

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL  
September 10, 2013

- (6001) Call to order      The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2013-20134 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Langsam (CIS).
- 6002) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archeao), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Shannon (ECAE) Powell (E&ES), Nakarmi (Physics); School Delegates: Childers (Humanities & Social Sci.), Dexter (Nat & Behavior. Sci.) were absent (-7); Porter (Business), Grassman (Nat. & Behavior. Sci) & Law (Poli. Sci.) were excused (-3); Administrators: Faria, Green, Hewitt, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Feltman, Morales, Joyner, Moore & Tramontano were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6003) Minutes of April 16, 2013 & May 7, 2013      Professor Langsam presented the minutes of April 16, 2013 and May 7, 2013, which were approved unanimously.
- (6004) Steering Committee      Professor Langsam welcomed new members and remarked on their unusually large number, which includes eight new chairs and a large cohort of new department and school representatives. Professor Langsam then introduced members of Faculty Council's Steering Committee. He pointed out that only individuals who are on the list of Faculty Council members are eligible to vote and reminded members that all votes are a matter of public record. Faculty Council follows *Robert's Rules of Order* and uses a clicker system, he stated. In addition, he said that Faculty Council planned to start enforcing deadlines. Professor Langsam then introduced the work of Faculty Council, which can be found in the governance documents on the Faculty Council website. He stated that the most important thing that Faculty Council does is control the curriculum of Brooklyn College. He reminded all chairs, new members, and new administrators of the fact that curriculum and academic rules and regulations are in the hands of faculty only. All academic matters must be approved by Faculty Council. The procedure is as follows: when a curricular proposal is made, it is submitted to the department's undergraduate or graduate curriculum committee. Once the appropriate curriculum committee discusses and votes on the proposal, it is brought to the entire department. Once the department approves it, it goes to the Faculty Council undergraduate or graduate curriculum committee. Those committees put the proposals they receive into the form required by the CUNY Board of Trustees and brings them in a curriculum document to Faculty Council. Only after Faculty Council votes on the curriculum document does the proposal become official. No administrator can create new curriculum or new regulations that are not approved by Faculty Council. The faculty of Brooklyn College jealously guards its prerogatives of control of the curriculum and the rules and regulations by which the students graduate.
- Professor Langsam announced that a special election to fill a vacancy on the Committee on Committees would take place at the October meeting of Faculty Council. The regular election will take place at the December meeting.
- (6005) Communications from the Administration      President Gould welcomed all to a new academic year and remarked that it was wonderful to see students on the Quad, in classes, and around the campus.

President Gould discussed enrollment, which, she stated, is at 98.9 % of target as of September 10, 2013. Enrollment will reach and probably exceed target, which is important for financial planning for this year and for the future. At the undergraduate level, enrollment is 2% higher this year, compared to this time last year; undergraduate enrollment stands at 13134. The first-time, full-time freshman class is very strong, with over 1250 new freshman. New transfer students number 1773, which is higher than last year without in any way lowering standards. In addition, we have the strongest and highest level of returning undergraduates in recent history; the total is over 9557 returning students, which means that retention efforts are bearing fruit. This is an accumulation of retention efforts we can all be very proud of this, because this means that faculty, advisors, and recruiters are bringing and keeping students here and helping them matriculate. President Gould stated that she was pleased to see that graduate numbers are reasonably strong. There are 3100 graduate students, with 1081 new graduate students at a point in time when national and regional enrollments have declined. Returning students at the graduate level are not quite as strong as last year but are pretty good. None of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts of faculty to attract, teach, and retain students. However with CUNY *first* and Pathways challenges, the past summer was very difficult for Vice President for Enrollment Management Joyner and his staff. On behalf of the administration, President Gould personally congratulated and thanked them for helping enrollment management register in record numbers students by hand. She stated that Assistant Vice President for Finance, Budget and Planning/Comptroller Gilbert, a tireless worker all would agree, worked overtime with the CUNYFirst finance module to get financial matters in order to help with registration and enrollment.

The President mentioned that she was at Council of Presidents meeting with the new acting chancellor, which was very positive. She learned about enrollments across CUNY as of September 4, 2014. Most senior colleges have a flat overall enrollment with very few growing; there is not the rapid growth of two to three years ago. Most senior campuses, including Brooklyn College, Baruch College, Hunter College, and Lehman College, were flat, while Queens College had a significant dip of 6.2 % and City College struggled with a 3.6% decline. This is an indication of the environment in which we live; in New York City, with privates, publics, and for-profits and a declining high school graduation enrollment, there is significant competition for students, which is a challenge. We need to do our jobs well; we need to get back to students quickly, and that has been frustrating with CUNYFirst. We will find a way through, now that we are veterans of CUNYFirst, President Gould asserted. We will do this better in the spring and summer. She reported that Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Sapienza made a presentation of a draft of a recommendation on TAP that will go to New York State Governor Cuomo and the New York State legislature. CUNY will ask for an increase that should cover full tuition at CUNY. There are a number of innovative ideas about TAP on the table.

President Gould read the following about plans for the Graduate Center for Worker Education:

In the coming months, Brooklyn College will begin the process of restructuring and revitalizing the Graduate Center for Worker Education, which is located at 25 Broadway in lower Manhattan.

The Graduate Center for Worker Education will continue to be utilized by the college as an off-site academic location that supports high-quality academic programs and course offerings, both credit and non-credit, for working adults and for those who may be in career transition or preparing to seek employment. The disciplinary range of graduate program participation and classes offered at the GCWE will be broadened to include evening and daytime courses for interested students in such areas as health science and administration, urban studies, economics, labor policy and labor studies, arts and humanities, and

education, in an effort to address a wider range of professional and career interests of working adults and post-baccalaureate students.

Brooklyn College will also support continuing education and ESL courses at the GCWE, graduate certificates in areas with employment opportunity, career development workshops, and symposia and speakers on topics of interest to working people in New York City. The GCWE will remain at 25 Broadway, where it shares the 7<sup>th</sup> floor with the City College of New York's Center for Worker Education, which offers undergraduate degree programs in Interdisciplinary Studies, Early Childhood Education, and a graduate program in the Study of the Americas.

Brooklyn College will hire an assistant dean to serve as the administrative director of academic programs and continuing education at the GCWE in order to provide leadership and oversight of the center's staff, academic programs, and activities scheduled for the center. Reporting to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs at Brooklyn College, the assistant dean at the GCWE will be responsible for facilitating academic programming and for assessing the need for courses, workshops, and public events at the center. The assistant dean will work closely with faculty, department chairs, and deans at Brooklyn College to attract and support appropriate post-baccalaureate programs and courses that are of interest to Brooklyn College students, potential students, and to the lower Manhattan community.

In order to ensure academic quality and more effective program oversight of the M.A. program in Urban Policy and Administration, which has been located at the GCWE in the evening, the department of political science and the chair have determined that students and faculty will be better served by situating the graduate program in Urban Policy and Administration on the Brooklyn College campus, where the department, its full-time faculty, and its two other M. A. programs are based. As a result, there will be more opportunities for graduate students in the UPA program to interact with full-time faculty.

The M.A. in Urban Policy and Administration will be brought back to the Brooklyn College campus in January 2014. At the same time, the department of political science, along with other interested departments at the college, will consider ways to develop and support interdisciplinary programs, courses, and related community events that can contribute to a reinvigorated Graduate Center for Worker Education at 25 Broadway.

(6006) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the updated nominations list for committee assignments for the 2013 -2014 academic year with changes. The nominations passed with a unanimous vote.

(6007) Liaison with the Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) read the following notes on the May 6, 2013 Meeting of the CUNY University Faculty Senate: The Chancellor opened by saying "This is my swan song in my current job." He said he has enjoyed his 14 years in this job and he has enjoyed working with the UFS, although he does see some that he's "done hand to hand combat with" over the years. He feels that the University is in a good place today, with no financial problems, although he feels that higher education and especially public higher education nationally are in a hard financial time due to the weak national economy and to cuts in local and state funding of education. He feels confident that Bill Kelly will be an excellent Interim Chancellor and confident that we will be able to attract an excellent new permanent Chancellor. He will help to identify excellent candidates and will continue to try to get private grant funds for CUNY. He is happy that we now have "a predictable policy on tuition" but said "We need to reform TAP" (which, given the Chancellor's past ideas on reform, caused some consternation among the faculty). He said he "has no reservation about Pathways at all,"

although he granted that there will probably be changes over the years, which he thinks should be “based on available data.” During a question period, he agreed that we need more funding for master’s programs, especially in the sciences and technological fields. Faculty expressed concern about CUNYFirst not working well. The Chancellor admitted that he didn’t know so much about the details of how it works, but nevertheless said “I just know it is the right thing to do” (which seems to be somewhat contradictory). He said that next year, CUNY will have about 250 new faculty lines, and some representatives said there is an especially strong need for new lines at the community colleges, where the student population has increased dramatically in the past few years. The Chancellor is proud that during his chancellorship, CUNY has added more than 2000 new faculty lines, not counting replacements for retiring faculty. He said he respected faculty senates and feels that we must have respect for each other’s opinions. Some faculty suggested that respect involves not just listening to each other, but considering each other’s opinions before taking action. Finally, past UFS Chair Sandy Cooper said “I thank you for those occasions when you did listen to reason.”

UFS Chair Terry Martell said he will report back to us as soon as he hears the results of the anti-Pathways lawsuits brought against CUNY by the UFS and the PSC. Faculty reported that the incoming Interim Chancellor Bill Kelly fully supports Pathways. Pathways is supposed to go through a review and modification process, but Chair Martell fears that the CUNY administration may say that we can’t make any changes until we have data, which will take some time, thus continuing to ignore the traditional role of the legitimate elected faculty governance bodies which are supposed to be in charge of the CUNY curricula. Faculty nevertheless feel that we should be able to modify Pathways and we must find a way to do so. During the meeting, we also elected some new representatives to the Executive Committee.

## (6008) Degree Lists

Professor Langsam stated that Faculty Council Steering, which acts as the Executive Committee of Faculty Council for those students who graduate during the summer, approved Degree Lists 2013/33 & 34. Professor Bowdoin (Library) presented Degree Lists 2014/1 & 2, which were approved with a unanimous vote.

## (6009) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented the annual report, which was accepted. He announced the deadlines for submission of material for curriculum documents for the upcoming academic year. A discussion of the foreign language requirement followed. Professor Tenenbaum stated the following, based on an e-mail he sent earlier during the semester: Some of you have, as part of the requirements for your degrees/programs, a foreign language requirement. As you know, the Pathways curriculum is underway at Brooklyn College in spite of various lawsuits and multiple Faculty Council and university-wide resolutions and protests. Thereby, the College no longer has the same foreign language requirements it had during our last academic year 2012-13. Several of the degree programs that require foreign language had general wording that referred to fulfillment of the College’s foreign language requirements. Hence, there might be a “lag” in what students must fulfill if we do not act quickly because of the pending availability of the 2013-14 bulletins. At Brooklyn College, departments/programs reserve the right to continue to require foreign language even during this transition year because the faculty have not given up the right over curriculum and degree requirements. Because the Faculty Council/CUNY Board of Trustees’-approved requirement already exists in your program, we merely need to specify Bulletin language for the approved program to include the existing language requirement even though it is not a College requirement. In light of this, please submit the following to the appropriate Faculty Council curriculum committee only if your program had a foreign language requirement during 2012-13 and you wish to continue that requirement. This is not in the form of a curriculum proposal. Please send it as quickly as possible so that it can appear in the 2013-14 Bulletin.

1. Specify your department and degree program.
2. Specify the section in your degree requirement as follows: Foreign Language Requirement for the Major
3. Use the specific language that the 2012-13 bulletin used under the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures regarding the specific former foreign language requirement that applies to your degree.

This does not have to be passed by Faculty Council, since it does not change the existing degree. VP Joyner requested that the information be sent to the registrar, to which Professor Tenenbaum responded that he would send the information by the deadline for the 2013-2014 *Bulletin*. Professor MacIntyre (Music) asked if the committee handled the front matter in department descriptions, to which Professor Tenenbaum responded that departments controlled this material. Professor Fox asked about programs that have speech requirements, based on the Brooklyn College speech requirement. Professor Tenenbaum suggested consulting with the Speech Department and submitting a change that mirrors the speech requirement, so that it is not a substantive change. Professor Cohen (Music) asked about curricular changes related to Pathways. Professor Tenenbaum responded that we do not recognize the Pathways requirements and still mandate the core requirement. Professor Langsam stated that changes in degree requirements should be brought to Faculty Council but that Pathways courses will not be entertained by Faculty Council. The administration imposed Pathways, and we would not stop students from graduating, he stated. Professor Fox asked if Faculty Council planned any activity about assessing general education. Professor Langsam responded that Faculty Council will have the Committees on Core Curriculum and Academic Foundations address this issue. Professor Shortell stated that, according to the Brooklyn College governance plan, faculty have control of the curriculum and can add a college-wide language requirement. Professor Pérez y González (PRLS) referred to the sunset provision for the Core. A discussion of advising information and the on-line information about requirements and courses ensued.

Committee on Graduate Admissions & Standing: The annual report was accepted.

Committee on Core Curriculum: Professor Steel (English) presented the annual report, which was accepted.

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics: Professor Haley (English) presented the annual report, which was accepted.

(6010) Old Business            There was no old business.

(6011) New Business            There was no new business.

(6012) Adjournment            There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yediyah Langsam  
Chair

Martha Nadell  
Secretary