

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

April 16, 2013

- (5977) Call to order The seventh 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).
- (5978) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: LaTortue (Africana Stu.), Bankoff & Sharman (Anthro & Archeo), Ciszkowska & Dowd (Chemistry), Cheng (E&ES), Rawson (History), Law (Political Sci.), Bullen (SEEK), Easley (Theater); School Delegates: Menser (Humanities & Social Sci.), Grubbs (Visual, Media & Performing Arts) were absent (-12); Johnson (Physical Ed.) & Lenzer (Children & Youth Sci.) were excused (-2); Administrators: Green, Hewitt were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5979) Minutes of March 12, 2013 Professor Langsam presented the minutes of March 12, 2013. The minutes were approved.
- (5980) Steering Committee Professor Langsam solicited nominations for the Brooklyn College Association Board. Professor Menser (Philosophy), Professor Fox (English), Professor Manlow (FBM), and Professor Okome (Political Science) were nominated. The secretary cast a vote for the slate.
- Professor Langsam called attention to the letter concerning faculty governance sent to the Brooklyn College administration by the Steering Committee of Faculty Council.
- Professor Langsam clarified the voting procedure at Faculty Council as required by New York State law. He read the following: "The Freedom of Information Law requires that a public agency must maintain a record of the final vote of each member in every agency proceeding in which the member votes. A public agency may use any effective means of recording the vote of each member, such as a roll call, signed written ballots or electronic "clickers". In order to minimize delay, especially on uncontroversial matters, several motions may be grouped together for a single vote and/or the chair may seek unanimous consent of the members present. Although the record of final votes is ordinarily contained in the minutes of a public agency, the Freedom of Information Law does not require that; it is sufficient if the agency maintains records of such votes and makes them."
- Professor Langsam reminded members of the rules of Faculty Council: only members may speak. If, however, a member chooses not to come or sign in, the alternate steps into the member's place and may vote and speak as a member.

(5981) President Gould stated that in her four years at Brooklyn College, she would have realized that these votes are open. As far as she knew in her four years, no one has asked for votes. When votes at Faculty Council were asked for by at least one senior faculty member and perhaps more, the provost asked for votes as well so that he would be knowledgeable. She stated that neither she nor the Provost have any interest in how faculty individually vote on any given topic. She has no interest in seeing any list and neither does the provost. It was a well-intended gesture on the Provost's part so that, if anyone asked about his or her votes or those of someone else, he would have a reference point. It is important that we conduct ourselves with utmost professionalism with regard to information, she stated. She stated that she was always very concerned that junior faculty be protected. She would never want junior faculty to feel that they received heightened scrutiny on their voting and were therefore at risk. This would be contrary to what everyone in the room believes in, and that is academic freedom. She wants to reassure young faculty members, and tenured faculty members, that when we ask for votes that we are careful about what we do with them.

President Gould then commented on the letter from Faculty Council Steering. She confesses that when she read it the first time, she was taken aback. There is no doubt in her mind or in the Provost's mind that Faculty Council and the Brooklyn College faculty approve the curriculum. She stated that if she misused the term "shared governance," then she apologized. That was not her intent. The term was used several times, and she referenced the term out of her own personal context. In the Cal State system, the term refers to how the administration and the faculty work together on various issues. She stated that she wasn't sure that her point was captured so well in the minutes. It was not that she was agreeing with everything Dean Phillips said, although she did make some good points. The President stated that she was trying to underscore her agreement with the Dean in terms of the need for communication. It is very clear that faculty have every right to express themselves and to make decisions on curriculum. That is as it should be, she declared. It is also true that she and the Provost will make their views known to the Chancellor as needed on a whole host of things, including faculty curricular decisions. That is in the by-laws and as it should be. Together, we have our voices heard. More communication rather than less would help us be in more sync with one another and certainly with regard to curricular changes of some weight. If we can have more communication on the front side of it, we will have fewer questions on the floor and fewer concerns raised because the questions will have been put to rest, particularly with regard to finances, planning, and the meaning of terms.

President Gould then turned to the e-mail she sent that day. Brooklyn College received the report from CUNY regarding the events of February 7, 2013. She read the report several times and shared with the campus community, including all faculty, staff, and students. She wrote a heartfelt letter to each of the students, apologizing to them both personally as President and on behalf of the senior administrative staff, because she felt it was very important to do so. She wanted students to understand how serious she felt it was if it had been determined that they were asked to leave without due cause. That was the most serious finding of CUNY in an independent investigation; students were not making a substantive disturbance, not enough to ask them to leave the room. She stated that she very much regrets, particularly since, in her earlier communications, she supported the right of the student group to host the event and the right and the Political Science Department to co-sponsor it. She urged students to attend the event, ask serious questions, and be in dialogue through their questions about their concerns about event. The fact that four students were not able to do that troubles her immensely, she declared. We need to make sure that this does not happen again. There are some policies and/or guidelines that should be in place and better communicated. They will be forthcoming. Policy Council and the External Relations sub-committee will work on each one of the recommendations that are in the conclusion of the report. One of them has to do with sign up and registration, which can be improved by technology and requires staff oversight, rather than only student efforts, heroic as

they may have been. Brooklyn College will clean that up and make sure that there is clear authority in the room in terms of code of conduct; any perceived disturbance will be responded to by senior administrative staff to be identified not by person or by title. BC will not expect students or faculty marshals to do this, as it is onerous and not fair for them to take part in this kind of role. There will be conversations about terminology, how we can better explain what we mean when a student club hosts an event open to the public, and the nature of the other organizations' responsibilities. What do we call them? Do we call them co-sponsors or something else? It is very clear to the outside world that sponsorship and co-sponsorship seems to mean endorsement. In this particular event, that was a very difficult terminological item. We want to improve upon that. As a community, we can come up with some terminology to help us define what we mean; this will come up again at another event or about another heated issue. We will have to explain what we mean in writing.

The President then responded to a question about changes in the Chancellery. The upcoming year will be one of significant changes, she stated. Board of Trustees Chair Schmidt is stepping down, as his term ends. New York State Governor Cuomo will appoint the Board Chair. There will be four vacant seats on the Board. Those will be up for appointment. The Governor will have yet another opportunity for influence. It is very likely that CUNY will have an Interim Chancellor. At this point, it is pure speculation about how long that will last, though it is likely that it will not be more than a year.

(5982) Committee on Professor Shortell (Sociology) stated that the Committee has prepared a draft of next year's committee assignments. The committee will reach out to faculty members and urged them to respond.

(5983) Liaison with the Faculty Senate Professor Fox (English) gave a brief summary of the most recent University Faculty Senate meeting. He read the following statement:

Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning Weinshall spoke about the CUNY 2020 challenge grant program. Under this program \$55 million is being made available to CUNY for projects that will help to build the New York City economy. Faculty and administrators at all colleges are encouraged to apply for grants from \$5 to 10 million. The program is especially interested in public/private grant proposals that will be partly funded by private sources such as private companies or corporations. Money was granted to SUNY in 2011 for such projects and is again being granted to SUNY colleges this year (See info re SUNY grants at https://portal.rfsuny.org/portal/page/portal/The%20Research%20Foundation%20of%20SUNY/home/rsed/ny_suny_2020). As examples of possible projects, some SUNY proposed projects were for 1) an Environmental Health and Medicine Institute, 2) a Workforce Development Center, 3) a Science and Education Center, and 4) a Manufacturing Sector Collaboration project. Applications for this program will be made available in May, one-page project descriptions will be due in June, final proposals will be due in Sept., and project selections will occur in late Fall 2013. You may contact VC Weinshall for further information about these grants.

UFS Chair Terry Martell encouraged faculty to attend the April 19 UFS Conference on the CUNY budget, which he said "is essential for any faculty member who wants to truly understand how CUNY funding decisions are made" (Anyone who wishes to attend should let me know and I will send them a conference registration form). Martell also mentioned that funds for new lines will be available for next fall and recommended that faculty get involved in decisions related to these new lines. Martell also reported that Chancellor Goldstein has been speaking to an investment firm about the possibility of having Central control of all the individual college foundation funds. UFS members at the meeting said this sounded like a bad idea as there was already too much Central control of CUNY matters.

Finally, UFS members passed with one nay vote the following resolution objecting to the extension of Pathways Common Core Review Committees:

Resolution Objecting to the Extension of Pathways Common Core Course Review Committees

Whereas, the CUNY Bylaws give the University Faculty Senate and college senates jurisdiction over curriculum, and

Whereas, the central Pathways committees have wrongly usurped the role of these legitimate senates, and

Whereas, although these committees had expired, the Office of Academic Affairs is now extending the life of these committees until the end of June 2013, and

Whereas, if the pattern holds OAA is likely to make these committees permanent, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate objects to OAA's further extension of these extra-governance curriculum committees and calls for a permanent end to them.

UFS reps were asked to ask their individual college senates to endorse the above resolution.

(5984) Degree Lists Degree Lists 2013/25 & 26 were presented by Professor Langsam and were approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions.

(5985) Report of Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Standing Committees Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 362 with changes. Professor Wasser (TVR) spoke about his objections to degree program changes in Broadcast Journalism. Professor Hashmi (TVR) spoke in favor of the changes. The document passed with a vote of 89 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Ball (Art) presented Curriculum Document 214 with changes. The document passed with a vote of 88 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy, and Budget: Professor MacIntyre (Music) presented the Resolution for a Change in Name of the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science to the Department of Kinesiology with a change. The Resolution passed with a vote of 79 yeas, 8 nays, and 2 abstentions. Professor MacIntyre presented the Resolution for a Change in Name of the Environmental Studies Program to the Urban Sustainability Program. After a brief discussion, the Resolution passed with a vote of 73 yeas, 9 nays, and 6 abstentions.

Committees on Academic Foundations: Professor Bonaffini (Modern Languages) presented the annual report, which was accepted.

Committee on College Integrity: Prof. Moses (English) presented the annual report, which was accepted. Professor Gargan (Library) commended the committee for its thorough investigation and conclusions regarding the events of February 7.

Committee on Computer Utilization and Educational Technology: The annual report was presented and accepted.

(5986)Old Business There was no old business.

(5987)New Business Professor Fox raised concerns of Brooklyn College ESL faculty and the CUNY-wide ESL discipline council. He reported that up until this time, second degree students who received their degree from a non-English language speaking country generally had to take Composition. The policy has been that when they come here, they are tested and placed in appropriate classes. International students generally have to take English composition. Under Pathways guidelines, second degree students who have earned their bachelor's degree whether from the US or from another country will be deemed automatically to have fulfilled the college option and the common core. This seems to suggest that these students will not have to take

English 1010 and English 1012. This is “absurd and ridiculous.” He suggested that all faculty members read the Pathways guidelines and should not let this stand.

Professor MacIntyre stated that he, representing Master Planning, met with the chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum committees, the Provost, and a couple of the deans about that credit hour issue. Things are proceeding. This group is reviewing the past and current practices and will come with faculty guidelines for credit hours. The Provost’s office is helping with gathering data. The committee hopes to have a report by May.

Professor Walker (Library) reminded Faculty Council that its annual book party will take place shortly. She congratulated Professor Cirasella (Library) on her recent appointment to the Grad Center Library.

(5988) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary