 15 food banks in the area.

President Gould provided an update on the searches for deans. Each of the committees has met and is reviewing applications. The committees will discuss candidates and come up with a list of semi-finalists who will be interviewed off-campus. Three to four finalists will visit the BC campus in February. President Gould advised Faculty Council that the month of February will be very busy. This is a reasonable, albeit not a terribly aggressive, calendar.

The Strategic Planning Working Committee has had two meetings. Over 130
individuals were in attendance at both events. The meetings, as well as on-line comments, have provided a great deal of input. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee will review comments and will update the website. The entire campus is invited to two town hall meetings, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 and Thursday, November 18, 2010.

The Facilities Master Planning is in progress. Construction of the swing space in Roosevelt has begun. The last play performed in Gershwin will take place on Thursday. Gershwin will come down in February. The November Board of Trustees minutes confirmed CUNY’s commitment to ensure that additional funding for Gershwin will be available.

President Gould remarked on the current efforts to redo the Bulletin.

President Gould announced that Vice President for Admissions Joyner is working with staff in the Registrar’s Office. They have arrived at a process to acknowledge transfer credit within two weeks of application. When transfer students are accepted, they will know which courses have been accepted.

President Gould announced that the position of the Director of Communications and Marketing has been filled. Jeremy Thompson, formerly of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, has been appointed. Director Thompson said that he hoped that Communications and Marketing will be as efficient and effective and will help build and grow the reputation of the college.

Provost Tramontano discussed the revision of the Bulletin. He declared that a meeting will take place within the next week or so to discuss revisions. He acknowledged that the revision process is taking longer than anticipated, but hoped that within a few weeks a process would be in place for correction and revision. Departments will have an opportunity to do another re-write of the Bulletin after that.

The Committee on Committees had no report.

Professor Leslie Jacobson reported on the University Faculty Senate. Chancellor Goldstein addressed budgetary problems at the October 19, 2010 meeting. The overall budget cut is $100 million. The problem is not particular to CUNY. It is a problem facing all of public higher education. He attended a summit with 25 university presidents. He hopes to use the CUNY compact to address the issue. The CUNY compact is made up of three components: funds will come from philanthropy, the state, which should be obligated to meet the cost of the core mission, and rational tuition increases that will hook on to TAP so as to protect the most vulnerable of students. The chancellor asserted that he was unalterably opposed to retrenchment, but he does not know what the future will bring. Sandi Cooper pointed out the crisis at SUNY Albany, which is closing a number of departments. Six other campuses are engaged in various stages of retrenchment. There will be a spring conference about higher education and prisons. The reminder of the meeting was a discussion of a resolution put forth by the budget advisory committee and endorsed by the executive committee. The resolution supports the CUNY compact. It concerns the senior college, which receive funding from the state. After extensive discussion, the resolution was carried over to the next meeting. She advised UFS members and interested parties to attend the next meeting.

Degree lists 2011/11 & 12 were presented by Prof. Bowdoin and were approved unanimously.
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) made several announcements. He discussed the matter of when course changes become effective. Discussion of this issue is occurring and is part of a larger discussion about when the Bulletin will be ready. As of now, there is no definitive answer. He asserted that Faculty Council, Steering, and the Administration will come to a conclusion about this issue. However, the new Bulletin will contain nothing passed after the December meeting. Currently, there is no regular schedule for the Bulletin. That means that there is no policy about when changes become effective. Departments are asked to renumber inactive courses by sending in standard curricular documents. Without new numbers, the inactive courses will not be recognized for transfer credits. Withdrawn courses, however, do not need new numbers. The Registrar asked that no transfer credit be given for inactive courses. Professor Tenenbaum asked that department summiting A-III documents should recheck the number of credits for department requirements. He then presented Curriculum Document 341 with the following corrections: Page 5: “Administration” should read “Management.” CIS 45 should be numbered CISC 3810. Page 16: History and PRLS should be added to Clearances. Page 17: “Spring 2010” should read “Spring 2011.” Page 19: “None” should be changed to “PRLS.” Pages 48, 50, 52, 53: “THE” should be replaced by “THEA.” The document was approved. The deadline for submission for the December faculty council meeting is November 16, 2010.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Prof. Florence (Education) presented Curriculum Document 198. Pages 5 & 7: Spring 2010 should read “Spring 2011.” Page 6: “Performing Arts Management” should be replaced with “Theater.” Page 11: “SADF” should read “SAFD.” The document was approved.

Committee on Graduate Admissions and Standards: Professor Shortell spoke about the number of petitions requesting exemptions to take the comp exams more than twice. Only in “extraordinary circumstances” does the committee approve such requests, and very few of these petitions address such circumstances. He spoke of the gap between what the committee understands its responsibilities to be and what departmental advisors understand the committee’s responsibilities to be. He asked that department chairs and program heads to provide students with accurate advising. He raised the possibility of a discussion about the requirements for comp exams in the Bulletin, given the large number of requests.

There was no old business.

Professor Dexter (CIS) presented Resolution to Create an Ad Hoc Committee on Aligning Faculty Workload with College Goals on behalf of the PSC-CUNY. Asked by Faculty Council Steering to respond to the Faculty Experience Survey, the PSC presented a resolution asking for the formation of a committee to address faculty dissatisfaction with workload. President Gould raised concerns about the financial aspects of changing the faculty workload, while Provost Tramontano asked if this were the right time for a committee to start discussions about workload, given the current discussions about the new Strategic Plan. Discussion among members of Faculty Council concerned the finances and timing of creative ways of addressing workload dissatisfaction. The membership of the committee may include chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committees, Master Planning, and the Core Committee, as well as a representative of the PSC. Additional members may include representatives from each of the schools. The resolution was approved with 64 yeas, 12 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Professor Jacobson announced plans to have the university be smoke-free by
2012.

Dean Shanley (Education) announced the resignation of Chancellor Joel Klein.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair thanked the members of Faculty Council for their efforts throughout the year and declared the meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Pérez y González,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary