

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

April 12, 2011

- (5796) Call to order The seventh 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).
- (5797) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Cunningham (Africana), Bonaffini (Mod. Lang.), Zeng (Phys. Ed.), Wilson (Political Science), Thompson (Speech); Divisional Delegates: Entin (American Stud.), Day & Estey (Social Sci.) were absent (-8); Rosenfeld (Education) was excused (-1); Administrators: Faria, Green, Hewitt, Gilbert, Joyner, Czirak & Hainline were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5798) Minutes of March 8, 2011 Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of March 8, 2011. The minutes were approved with corrections.
- (5799) Steering Committee Professor Pérez y González announced that a workshop on parliamentary procedures would take place in September on a date to be determined. Interested parties are welcome to attend.
- Professor Pérez y González announced that nominations for the Brooklyn College Association would take place in May. Six members of the faculty will be nominated; President Gould will choose three of the nominees.
- (5800) Communications from the Administration President Gould announced that Brooklyn College would open a lactating station near the childcare center. It will be completed in two weeks. A second station will open on the other side of campus, in a location yet to be determined.
- President Gould declared that the groundbreaking for the Performing Arts Center would take place on Friday, May 13. By the end of May, work on the center will be underway. The support of CUNY for this project cannot be stressed enough, she stated.
- President Gould then addressed the budget. She stated that we are still waiting for the final figures from CUNY Central. These figures will include the precise amount for the base budget reduction, which will provide more information than the current estimate of \$4.5 million. Members of the Brooklyn College community will be part of the conversation about how to plan for that while protecting the core mission.
- President Gould then turned to the general education issue. She stated that she and the provost, like other presidents and provosts and members of the University Faculty Senate, have been in conversations about this subject. More specific but still murky concept papers have been emerging from the office of Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Lexa Logue. President Gould has asked the Provost to put together an ad hoc discussion group with the faculty to address the specific impact that the kind of framework, put forth by EVC Logue, would have at Brooklyn College. She wants a clear and concise response, representative of the voices of the Brooklyn College faculty. The Provost will organize conversations with the Chair of Faculty Council, Professor Levy (SEEK), who is the Brooklyn College representative to the General Education Committee, the CAP Liaison Executive Group, and representatives from Committee on Course & Standing. These individuals come from representative faculty bodies that have a sense of the pulse of the faculty. Professor Tremper (English) asked that Professor Moore (Philosophy) be included. President Gould welcomed that suggestion. She stated that Brooklyn College is in the bottom tier of the number of required general education units; it requires 48 credits, according to the EVC. The provost is in the

process of conferring with the Vice Chancellor about this issue. President Gould said that she has strong objections to the implications of the diminishing general education requirements vis-à-vis the foreign language requirement. She declared that this institution has a strong tradition of commitment to the liberal arts core and will do everything to protect that. She informed Faculty Council that in the general education conversations at CUNY, the regrettable unequal and uneven treatment of transfers to various CUNY campuses has been on the table. Last year, she asked Provost Tramontano to address this in the President's Task Force on Student Success. Brooklyn College is not transfer friendly, evident in the comments students make in person, and on-line about Brooklyn College. In the two strategic plan town halls in SUBO, the most popular complaint was the treatment of transfers and the fact that students cannot get quick answers to their questions. She stated that she hopes that we can decouple the general education and the transfer conversations. Professor Pérez y González asked that the chairs of the Core and Undergraduate Curriculum Committees be included in the ad hoc committee.

Professor Bell (Finance & Business Management) read the following resolution: "Resolution Approved at Department Meetings of April 12, 2011

The Department of Finance and Business Management, the Department of Accountancy (sic) and the Department of Economics protest in the strongest possible terms and utterly reject as damaging to the students, the faculty, and the staff, the grossly inefficient Administrative decision to separate the Chairs' offices and the secretaries from the faculty members.

This Administrative decision, made without honest discussion with the departments, undermines the educational mission of the respective departments and is obviously contrary to best practices in management and building community. The decision is materially inconsistent with earlier representations made by the Administration.

We demand that the Chair of Accounting, the Chair of Finance and Business Management, the Chair of Economics and their staffs remain with their respective departments as a whole in the same building. This resolution was unanimously approved by all faculty members present."

President Gould responded that the Provost would review this issue. She stated that since the feeling is so strong, the issue would be under review. She explained the context: she visited the offices of the departments, which were the worst she had ever seen. She pledged that she would do something about this. She explained that there was prime real estate available in Boylan. This space was thought to be a solution to the lack of space assigned to these departments (the departments serve 23% of the student body and have only 6500 square feet of assignable space, compared the science departments, which have over 200,000 square feet). This matter will be under discussion.

(5801) Committee on Professor Langsam (CIS) stated that the Committee on Committees had no report.
Committees

(5802) Liaison with University Faculty Senate Professor Jacobson (H & N) described the recent meeting of the University Faculty Senate. UFS Chair Cooper stated that the visit of graduate students to Albany to discuss research was successful. During the 2011-2012 academic year, undergraduate students will visit Albany to discuss their research. UFS Chair Cooper reported that the CPE has been discontinued. CUNY is looking at the CLA as a possible replacement. This exam is widely disseminated but, apparently, not very successful. At the meeting, Senior Vice Chancellor for Budget, Finance, and Financial Policy Shaw presented an analysis of New York State Governor Cuomo's executive budget. On the operating side, the budget includes a reduction of \$83.2 million. Senior colleges will have an additional reduction of \$12 million. There will be a total shortfall of \$95 million for the FY2012 budget. In the past four years, colleges have sustained a \$300 million loss in state aid. The adapted university budget will have \$64.7 million for mandatory needs. There is some discussion of TAP changes; students have to be successful in meeting academic standards. The remainder of the meeting was occupied by a discussion of general education. A statement in response to the general education framework from CUNY Central was

read. There are five principles in response to EVC Logue's plan: First, each college's faculty has authority over each college's curriculum. Second, each campus has the authority to preserve its own identity within the system. Third, students have a right to clear, consistent, and timely recognition of transfer across CUNY. Fourth, the UFS recommended the separation of issues of transfer (an operational matter) from general education (a curricular matter). Fifth, each campus must have the authority to determine its own its own general education structure.

Professor Pérez y González provided Faculty Council with an account of a dinner meeting of faculty governance leaders, the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor. After formal introductions and salutations, Board of Trustee Chairman and facilitator of the meeting Schmidt handed the floor over the University Student Senate representative who spoke about general education. A member of the faculty asked why a student was speaking at a faculty meeting with the chancellor. UFS President Cooper felt that the meeting was hijacked and that was lamentable. The faculty continued to comment about the disconnect between the statement of the problem with student transfers and the Pathways document about general education. The Board of Trustees and Chancellor's argument is that the AA and AS degrees are accepted at the senior colleges, so what would the difference be? However, data tells us that 2/3 of the students do not get these degrees before transferring. Professor Pecorino (Queensboro) asked the Chancellor if he would be willing to accept, by June, alternative proposals that address the transfer issue but those that leave general education alone. The Chancellor stated that he wants transferability, that he does not want a dumbing-down of the curriculum, and that the curriculum would be faculty-driven (each college would determine its own courses). The Chancellor stated that 34 other states are on board with the push for common general education across the nation. The Chancellor stated, "I'll put the brakes on it for a while but it will get done. We need additional conditions and that's by the June board meeting. It's a framework." CUNY Central is favoring a framework that includes 30 general education credits, 6 flexible credits and 6 at the senior college. There are 5 general areas (written and oral communication, natural sciences, math/quantitative reasoning, social sciences, humanities/global perspectives/ languages other than English). A task force will be set up to address this; it will consist of administration, faculty, and students. The task force will set the framework, choose the criteria by which courses may be chosen, and choose the learning outcomes and criteria. The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees referred to a "seamless, integrated university." Issues about differences in faculty workload and differential tuition came up. Information about this is located at www.cuny.edu/pathways. The conversation then moved to the budget and other issues. The New York State legislature is split on differential tuition levels. A total of 666 members of CUNY took the ERI. In addition, 1700 full time faculty have been hired since 1998. Faculty governance leaders, the UFS executive committee, some disciplinary council chairs, and some core curriculum chairs met with EVC Logue, and Associate Provost Wrigley. Professor Pérez y González asked about the composition of the task force: why does it include students and administration if faculty have expertise about the curriculum. She stated that she did not object to one student and one administrator. EVC Logue responded that the composition of the task force has not yet been determined. Professor Levy (SEEK), who represents Brooklyn College on CUNY-wide General Education Committee stated that it was remarkable how united attendees were in their reservations about the resolution, especially at the senior colleges and comprehensives. CUNY Central spoke about "buckets," which are learning outcomes. The idea is that they will identify "buckets"/learning outcomes, which are not curricular. Once the outcomes are accepted, courses that fall under their aegis must be accepted as though they are equivalent to other courses, even though they may not be. In addition, this effort is not only a general education initiative but will have implications for majors. The largest majors across the university will be identified and 1 to 2 prerequisite courses for them will be determined. She urged all to be part of this conversation. Professor Dexter announced that Associate University Provost Wrigley would be delivering the keynote at this year's Core Conference. Faculty Council asked

Professor Pérez y González to invite EVC Logue to campus in May.

(5803) Degree Lists Degree lists 2011/25 & 26 were presented by Professor Bowdoin (Library) and were approved.

(5804) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 345. The document was approved with corrections with 78 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Florence (Ed) presented Curriculum Document 202. The document was approved with corrections with 78 yeas, 3 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Honors, Citations, and Awards: Professor Walker (Library) presented the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the keynote speaker for Commencement.

Committee on Master Planning, Education Policy, and Budget: Professor MacIntyre presented a resolution to support "Three Proposed Graduate Programs in Cinema by the Film Department." The programs have received clearance from the Departments of Art, Finance and Business Management, Theater, and the Conservatory of Music. However, the committee did not get a full sense of clearance from the Department of Television and Radio. The committee spent a good amount of time listening to concerns from that department but felt that both TV & Radio and Film have knowledgeable and dynamic faculty that will maintain and develop state-of-the-art programs and curricula in their respective media. Both departments have strong commitments and devotion to the content values of their respective media, which now have significant overlaps, thanks to the evolution of the various genres and the technologies that both departments necessarily share. The committee is grateful for the feedback from the TV & Radio about the letters of intent. It reflects the TV & Radio faculty's wisdom and deep concern for the field of media studies. That being said, Professor MacIntyre stated that the Film Department has never had a graduate program. Professor MacIntyre, speaking on behalf of the majority of members of the committee, described the positive impact of the programs. Each of the letters of intent makes it clear that the programs will not go forward without the needed financial support. He stated that the proposed graduate programs would offer a wonderful opportunity for qualified students. The programs are site-based, so students will have first-hand exposure to the film industry, its crafts, and business. The programs will promote diversity and high standards in the field of cinema. The programs will be affordable, compared to those in the New York region; they will be the only programs at public universities in the Northeast. The programs will complement many extant graduate programs at BC, including those in Theater and Music. In addition, there could be productive teamwork among faculty from the departments of Film and TV & Radio. Faculty may share in the teaching of courses; with good guidance from the entering dean, there could be synergy rather than competition. Moreover, these programs will draw fairly large graduate enrollments. In addition, there is a high likelihood that there will be additional gifts not only to the programs but also to other BC programs. Professor Meagher (Education) asked where the TV & Radio Department stood on the programs. Professor Wasser (TV & R) read the following statement: Despite reservations regarding the structure and intellectual content of the three programs as outlined in the letters of intent and the viability of successfully building the programs to meet the five year goals, the Department of Television and Radio extends clearance to these programs." Professor Wasser asked and received an affirmative answer from Prof. MacIntyre that this statement does not constitute clearance for specific new classes within these programs. Professor Willis spoke as a dissenting member of the Committee on Master Planning, Education Policy, and Budget. She stated that she was concerned about resources, a problematic budget, and the rapidity with which the programs were moving forward. She stated that she felt as though the administration was consulting with faculty after the fact. She raised questions about the need for programs like these, labor issues, and the academic rationale for the programs. She stated that this is a labor-intensive

industry and that there is no support for the claim that students will be able to interact with union or non-union professionals in the field. She stated that there is no intellectual or academic justification for the program as the proposal states that 262 of the 343 students will be trained in craft. She stated that she was concerned about students working as “free labor” and about inadequate opportunities for teaching larger social responsibilities of media. While the industry does need a larger, more multicultural pool of professionals, the focus of the programs on feature-length Hollywood productions does not bode well. Non-Hollywood productions have greater success in creating a more diverse pool, she declared. Professor Gurskis responded and stated that “free labor” is typically a first step into an industry and that students should be able to take advantage of that. He said craftspeople occupy some of the major positions in film and television. He stated that programs that teach film in the context of social and political issues already exist at CUNY. He stated that we should not instruct students in only one kind of media or documentary and that we should put students first and allow them to decide what they want to do. He stated that the programs would offer our students opportunities that students from Columbia, NYU, and USC have. Professor Hashmi (TV & R) asked about student education providing access and entry into the industry. She asked if our students would have support in their production of films and if there would be a clear plan for making the program affordable by providing scholarships. Would students be able to build industry connections and be able to leave the program without being in debt and with the possibility of success? Professor Bullard (Theater) stated that he was encouraged by the earlier presentation and about the preparation and thinking that had gone into the planning of the program. He stated that approving the programs would give the programs opportunity to find further support. He stated that he was aware of the opportunities for graduate programs to provide affordable pre-professional training that allows them to enter the fields of theater and film and television. He was pleased by the aspirations of the programs and said that by having a diverse student body, Brooklyn College would be providing the field with highly trained students that will go into the professions with success. Professor Gallagher (History) stated that he did not recall a proposal receiving such close scrutiny in the past and speculated that it was because it was such a bold proposal. He stated that we have been thinking about going into the community and that it had seemed dangerous. He said that the programs would be an opportunity. Professor Sosa (TV & R) described how she graduated from an MFA program as a Director of Photography and how she spent 5 years, as a woman and as a Latina, waiting for the union to open its doors. She stated that this is an industry that needs craftspeople but that entry in the field requires a great deal of work. She said that in order to graduate, she had to shoot 9 films. She stated that she was concerned about the educational rationale for an MFA program that has such a large student body studying craft without writers or directors. She stated that private institutions have put a great deal of funds into promoting their students’ films. Professor Willis said that she was concerned about the budget for the program and wondered how the programs would operate on a limited budget. She was concerned about the twenty-year lease with Steiner Studios and with promises from CUNY. She was concerned about the budget line for equipment and about how students would get to Steiner Studios. Professor Gurskis responded that Steiner Studios would provide a free shuttle from Atlantic Avenue. President Gould stated that BAM is interested in being a partner in promoting the program. In addition, CUNY will assume the lease at Steiner Studios after the first five years and will allow all tuition dollars to go to the programs. A major bequest in the amount of \$2 million has been received for equipment. There are very large donations on the near horizon as well. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Sillen stated that the Brooklyn College Foundation is taking the resource issue seriously. He explained the multi-year plan for the program. The five-year start-up costs will be covered by donations that are not competitive with any other Brooklyn College programs. Donors are motivated by the possibility of creating a strategic pipeline of diverse talent for the film industry. CUNY is allowing BC to amortize the cost structure over twenty years. In addition, there may be fee income. He remarked that the letter of intent was an incremental step so that donors could see that there was interest in

the programs. The programs will not go forward unless the funds are available. Provost Tramontano stated that CUNY is trying to promote opportunities in a number of areas. CUNY is trying to be an all-encompassing university and has a master vision that has all of the educational opportunities for its students. The question was called with a vote of 75 yeas, 3 nays, and 5 abstentions. The motion was approved with a vote of 61 yeas, 13 nays, and 8 abstentions.

Committee on College Integrity & Academic Freedom: Professor Augenstein (CIS) presented the report, which was accepted.

Committee on Academic Foundations: Professor Jones (CIS) presented the report, which was accepted.

(5805) Old Business Speaking on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Aligning Faculty Workload with College Goals, Professor Florence presented "An Option for Addressing Faculty Workload Dissatisfaction and Promoting Student Success." She stated that there would be two town hall meeting to address the option. They will take place on May 17, from 12:30 to 2:00 in the Multipurpose Room (Library 411) and on May 25 at Faculty Day.

(5806) New Business There was no new business.

(5807) 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 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary