

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

December 13, 2011

- (5855) Call to order The fourth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2011-2012 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Pérez y González (PRLS).
- (5856) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff & Sharman (Anthro & Archae), Powell & Cheng (E&ES), Weis (Film), Bonaffini (Modern Lang.), Jayaraman (Political Sci.), Daraviras (SEEK), Gould (Sociology); Divisional Delegates: Steel (Humanities), Raphan (Science), Estey & Perdikaris (Social Sci.) were absent (-13); Augenstein (Science), Cunningham (Africana), Ciszowska (Chemistry) were excused (-3); Administrators: Faria, Green, Wagner, Hewitt, Gilbert, Joyner, Czirak & Hopkins were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5857) Minutes of November 8, 2011 Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of November 8, 2011. The minutes were approved with changes with a vote of 62 yeas, 2 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- (5858) Steering Committee Professor Pérez y González opened with a moment of silence for Gerald M. Friedman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science. He taught at Brooklyn College between 1985 and 2005. He published over 350 books, papers, and articles and received the highest honors in the field of sedimentary geology. He focused his attention on the graduate program and mentored over fifty students as they pursued advanced degrees.
- Professor Pérez y González then conducted an election for the Committee on Committees. She opened the floor for nominations, as the terms of Professors Gargan (Library) and Jacobson (H & N) expired on December 13, 2011. Professors Gargan and Jacobson were nominated. The Secretary of Faculty Council, Professor Nadell, cast a vote for both Professors Gargan and Jacobson, who were therefore elected.
- Professor Pérez y González announced the election of one member and one alternate to replace Prof. Daraviras (SEEK) on the Brooklyn College Association would take place at the February 2012 meeting of Faculty Council.
- (5859) Communications from the Administration President Gould opened with a discussion of the New York State and New York City budgets. New York State has roughly a \$350 million deficit, but New York State Governor Cuomo anticipates a \$3.2 billion budget gap for 2012. For that reason, the Governor and the New York State legislature passed tax reform legislation that should address approximately \$1 billion of the gap. It is likely that state agencies will be cut by 2.5%, but because of the maintenance of effort agreement, CUNY and SUNY will not be cut. For the students, that is not great consolation, but this will be helpful for the next four years. It is likely that there will be New York City cuts as well, but New York City does not provide a great amount of funding for the senior colleges (in the past, New York City support for senior colleges totaled around \$40 million). Brooklyn College won't be losing too much funding because of this. As of the two weeks prior to the meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase for students. For undergraduate students, the fall 2012 tuition will amount to \$5430. Students will not pay more for the spring semester. President Gould stated that Brooklyn College received an additional endowment for needy students. President Gould stated that Brooklyn College will know the amount of another major donor gift for students, who are in financial need and could not otherwise attend Brooklyn

College. The Brooklyn College community should expect an e-mail informing it about these new endowments and letting it know that contributions will be welcome. These endowment funds will employ a different way of formulating the scholarship funds, compared to those funds used last year. Brooklyn College will be able to use funds regardless of the market and will be able to dip into the principle if necessary. President Gould stated that Brooklyn College is acutely aware of student needs and that she, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Sillen, and the Deans, along with any interested chairs and senior faculty, will work hard to make sure that fundraising for scholarships for students in need is one of the highest priorities.

President Gould stated that Chancellor Goldstein made a public announcement about his support for the Dream Act. The Chancellor testified in Albany during the previous week. In addition, Executive Director of Government and External Affairs Schechter, along with a number of Brooklyn College students, went to City Hall to support the Dream Act. President Gould stated that it was important to support the Dream Act and that she plans to lobby on behalf of the Dream Act when she goes to Albany.

President Gould then spoke about a financial aid initiative emerging from CUNY central. CUNY Central is setting aside \$5 million for the next five years for students at risk. The financial aid initiative will include tuition waivers and scholarships, CUNY institutional work-study and paid internships on the CUNY campuses, and assistance with the cost of textbooks.

President Gould then turned to Pathways, which she discussed on behalf of the Provost. She informed Faculty Council about a number of issues. The Chancellor's comments are available on the CUNY Pathways website. The Chancellor endorsed the draft that came from Dean of the Law School Anderson's committee. The draft looks similar to the plan put forward by Brooklyn College. President Gould thanked Provost Tramontano, Assistant Provost Wagner, and involved faculty members for working so hard for alternative ways of viewing the proposal and for constructing a response, which Vice Chancellor Logue stated was both well written and compelling. In addition, the Provost did a lot of behind-the-scenes work with other provosts to move the draft in the direction endorsed by Brooklyn College. President Gould mentioned two important Pathways committees: an Implementation Advisory Committee, which will ensure that the campuses and CUNY Central work together to enact changes as smoothly as possible, and a Core Course Review Committee, which will review the suitability of courses for the common core. This committee will include a representative from each campus and will include members from different disciplines and different campuses. President Gould thanked Professor Hadler (Art) for her work with Pathways.

Professor Entin (English and American Studies) stated that students who are concerned about the tuition increase have been holding open meetings in Boylan Hall. He asked about the security presence during recent general assemblies about these issues. President Gould responded that she was not delighted to see so many peace officers and that there was nervousness and anxiety about the fact that the meeting occurred inside the building. She informed Faculty Council that she gave one directive, which was that fire codes must be observed. She also stated that it was probably not essential to have so many peace offers. While it is true that there was noise in Boylan Hall while people were trying to work, no one wants to suppress views of the protesting students. She stated the most important thing is that all try to be respectful.

(5860) Committee on Professor Langsam (CIS) stated the committee had nothing to report.
Committees

(5861) Liaison with University Faculty Professor Jacobson (H & N) discussed the most recent meeting of the University Faculty Senate. She stated UFS Chair Cooper (CSI) spoke a great deal about

- Senate Pathways. The UFS is upset that its voice was largely ignored, despite the Chancellor's assurances that faculty members would be invited into the Pathways process. The UFS will no longer have complete transcripts of its meeting. The minutes will contain actions and summaries of discussions. Digital recordings will be available on the UFS website. Chair Cooper called attention to UFS Plenary session and conference that took place on December 9, 2011. The conference featured Dr. Benjamin Ginsberg of Johns Hopkins, who led a discussion of his book, *The Fall of Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why it Matters*. He argues that faculty has either abdicated their responsibilities or administrators have decided that they are in charge. He stated that it is time for faculty members to step forward. Other panelists agreed that things worked well when faculty members were engaged. Professor Jacobson then reported on Chancellor Goldstein's comments about the Dream Act and about the tuition plan. Chancellor Goldstein stated that CUNY is now formulating a master plan for the next four years as mandated by law. He wants UFS to be deeply involved in this process. He spoke about CUNY's involvement in New York City Mayor Bloomberg's applied science endeavor. Stanford University's \$1 billion offering to unite with CUNY was based, in part, on the high praise received by CCNY's School of Engineering. The Chancellor spoke about the New York City Regional Council Initiative, which includes a five-year strategic plan to invest in economic development. General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Schaeffer promised to speak at length about the reason for the revision for CUNY's computer use policy. He spoke about by-law changes as being no more than housekeeping. In addition, he discussed the CUNY academic integrity policy and stated that he wants all faculty to abide by the regulations. The UFS passed the Resolution on Law Enforcement Surveillance, which passed with 2 opposed and 4 abstentions. Two other resolutions, one on adjunct health care and the other on open access, were passed.
- (5862) Degree Lists Degree lists 2012/13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 20 were presented by Professor Thurm (CIS) and were approved with a vote of 69 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (5863) Report of Standing Committees
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 350. The document was approved with a vote of 72 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
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 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Cox (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 204, on behalf of Professor Ball (Art), who was unable to attend the meeting.
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 Committee on Graduate Admissions & Standards: Professor Smith (Classics) presented the "Resolution on Incomplete Grades" to bring Brooklyn College's incomplete grade policy into compliance with CUNY Central's mandated policy. After some discussion, Professor Gura (Speech) called the question. The resolution passed with a vote of 57 yeas, 16 nays, and 2 abstentions. The "Resolution on Incomplete Grades" passed with 56 yeas, 13 nays, and 4 abstentions.
- (5864) Old Business Ad Hoc Committee on Aligning Faculty Workload with College Goals: Professor Entin (English and Am Stud) spoke about the work of the committee. The committee was charged with exploring several options to address faculty dissatisfaction with workload, including making 4 credit classes the norm for Brooklyn College. The committee asked departments to discuss a proposal for a process and timeline for moving from 3 to 4 credit classes. The committee received responses from 11 departments. There was a lack of consensus: 4 departments were strongly in favor of a shift to 4 credit classes, 4 departments were strongly against a shift to 4 credit classes, and 3 departments had questions and/or reservations. Those departments in favor of 4 credit classes stressed the improved quality of instruction, possible improved student retention due to a lower course load, and a more manageable workload. Those departments against 4 credit classes were concerned about the difficulty in scheduling courses, the possible loss of breadth, potential problems with

disciplinary accreditation, transferability, and curricular labor involved in such a change. Professor Entin stated that a move from all Brooklyn College departments seems not be feasible, but that individual departments were welcome to make the shift. If faculty created a greater number of 4 credit classes, there would be a greater sample size to evaluate their benefits and drawbacks. The committee has contacted Vice President for Enrollment Management Services Joyner to discuss making space in the bell code schedule for 4-hour classes. Even those departments opposed to the 4 credit classes agreed that faculty workload is too high. The PSC has workload on the agenda for bargaining. The committee reminded the assembly that it sponsored a successful Faculty Council resolution that asked the administration to seek funding for reassigned time for active research. The committee is sponsoring a survey about the “phantom workload” and is exploring the benefits of workload credit for student advising. Faculty Council members should contact the committee with any additional ideas.

(5865) New
Business

There was no new business.

(5854) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair thanked the members of Faculty Council for their efforts throughout the year, wished them happy holidays, and declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary