

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

November 13, 2012

- (5928) Call to order The third meeting of Faculty Council for the 2012-2013 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (5829) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Ciszowska (Chemistry), Cheng (E&ES), Velling (Math), Ungar (Political Sci.); School Delegates: Porter (Business), Lenzer (Children & Youth Stu.), Childers & Minter (Humanities & Social Sci.), Dexter & Grassman (Natural & Behavioral Sci.), Grubbs (Visual, Media & Performing Arts) were absent (-11); Cirasella (Library), Menser (Philosophy) & Okome (Political Sci.) were excused (-3); Administrators: Hewitt & Green were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5930) Minutes of Professor Langsam announced that the minutes of October 15, 2012 would be
September 11, 2012 presented at the December meeting.
- (5931) Steering Professor Langsam led a moment of silence for Professor Friedlander (Emeritus,
Committee Judaic Studies). He read the following: Holocaust history scholar Henry Friedlander, a Berlin-born survivor of the Lodz Ghetto, Auschwitz, and Ravensbrueck, who went on to become a scholar of the history in which he had been an unwilling participant, died on October 17, 2012 after a protracted illness. He was 82. As a scholar, Henry Friedlander is best known for his work "The Origins of Nazi Genocide: From Euthanasia to the Final Solution." He and his late wife Sybil Milton edited "The Simon Wiesenthal Annual", a collection of scholarly essays that helped give prominence to Holocaust Studies. He also edited a 26-volume documentary series called "Archives of the Holocaust", and served as president of the German Studies Association. For over 25 years, Henry Friedlander taught history in the Department of Judaic Studies. His courses, focusing on general Holocaust History, and on special topics such as The Nuremberg Trials, and the Nazi Concentration Camps, attracted a cross section of students. He rarely spoke of his own experiences, but when he did, he spoke objectively and without emotion. It was the listener who had the emotional reaction.
- Professor Langsam led a moment of silence for Professor Kent (Emeritus, Philosophy). He read the following: The Brooklyn College Philosophy Department is saddened to report the passing of our friend and colleague Edward Kent. Ed began teaching at Brooklyn College in 1966 and was with us for more than three decades. He served as Chair of our department, and as our specialist in the philosophy of law was a mentor to countless Philosophy undergraduates who went to have successful careers in the legal field. Ed is fondly remembered by his colleagues for his warmth, his dedication to our students, and his outspoken advocacy of social justice.
- Professor Langsam conducted an election for a member of the Committee on Committees. Professor Bloomfield (SEED) and Shortell (Sociology) were nominated and received 38 and 52 votes, respectively. Professor Shortell was elected.
- Professor Langsam announced the election for two members of the Committee on Committees at the December meeting.

(5932)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Gould congratulated Professor Langsam for his election as Chair of Faculty Council and thanked Professor Pérez y González (PRLS) for her leadership. She stated that Faculty Council was in good hands.

President Gould then spoke about Hurricane Sandy and stated that it weighed heavy in the hearts of the Brooklyn College community. She stated that the impact on the community, neighborhood, and city was tremendous and tragic. Brooklyn College lost one of its own – Jacob Vogelman, an MFA student. The hearts of the Brooklyn College community go out to the Theater Department and the other graduate students. Three other CUNY students were killed during the storm, and the Brooklyn College community is sad for them as well. Over 100 faculty and staff live in Zone A or near enough to it to be impacted by the hurricane. Over 900 students and their families live or did live in Zone A. Many community members, their family and friends – there are too many to count, President Gould stated – have been impacted by this horrific event. She declared that we know that it was difficult for staff, faculty, and students to get back to campus. Indeed, President Gould was stranded and could not make it back in to New York City. There are still some struggling to get back to campus and to New York City. Chairs are reaching out to faculty and staff who are having difficulty with transportation. President Gould singled out Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Giovannelli for his efforts. Both travel and communication were difficult and challenging. President Gould stated that she had trouble, as even cell phones were not working and e-mail was down. Many who did not live in Zone A suffered as well. She referred to one member of the CUNY administration, who stated that his Long Island neighborhood looked like a war zone. We are in it together, she stated, but it will be months and months until some people are back to normal. Students were remarkable in reaching out to their own neighborhoods and communities. She spoke about the Petrie fund, which had roughly \$65,000 at the beginning of the semester. With an additional grant, it is now roughly \$110,000 and is geared to helping students in dire need. The Petrie Fund has allocated over \$22,000 in book vouchers, food vouchers to eat in cafeteria, and hot meal vouchers. The Brooklyn College Foundation created a student hurricane relief fund, to which alumni and trustees contributed over \$11,000. Faculty and staff have also contributed to that fund. This fund is for students and is being overseen as is the Petrie Fund. The President stated that SVP Giovannelli described the extraordinary efforts of staff. Over sixty security and maintenance staff worked at least one shift during the storm. Brooklyn College is very thankful to them. Brooklyn College was fortunate not to have had a lot of damage. There was some leakage in the West Quad, but most of the buildings withstood the storm damage in terms of water. There were many limbs and some trees that fell; three dumpsters were filled with fallen limbs. Some campuses were not so lucky. Kingsborough Community College saw flooding in every building and was closed for much longer than Brooklyn College. Baruch College and Borough of Manhattan Community College were hit, as was the Brookdale campus of Hunter. York College and Queens College were rescue sites that took in people to their gyms and classrooms. York took in over 500 people. Some of Brooklyn College security staff, who could not make it to campus, volunteered on other campuses and continue to do so. There is a team at CUNY working to raise funds for faculty, students, and staff. There is a canned food drive, operating through student government. President Gould stated that if anyone is interested to please let Executive Director for Government and External Affairs Schechter know. The calendar issues have been challenging, President Gould declared, especially because CUNY Central determined that the CUNY system would not go to the New York State Education Department to ask for a waiver for the fourteenth week. There were not very many attractive options. The President declared that she wanted to, if at possible, avoid classes after the holidays and in January because of the disruption to students. Provost Tramontano worked closely with provosts from other senior colleges to insist that Brooklyn College have flexibility in dealing with this issue. There were no good solutions, she stated, but she is hopeful that one Brooklyn College has will be flexible enough.

The three finalists for the AVP for Facilities position have come to campus to meet with search committee. Brooklyn College will know the outcome of this very important search shortly, President Gould stated. This week, Phil Hill, the consultant for Academic Technology and IT Task Force, is meeting with students, faculty, and staff, and inspecting facilities. If anyone wishes to talk to him, please let SVP Giovannelli know.

President Gould stated that she will review committee reports from Faculty Council committees from the 2011-2012 year and will share those with Cabinet to determine to what extent there should be actions on their recommendations.

Provost Tramontano stated that CUNY Central made a decision not to petition New York State for a 14-week semester. Provosts of the CUNY colleges held conference on the Friday following the hurricane to discuss this issue. Brooklyn College considered and rejected December 26th, 27th, and 28th and January 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The reading day on December 13th and the two Fridays during exam period led to the decision to use December 13th and 14th. Brooklyn College tried to be very flexible to allow faculty members to make up classes in other ways. New York State will look at the plans of Brooklyn College, which is missing one day in each bell. Another, interactive assignment must be given to make up for the lost day. That assignment must be filed and on record with department chairs and school deans. Many CUNY schools are doing the same thing.

(5933) Committee on Committees The Committee on Committees had no report and will begin its work after the December meeting.

(5934) Liaison with the Faculty Senate Professor Jacobson (H&NS) was unavailable, so Professor Fox (English) reported on the UFS plenary of October 9, 2012. The main business of the meeting was a report by Senior University Dean for the Executive Office and Enrollment Ptachik. He reported on recent enrollment trends in CUNY and stated that CUNY overall undergraduate enrollment declined from 1990 to 2000, but from 2000 to 2011 increased by 40%. The increase happened especially at the two-year colleges during that time period (Brooklyn College increased by 11%). The overall graduation rate increased from 51% in 2002 to 69% in 2010. Starting in 2010 there were fewer part-time students, fewer students working more than 20 hours, fewer students over 25 years old. There is a much higher student/faculty ratio than in the past (in 1970, it was 24.2/1; in 2011, it was 38/1). His office wants to see more students graduating in 2 or 4 years, which should be possible with more courses offered in January, in the summer, at night and on the weekends. There has been a decrease in graduate program enrollments. This is partly because fewer people are going into education, partly because there are fewer jobs available and partly because the private schools offer graduate courses at more convenient times. TAP, which used to be available for ten semesters, is now only available for eight semesters. During the question period several members of the Senate raised concern about if CUNY is somehow changing its traditional mission of access to higher education for all NYC high school graduates. Also, the concern was raised that the number of ESL students being admitted to senior colleges has been drastically reduced in the last few years. Dean Ptachik will meet with the ESL discipline council about that.

Executive Director of the UFS Phipps (CUNY Central) reported the minutes of the CUNY Board of Trustees' meetings, including attachments distributed at the meetings, will now be available on the CUNY Board website. The UFS is in the process of constructing a new website, which will include a blog.

UFS Chair Martell (Baruch) expressed sorrow about the effect that the hurricane had on many members of the CUNY community, including killing a number of students.

Vice-Chair Kaplowitz (John Jay) reported that the UFS Executive Committee met with Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Logue to identify top priorities

among the 45 goals recently distributed by her office. The priorities included 1) doubling the number of ASAP students (a program intended to accelerate student graduation at the two year colleges), 2) supporting CUNYStart (an intensive remedial program), 3) supporting winter and summer immerse programs, 4) improving college assessment programs, in preparation for Middle States accreditation visits, and exchanging information on best practices in assessment. In relation to the goal of expanding online offerings, EVC Logue said that CUNY would especially like to support hybrid courses (meeting partly online and partly in classrooms), as these courses preserve the different advantages of these two different teaching approaches.

- (5935) Degree Lists Degree Lists 2013/7, 8, 9, & 10 were presented by Professor Thurm (CIS) and were approved with a vote of 91 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention.
- (5936) Report of Standing Committees
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 358, which passed with changes with a vote of 89 yeas, 3 nays, and 0 abstentions.
Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Ball presented Curriculum Document 210, which passed with changes with a vote of 89 yeas, 3 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (5937) Old Business There was no old business.
- (5938) New Business There was no new business.
- (5939) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary