

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

December 7, 2010

- (5758) Call to order The fourth 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).
- (5759) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Powell (E&ES), Sardy (Economics), Bonaffini (Mod. Lang.); Divisional Delegates: Fairey (Humanities) were absent (-4); Tung (Physics), Melani (Humanities) were excused (-2); Administrators: Faria, Green, Wagner, Hewitt, Gilbert, & Czirak were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5760) Minutes of September, 2010 Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of November 9, 2010. The minutes were approved.
- (5761) Steering Committee Professor Pérez y González announced that the February 8, 2011 meeting of Faculty Council will take place in 3127 Ingersoll due to the schedule of the searches for deans for the new schools.
- Professor Pérez y González announced the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Aligning Faculty Workload with College Goals: Professors Dexter (CIS), Entin (English), Florence (Education), Manlow (Finance and Business Management), MacIntyre (Music), Tenenbaum (CIS), and Whitlock (CIS). The alternates are Professors Arnold (Political Science) and Martinez (PRLS). Professor Florence will chair this committee.
- Elections were held for open positions on the Committee on Committees. Professors Jensen-Moulton (Music) and Langsam (CIS) were nominated and elected.
- (5762) Communications from the Administration President Gould discussed the strategic planning process. Two town hall meetings were held in November. President Gould thanked students for their participation. The Steering Committee will meet in the following week. Members are reviewing website comments as well as comments from the town hall meetings. They will review, refine and add to them in order to produce an early draft by January. That draft will be placed on the website, so that the campus may provide input. An additional town hall will take place in February. There will be multiple conversations about how we measure success, and when we will know if we have made progress. The campus will be invited to provide input on these issues. The President is optimistic that the committee will meet its June deadline and hopes to have a document by March. She hopes that all will come to the strategic planning meetings.
- President Gould then turned to campus planning. The facilities master planning architects and CUNY members made a presentation to the President, Provost and Vice-President for Finance and Administration Little on December 6 about Brooklyn College's needs. President Gould was impressed with the attention the architects have paid to detail. The same presentation will be made to the working committee, chaired by Provost Tramontano and Vice-President Little. After that, there will be more robust documentation, so that a town hall meeting may take place. A more refined document is expected by the end of February.

President Gould continued her remarks with comments on the budget. CUNY tuition has increased, which is, she declared, very unhappy news. Over the last decade, the erosion of state support for CUNY and SUNY budgets has been serious. Of the two mid-year cuts that CUNY must face (of \$12 million and \$24 million), the Brooklyn College portion is a \$3 to \$3.5 million base budget reduction. Without tuition increases, the cuts would produce a very painful spring. Brooklyn College is, she said, between a rock and a hard place. Brooklyn College wants the best for students, but it must offer courses that students require. This is a difficult balancing act and we, administrators and faculty, all struggle with these issues. President Gould stated that, at the end of the day, we cannot put Brooklyn College and CUNY in jeopardy. She urged everyone to write to Governor-elect Cuomo and to impress upon him the importance of higher education for New York City and New York State.

Brooklyn College's own budget is still a moving target. We don't know what Governor-elect Cuomo's budget will look like, but we have to be prepared to make sure to use resources appropriately and efficiently. CUNY asked Brooklyn College to grow at a rate of 3% this year. The President, however, was not eager to grow at that rate and preferred a 2% growth. The reason for CUNY's encouragement to grow at 3% was the two-year colleges have had increases in the number of students attending. Despite this upsurge, the four-year colleges have not seen a large number of transfers. It appears that many more young people and older people, who have lost their jobs, are going to two-year colleges but not moving to four-year colleges. This created a false sense of the pressure on four-year campuses. There is no longer a driving pressure to increase enrollment. Although there are many applicants to Brooklyn College, the yield has not been that high. Students have a lot of choices. A number of private and for-profit institutions are pitching to economically disadvantaged students. We need to make sure that we articulate, in a strong as way as possible, the strengths of Brooklyn College throughout the borough and New York City.

President Gould then made reference to the Bridging the Gap program at CCNY, for which CCNY faculty and staff are fund raising. There is no official, established program at CUNY. She turned to floor to Vice President for Enrollment Management Joyner. The administration is investigating different financial aid pots and Brooklyn College will have details soon. He referred students to the Office of Financial Aid and Office of Student Affairs. Addressing the tuition hike will require the examination of additional fundraising opportunities. President Gould declared that it is time to begin raising scholarship funds, especially for students who are not fully funded by TAP. However, many students will be covered, as the majority has financial aid. Indeed, Brooklyn College has significantly more financial aid students than other campuses

Provost Tramontano spoke about the Roosevelt Science Commons, which is going well. He cannot thank the chairs of the science departments enough. The process is, he said, at the end point of the "concept phase," when there is clarity about the classrooms, computer labs, common spaces, and other rooms that are going into buildings. There will be a meeting next week, after which the design phase will commence.

The Provost then addressed the dean searches, which are well underway. Two committees (Natural and Behavioral Sciences and Visual, Media, and Performing Arts) have already screened applicants and are getting ready for their "airport interviews," ninety minute to two-hour offsite interviews. The Humanities and Social Sciences and Business committees have received all applications. The Business committee will meet in the third week of January. Brooklyn College is

preparing for the month of February, when interviews of finalists for each of the four positions will take place. The Provost hopes to have a basic schedule by the end of the semester. All of the vitae will be on the web for examination. He hopes that the searches will be complete by April 1.

The Provost then spoke about the curriculum committee due dates. There have been "issues" with the bulletins and due dates. He reminded Faculty Council that approval by that body did not mean that a course was officially recognized. Course approvals must go to the Board of Trustees and New York State. Moreover, courses that are offered without that approval are not accepted for TAP funding. There should be a system on which all can agree, he averred. The Brooklyn College community should understand the curricular changes should be year-to-year events. Changes made in this year should be effective for the academic year 2011-2012. They should go into the bulletin at the beginning of the year. The work done at the department level and at the Faculty Council level should be effective for the following year. Faculty Council curriculum committees can accept curricular changes up until the April meeting, so there will be enough time to get the changes into the Chancellor's Reports and to New York State. This will protect Brooklyn College and its students. The Provost offered apologies for the confusing drafts of the bulletin, which came directly out of the database and went to the chairs. He has met with Vice President Joyner, Assistant Vice President for ITS Gold, and Senior Director of Communications and Marketing Thompson. The following is the schedule for the 2010-2011 bulletin: By January 4, 2011, all chairs and program directors will get as cleaned-up a version of bulletin material. Two weeks after, by January 18, 2011, they should complete a review of content (not format). Two weeks later, chairs and program heads will receive another version for final review. By the first week of February, there should be a 2010-2011 bulletin. The Provost stated that he appreciated all of the work that everyone has done, as Brooklyn College moves into a paperless environment.

Questions from Faculty Council followed. Professor Wills (History) yielded the floor to Ms. Biola Jeje, the Shirley Chisholm scholar. Ms. Jeje stated that she appreciated the college's concerns about tuition increases and hoped to have a public pledge, akin to that of CCNY, to students in support their getting their educations. Professor Estey (Political Science) yielded the floor to Professor Theoharis (Political Science), who asked President Gould to make a similar pledge to that of the CCNY president. Professor Theoharis stated that the pledge sends a powerful message about CCNY's stance toward to student access and retention. She asked that President Gould make a similar pledge. President Gould responded that she appreciated and understood what the student and faculty member asked. She declared that Brooklyn College will do everything it can to ensure that students in need and that are not supported by current resources are able to attend BC. She remarked that she is not sure that CCNY's message is as generic and broad as it sounds and that we have to understand where resources come from. She further stated that Brooklyn College will do everything it can with existing funds. The administration needs time to look at resources and will make every effort to identify funds for 0% interest loans or for grants. A public announcement will then follow. Professor Winslow (Education) yielded to Mr. Conor Boyle, a Brooklyn College student. He said that is vital for CUNY not to price out its own students and urged President Gould to endorse a measure similar to that of CCNY. He stated that if access to education is compromised then that education itself is compromised. Professor Wills asked if President Gould would consider postponing the dean searches as part of the effort made to identify funds, Professor MacIntyre commented on the time line for bulletins. Chairs should know about new courses before February of any academic year so they submit following fall schedule. He stated that it would be best to have any curricular changes and new curricula approved in fall semesters. He also stated that many were taken

aback by the timing of the tuition hike, which has occurred at such a late time. He was concerned, he said, about the taxpayers of New York not coming through for CUNY students. Professor Florence asked about effective dates for Graduate Curriculum Document 199. The Provost said the effective dates should all be September 2011. Professor Jones (CIS) asked about the length of time for approval, following approval by Faculty Council. Professor Tenenbaum stated that special topics course approval does not need CUNY or New York State approval and may be approved before the beginning of each semester. He suggested that departments consider adding special topics classes. Professor Wasser (Television & Radio) yielded the floor to a student. Professor Raphan (CIS) moved the agenda. Professor Okome (Political Science) moved to change the order of the day. The motion to change the order of the day was defeated with a vote of 37 yeas and 44 nays.

- (5763) Committee on Committees The Committee on Committees had no report.
- (5764) Liaison with University Faculty Senate Professor Leslie Jacobson reported on the University Faculty Senate. She stated that New York State Assemblywoman Toby Stavisky spoke about the dysfunction in Albany and about her support for CUNY. Most of the meeting addressed budget and revenue. The UFS voted on the following resolution: "Be it Resolved that the UFS calls upon the State Legislature and Executive to fully fund the CUNY Compact, and Be It Furthered Resolved that the UFS calls upon the Legislature and Executive to return to CUNY, for expenditure by CUNY in the areas of academic programs and student support services, any tuition monies henceforth generated by the raising of tuition." The estimated shortfall for the state budget in 2012 will be \$8.2 billion, in 2013, \$13.5 billion, and 2015 \$15.6 billion. The city budget shortfall is less than that of the state. The situation is very dire.
- (5765) Degree lists Degree lists 2011/13, 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18 were presented by Professor Bowdoin (Library) and were approved with a vote of 73 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.
- (5766) Report of Standing Committees
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum presented Curriculum Document 342 with the following changes: All effective dates will read Fall 2011, except for changes in existing courses. Page 104: remove "~~or-2~~" from the "TO:" section. He listed the deadlines for upcoming curriculum documents: for February, the deadline will be January 11, 2011. For the March curriculum document, the deadline will be February 11, 2011. For the April curriculum document, the deadline will be March 11, 2011. The document was approved with 72 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Florence presented Curriculum Document 199. All effective dates should read Fall 2011. Page 6: The last sentence of the second full paragraph should read "A student approved to write a thesis." Following that line, there should be a subtitle reading "Non-Thesis Option Requirements." The document was approved with 67 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
- (5767) Old Business There was no old business.
- (5768) New Business Professors Langsam (CIS) and Gurskis (Film) presented the "Motion Regarding the Substitution of Courses by Department Chairs and Program Directors" on behalf of the near-unanimous recommendation of the chairs of Brooklyn College. Given the budget situation, given that departments cannot predict what courses they will be able to offer because of that budget situation, and given that students need to plan their classes in a timely manner, chairs and students need flexibility for appropriate course substitutions within their own departments. The motion contains a provision

that chairs will report substitutions to their own curriculum committees. In addition, the motion asks the Registrar to report once per year on the substitutions. Professor MacIntyre asked if this applied to both undergraduate and graduate courses. Professor Langsam declared that it does not say otherwise. Professor Yarrow (Classics) raised several concerns. First, she discussed the question of jurisdiction, when a course owned by one department is required by another program. Who has the right to approve substitutions in these cases? Second, she raised concerns about the erosion of faculty governance. Responsibilities are divided among five Faculty Council Committees (Core, Academic Foundations, Course & Standing, Graduate Admissions and Standards, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Graduate Curriculum Committee). She declared that Course & Standing was not given an opportunity to discuss this motion. Third, she was concerned about unequal treatment of students, as substitutions will be made only for students that ask for them. Fourth, she was concerned about the transparency of the programs, as the bulletin is a public statement of the college's offerings. This would affect accreditation and the reputation of Brooklyn College among other institutions. Professor Gurskis responded that, practically speaking, this would involve very few students, to which Professor Yarrow responded that there was a mechanism in place in Course & Standing. Professor Gurskis responded that the timing of Course & Standing is not always in the best interest of the students and that the fundamental issue here is that of putting students first. That, he declared, should be the guiding principle. Professor Langsam responded to an inaccuracy in Professor Yarrow's statement, as the motion only refers to major and minor requirements in departments and does not refer to core or basic skills courses. It, therefore, affects only the two curriculum committees. Professor Lipke (Biology) stated that Course & Standing has become a barrier to students who are trying to graduate. He stated that Course & Standing itself presented a report detailing the large number of substitutions it has made and that he, as chair, spends an inordinate amount of time trying to help students graduate. The current system creates unnecessary paperwork and difficulties for students. Professor Tenenbaum asked Professor Langsam about his experiences as chair of Course & Standing. Professor Langsam responded that there is a system of checks and balances at the college and that his efforts were part of it. Professor Jacobson (Health & Nutrition Sciences) called the question. The motion to call the question was defeated with a vote of 58 yeas, 15 nays, and one abstention. Professor Shortell (Sociology) spoke against the motion. He declared that the two committees (Course & Standing and Graduate Admissions & Standards) in question have a responsibility to enforce the rules of Brooklyn College and that if faculty members are unhappy with those rules, then they should change them. Professor Shortell said that he was concerned about the unchecked changing of rules and thought that the current system ensures that Brooklyn College is consistent with its rule. Professor Gallagher (History) described the manner in which substitutions have been handled at the graduate level. He stated that Graduate Admissions & Standards had turned these issues over to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, who handles them quickly and efficiently. He asked if it were possible to send these matters to CAAS. Professor Langsam stated that those actions were more extreme and may have been illegal. Professor Gallagher referred Faculty Council to a motion passed on May 14, 1994, which details a realignment of actions handled by Graduate Admissions & Standards and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies [Professor Gallagher later retracted his statements regarding the Coordinator's responsibilities; the substitutions were handled by Graduate Deputies]. Professor Bell (Finance and Business Management) stated that the motion was the only workable solution. When Brooklyn College cancels classes because they enrollment in those classes is insufficient, students lose requirements they may need for graduation. This motion, he stated, would help students graduate. Professor Snow (Math) made a motion to postpone and to discuss at an early point during the next meeting. The motion to

postpone failed with a vote of 40 yeas and 30 nays. The question was called. The motion to call the question failed with 56 yeas, 13 nays, and 1 abstention. A motion to adjourn was made. The motion to adjourn passed with 59 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention.

(5769) 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 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary