

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

March 13, 2012

- (5878) Call to order    The sixth 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).
- (5879) Roll call        The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Boyer (Anthro & Archae), Dowd (Chemistry), Jayaraman (Political Sci.); Divisional Delegates: Taylor (Art), Perdikaris (Social Sci.) were absent (-5); Gonsalves (Humanities), Grommet (HNS), Gura & Epstein (Speech) & Vivier (Theatre) were excused (-5); Administrators: Green, Hewitt, Joyner & Czirak were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5880) Minutes of February 14, 2012    Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of February 14, 2011. The minutes were approved with changes with a vote of 65 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (5881) Steering Committee    Professor Pérez y González announced the elections for University Faculty Senate, which will take place from March 19-March 23, 2012. She announced that, in response to a request by the University Faculty Senate that faculty governance leaders be seated at the highest levels of decision-making at CUNY's colleges, the Faculty Council Chairperson will sit on President Gould's Senior Council. Although the meetings are confidential, there will be faculty input. Professor Pérez y González thanked President Gould on behalf of Faculty Council and recognized her commitment to participatory governance. Professor Pérez y González also announced that discussion comments would be limited to two minutes.
- (5882) Communications from the Administration    President Gould opened with a discussion of the New York State budget process, which is moving very rapidly. She said that Executive Director of Government & External Affairs Schechter and she had gone to Albany several times. New York State Governor Cuomo is on time or ahead of schedule with the budget. The New York State Senate has little interest in new budget items. The New York State Assembly has some interest in investing in K-12 education. In terms of capital projects, there is very little funding, despite Governor Cuomo's interest in creating jobs. Brooklyn College's Roosevelt Science project is third on CUNY's project list. However, it does not look like capital will be available, as City Tech has funding and Baruch's project is very close to funding. Brooklyn College has been asked if it is shovel-ready, and, while it is not this year, it will be ready next year. The finished design project will be available by the end of the summer of 2012. President Gould asserted that Brooklyn College has done a good job of getting Roosevelt in front of New York State senators and assembly members.
- President Gould stated that this will be a stable year for budget and that there is an enrollment cap for the campus, rather than an enrollment target. The good news is that we will not have to grow, as we need to catch our breath and live with the current enrollment, which is roughly 16,900. CUNY does not want us to grow for a number of reasons, including that large number of students pressuring the two-year campuses, but not transferring to the senior colleges. Chancellor Goldstein has stated that he is concerned about academic quality, capacity, and the overuse of adjuncts. He wants to help us by not overshooting the mark on growth. The downside to the cap is that growth had been the place where we have captured resources. However, with the stable budget and no budget cuts, theoretically, things should work out, especially in two years. During this coming year, Brooklyn College will pay for the ERI, which will be a bit of a hardship. Brooklyn College had an aggressive hiring season, with faculty and staff, much more so than other campuses

and senior college (because we assumed that the stable budget will be real). Most of the searches have resulted in great hires. She thanked Faculty Council for working so hard to bring new faculty to campus. She stated that she hoped that Brooklyn College would have an equally robust hiring season next year, though a lot will depend on the finalized budget. Hopefully, we will know about the budget by May, she stated.

President Gould then spoke about the search committee for Vice President for Finance and Administration. Provost Tramontano will chair the committee, and members include Professor Ciszowska (Chemistry), Professor Pérez y González, Dean of the School of Business Hopkins, Bursar Ali, Director of Scholarships and Honors Recruiting Guzman, and Student Center Acting Director Adams, College Architect Schaffer, and Brooklyn College Foundation Associate Director for Corporations and Private Foundations Chu. She thanked these members for agreeing to serve.

President Gould then announced that Brooklyn College had raised an additional \$200,000 for students in need. That brings the total in the last six months to \$1.6 million.

President Gould then commented about Pathways. She asserted that she knew that there were a number of issues associated with the Pathways initiative that have been disappointing for faculty and have resulted in strong criticisms from some and rigorous debate with CUNY from others. Given the scope of Pathways initiatives, this is entirely understandable and intellectually appropriate. That said, as Faculty Council considers the resolutions today, she hoped that Faculty Council members would find constructive ways to move the planning process forward for Brooklyn College and for our students.

(5883) Committee on Professor Langsam (CIS) stated that the Committee on Committees had nothing to report.

(5884) Liaison with the Faculty Senate Professor Florence (SEED) spoke about the 364<sup>th</sup> plenary session. According to Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Sapienza, CUNY is doing better. New York State should have the budget by April 1, 2012, which gives CUNY time to plan. The Committee on Master Planning, Budget, and Educational Policy should be involved in plans for FY2013. She then reported that graduate enrollments are much lower across CUNY, attributed to two things: there is lower enrollment across the country and tuition has increased. She spoke about Center for Humanities conference travel awards for tenure track faculty from 25 to 107 recipients. The Status of the Faculty Committee was instrumental in drafting the adjunct healthcare resolution, which was passed, and for advocating for planning v class schedule a year advance. The Committee cautioned that TRS takes at least six months for initial payments for those who retire. The Collegiate Learning Assessment has been launched in pilot locations, and the UFS had questions about students being paid. Will that skew results? Will comparing the entering and exiting groups be like comparing apples and oranges? Professor Florence spoke about the Committee on Academic Technology, which raised concerns about centralizing e-mail on CUNY servers and about limited access to e-mail for retirees. In collaboration with the Board of Trustees, the CUNY Diversity Office has prepared a report on diversity at CUNY. UFS opposed the common core guidelines of the Pathways Initiative with 58 yeas, 0 nays, and 4 abstentions. The New York Civil Liberties Union, the American Civil Liberties Union, and CUNY Law School, are re-opening the case of surveillance on campus. The original motion was sponsored by CUNY Law School and Brooklyn College, and Professor Theoharis (Political Science) is circulating a petition calling for the resignation of New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and his deputy commissioner. The UFS brought up a resolution to revise the criteria on selection of members of the Board of Trustees.

- (5885) Degree Lists Degree lists 2012/23 & 24 were presented by Professor Langsam (CIS) and were approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (5886) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 352. Professor Langsam moved to divide the document in two parts: one with the material about Environmental Studies (pages 18-20) and the other with the remainder of the material. The motion was approved with 60 yeas, 20 nays, and 6 abstentions. Document 352, without pages 18-20, was approved with changes with a vote of 81 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions. Faculty Council then discussed the Environmental Studies Program, pages 18-20. Professor Powell (EES) stated that the document was put forward due to a 10-member internal review committee and 2 external evaluations. The committee and evaluators, he stated, agreed that the program was broken and has not functioned. Over the past 18 years, 15 students have graduated, because courses have not existed in sufficient number for students to graduate. The program is, he declared, defunct. He called for major changes in order to address this problem. Professor Ciszowska noted that Biology 3083 requires as a prerequisite General Biology 1, General Biology 2, and General Chemistry 1. She asked if it were realistic for all Environmental Studies students to complete those courses. Professor Powell stated that the committee asked the chair of Biology about those courses. He stated that, given that students would take a course in environmental science, the committee felt it would be preparation for the course and asked the chair of the Biology Department to waive prerequisites for those students. There will be additional meetings about this issue. Professor Forest (Biology) stated that Biology 3083 is based on students' taking a year of biology and questioned if it were appropriate for students to take the course without the prerequisites. Professor Williams (Classics) asked why Classics 3232 was removed from the program and about the historical dimensions of the program. Professor Hu (Mathematics) asked about the removal of a math course. Professor Powell stated that the Math course was removed because of an external reviewer, who felt that a course devoted to a course devoted to quantitative reasoning applied to the discipline would be necessary. Consequently, every student will take a full statistical methods course and a GIS data analysis course. Professor Powell stated that the Classics course was initially included by happenstance, as a consequence of the time the program was created (20 years ago). The committee decided to construct the program so it would be responsive to the skills required by potential employers. The course of study was formed using the principle of backward design. The committee would be willing to discuss how the program could be expanded with electives. Professor Troyansky (History) raised the possibility of students taking an Environmental History class; he asked for assurances that humanities courses would be integrated in the program. Professor Menser (Philosophy) shared concerns about the humanities and stated that the three pillars of environmental studies – social, economic, and ecological – should form an integrated academic experience, not a smorgasbord of courses. Professor Powell publically promised that, if the proposal were accepted, the steering committee would discuss an elective component to the program, in which electives would rotate among departments each semester. Professor Walker (Library) stated the library would appreciate if program and major designers speak to head of bibliography to see how the library can support their efforts. Professor Forest stated that Professor Kobrak resigned from the committee because it would not discuss the science courses. She asked for assurances for future discussions. Professor Gould (Sociology) stated that he has expertise in this area and has team-taught with scientists. He pointed out that none of the people who had expressed concerns about the changes in the program had raised issues about the previous incarnation of the program. Brooklyn College, he stated, has been behind the curve in environmental education. The current program is a failure. The changes are the product of 5 years of effort by dedicated faculty in a wide range of disciplines. Students are excited about having a new version of this program located on campus. He stated that the program is open to modification and will make Brooklyn College a leader in interdisciplinary environmental education. It is a forward-thinking program, built of solid theoretical modeling in the tradition of sustainable development

research based on the three pillars of economy, society, and ecology. This program brings together faculty from three departments. Professor MacIntyre (Music) stated this is an up-to-date program. Professor Lipke (Biology) stated that he had a number of conversations with members of the committee about Biology 3083. He stated that the Biology Department is not currently offering the course. The question of prerequisites came up and that he did not have authority as chair to waive prerequisites, a statement with which a number of Faculty Council members disagreed. As the program currently stands, the prerequisites remain in place, but the Biology Department and EES will negotiate. Therefore, Biology is not currently an impediment to the approval of the changes, he declared. Following this discussion, pages 18-20 of Curriculum Document 352 were approved with a vote of 61 yeas, 17 nays and 5 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Ball (Art) presented Curriculum Document 206. The document was approved with a vote of 75 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Library: Professor Rosenfeld presented the annual report, which was accepted.

(5887) Change in Agenda

Professor Fox (English) moved to change the agenda. The motion was passed with a vote of 71 yeas, 6 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Professor Lipke presented "Resolution on Pathways and the Sciences." He stated that the resolution grew out of e-mail conversations among science discipline council members as well as with Executive Vice Chancellor Logue about the requirement that Pathways science classes be 3 credits, 3 hours. This is contrary to practice and pedagogy of the sciences, where, in fact, there is a significant hands-on or lab requirement. Professor Lipke asked EVC Logue if there were any leeway to do a 3 credit, 4 hour course; the answer was no. He said that no amount of protest would change this, so the only option is to refuse to put forward new curriculum, which is the prerogative of Faculty Council. The resolution, then, is a protest about the 3 credits, 3-hour rule. Professor Fox stated that rather than approve an inadequate proposal, the faculty will refuse to approve any curriculum. He continued by asserting that this is really about depriving faculty of governance and control of the curriculum. He stated that we should not go along with the upcoming resolution put forth by Core, Academic Foundations, and Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committees. Professor Langsam asked for a clarification of the meaning of "goals of the program." He asked if that meant the science goals or all of the Pathways goals. Professor Lipke stated that he had no problem with broadening the meaning of the resolution. Professor Tremper (English) spoke about active e-mailing among English Discipline Council members concerning the lack of uniformity among CUNY colleges with regard to credits, contact hours, and workload, so that EVC Logue cannot adequately address the problem of hours in English composition courses. Professor Langsam asked for clarification about the motion: what would allow the Core, Academic Foundations, and Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committees to get to work on Pathways? Professor Lipke stated that the intent is science courses, but he would consider an amendment to broaden the intent to all disciplines. Professor Tenenbaum said that he did not believe that this resolution necessarily vitiates the other motions on the floor, because Brooklyn College will submit a plan by April 1, 2012. Will we [faculty] have something to say about it or will we abdicate and not say anything, he asked. It is perfectly reasonable to specify the number of hours and credits in the Core, Academic Foundations, and Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committees' resolution. He urged Faculty Council to address the next resolution more thoroughly. Professor MacIntyre asked if the 4 hours in science course represented 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of lab. Provost Tramontano responded that this meant 60 contact hours, as opposed to 45. Professor Lipke responded that the current model is 30 hours of lecture and 30 hours of lab. Professor MacIntyre moved to change the second "Be It Further Resolved" to read, "Be It Further Resolved that the hours devoted to the

sciences must be increased from 45 hours to 60 hours.” Professor Langsam asked that the language include “these restrictions.” Professor Raphan made a statement about what he considered problems with the amendment and raised the possibility of an alternative amendment. Professor Tremper asked about a possible substitute amendment or motion. Professor Tenenbaum said that even if Faculty Council adopts Professor MacIntyre’s resolution, the following resolution of Core, Academic Foundations, and Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committees may be considered. The motion failed with a vote of 36 yeas, 36 nays, and 2 abstentions. Professor Raphan moved that the last two “Be It Resolved” clauses read as follows: “Be It Resolved that the Faculty Council at Brooklyn College finds that the CUNY Pathways Initiative with its current configuration of 3 credit, 3 hour science courses does not address the needs of our students or the stated goals of the science program, and Be It Resolved that the hours devoted to science be increased, and Be It Further Resolved that no changes in Pathways-related curricula be approved by Faculty Council at Brooklyn College until the restrictions on the program are modified to create a means to meet these goals of the program.” Professor Wills called the question. The motion to call the question passed with 61 yeas, 7 nays, and 0 abstentions. The amendment made by Professor Raphan passed with a vote of 51 yeas, 18 nays, and 1 abstention. Provost Tramontano spoke against the Resolution of Pathways and the Sciences. He said that Brooklyn College received most of what it wanted from Pathways. He described Pathways as a work in progress and that none of us are 100% happy with Pathways, but we are able to move forward. He stated that with the investment of time and energy put into Pathways by this body, it is imperative to support the Pathway Initiative going forward. He believed that there will be a chance to review Pathways. Professor Wills stated that across CUNY campuses, there are votes of no confidence on Pathways, because the entire Pathways process is broken. She stated that we should rethink voting on small fixes to this broken process. Professor Raphan pointed out that, while the initial goals and aspirations may have been noteworthy, they do not address the sciences adequately. Professor Gargan (Library) proposed an amendment to delete “of the program” from the last “Be It Resolved.” Professor Forest called the question, which passed with a vote of 61 yeas, 7 nays, and 0 abstentions. The amendment to delete “of the program” passed with 56 yeas, 11 nays, and 1 abstention. Professor Tenenbaum called the question, which passed with a vote of 64 yeas, 7 nays, and 0 abstentions. The Resolution on Pathways and the Sciences failed with a vote of 48 yeas, 15 nays, and 4 abstentions.

(5888) Report of  
Standing  
Committees,  
continued

Committees on Core, Academic Foundations, & Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professors Moore and Tenenbaum presented the “Joint Resolution of Brooklyn College’s Pathways ‘Concept’.” They stated that this resolution looked toward the April 1, 2012 document required of Brooklyn College to put forth its implementation plan for Pathways, if Pathways is implemented. Professor Tenenbaum stated that the resolution stated that Brooklyn College Pathways would be modeled on the Core, rather than on distribution requirements, until 2014. Professor Lipke stated that this resolution meant that Brooklyn College would comply with Pathways. Professor Fox stated that this resolution seems to support Pathways. Professor Tenenbaum said that a plan is due to 80<sup>th</sup> Street by April 1, 2012 and that someone from Brooklyn College had to submit this plan. He stated that the resolution allows for Brooklyn College to keep as much of the Core as possible, at least until Fall 2014. The resolution would allow Faculty Council to say what would happen if Pathways is implemented. Professor Entin (English) stated that if Faculty Council opposed Pathways, it should make it known. Professor Sosa called the question, which failed with a vote of 37 yeas, 26 nays, and 0 abstentions. Professor Jones (CIS) said not to reject the resolution out of hand, because the committee had spent a great deal of time on it. Professor Moore asked if it were possible to separate our feelings about Pathways and the content of the resolution. He stated that Brooklyn College would put in a document on April 1, 2012, and the resolution is Faculty Council’s opportunity to articulate the curricular content of that document. Professor Entin presented a substitute resolution, consisting of the following: “Be it resolved that Faculty Council calls on the Board of Trustees to repeal

the "Pathways" resolution ("Creating an Efficient Transfer System") at its next meeting – on April 30, 2012; and Be it further resolved that we call on the Board of Trustees and its representatives to initiate a new planning and implementation process to address the issue of student transfer. The process must conform to the University Bylaws, uphold the principles and practices of shared governance and academic freedom, and produce a curriculum worthy of CUNY's mission to educate "the children of the people, the children of the whole people"; and Be it further resolved that the Faculty Council of Brooklyn College will not approve any changes in curriculum associated with the Pathways initiative." The motion was substituted with a vote of 47 yeas, 18 nays, and 0 abstentions. Professor Williams asked if Faculty Council calls on the Board of Trustees to repeal Pathways, what would happen if the Board of Trustees implements Pathways. Professor Tenenbaum asked what Brooklyn College would send to the board of April 1, 2012 and that there would be a danger of abdicating our responsibilities and having curriculum imposed on us. Professor Martinez (PRLS) stated that if we believe that Pathways is derelict in basic pedagogical ways and if we believe that it is a power grab of faculty governance, then we should not go along with Pathways, as it would be counterproductive. As responsible educators who believe Pathways is dysfunctional, we should not frame this as dereliction of faculty duty but as collective action, especially as over 3,000 other faculty members have signed a petition against Pathways, she stated. Professor Kellogg asked what would go to 80<sup>th</sup> Street on April 1, 2012. Provost Tramontano stated that the colleges have been directed by EVC Logue to submit a 2-page implementation plan by that date. He stated that the resolution is "late in the game," as work has gone into the Pathways process, and that the administration would have some conferencing about what would go into that document. He stated that Brooklyn College would not gain a lot of support from CUNY Central with this resolution. Professor Raphan asked what the substitute motion would accomplish. Professor Entin said he believed that there is a general consensus that the 2-page document, delivered by the Provost, would state that the Core would be kept as intact as possible. He declared that our responsibility is to our students and to the process of curricular development. He stated it was time to stand up and make a statement about our disagreement with the way Pathways has been moved forward. He said that it was time to make a statement about curricular development and the best interest of our students, as Pathways is presenting a watered down curriculum. Professor Braine called the question, which passed with a vote of 49 yeas, 12 nays, and 0 abstentions. The resolution failed with a vote of 45 yeas, 14 nays, and 2 abstentions.

(5889) Adjournment There being too few members for a quorum, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,  
Chair

Martha Nadell,  
Secretary

