

REVISED  
 BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
 OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
 FACULTY COUNCIL

October 14, 2014

- (6106) Call to order      The second meeting of Faculty Council for the 2014-2015 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6107) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Green (Africana), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Li (ECAE), Balk (H&NS), Tung (Physics), Watson (SEEK); School Delegates: Childers (Humanities & Social Sci.), Augenstein & Perdikaris (Natural & Beh Sci.) were absent (-9); Walker (Library), Emmer (Speech), Lewis, Okome & Patkowski (Humanities & Social Sci.) were excused (-5); Administrators: Joyner, Carey, Wagner, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6108) Minutes of September 9, 2014      Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of September 9, 2014 with changes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- (6109) Steering Committee      Professor Langsam announced that nominations for the Brooklyn College Enterprise Corporation Board would take place at the November meeting of Faculty Council. He also announced that CAP had charged Faculty Council Steering with the creation of an ad hoc committee on on-line education. At the next Faculty Council meeting, the Committee on Committees will propose five names (one from each school) and solicit nominations from the floor.
- Professor Langsam then turned to issues relating to general education at Brooklyn College. First, he stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education will present its report under Old Business. Following a discussion, a formal vote will take place. The vote may allow the Ad Hoc Committee to become the Ad Hoc Committee for Implementation. Second, he reported that Provost Tramontano has requested that Faculty Council nominate nine faculty members for the CUNY Common Core Review Committee. However, given the 2012 resolution on Pathways, Faculty Council may not act, unless a resolution that allows an exception passes. If that is not the case, the Provost will select faculty members.
- (6110) Communications from the Administration      President Gould reported record new student enrollment at the undergraduate level. Brooklyn College has greater than 1400 full-time, first-time freshman, which is the highest number in a decade. It enrolled greater than 2000 transfer students this semester, which is good news, following a less-than-robust summer.
- President Gould thanked Professors Dexter (CIS) and Kellogg (Classics) for their hard work on general education. She stated that she had read the documents several time and described it as a serious, good faith effort and a thoughtful piece of work. The surveys of alumni, students, and faculty will be very important in thinking about how general education will move forward.
- President Gould stated that she recognized the serious place we are in with regard to Pathways. She stated, that after having several conversations with the new Chancellor, she can say that he has no interest in rescinding Pathways. He was hired by the CUNY Board of

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Trustees and shows no signs of interest in retraction. She told Faculty Council members that if they were hoping that she could persuade CUNY to alter Pathways, they should recognize that it is not a task that any single president or coalition of presidents could do. With this beginning step of taking a look at general education at Brooklyn College, we should consider the 42 credits Pathways requires. She stated that she does not have any interest or place in telling faculty members what to do; she is respectful of the role of faculty. But it is now time to attend to this. Brooklyn College will not go back to 51 credits, and more and more students need classes.

Professor Shortell (Sociology) asked if the President raised the resolution of the Spring, 2013 Stated Meeting of the Faculty with the Chancellor. The President responded that she shared it with him before he arrived.

Provost Tramontano spoke about searches. He stated that Brooklyn College has been aggressive in hiring new faculty. Early in September, 42 faculty lines were announced. However, due to financial considerations, especially contract negotiations and the final year of the Compact, a number of the searches will be delayed. At this point, over 32 searches are going forward (compared to City College, where only one search is going forward).

(6111) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell presented nominations for Faculty Council committees, which were approved unanimously, and the motion to increase the number of members of the Committee on Honors, Citations, & Awards, which passed unanimously.

(6112) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) read the following statement about the September 9, 2014 Meeting of the CUNY University Faculty Senate:

The meeting opened with a short film celebrating CUNY's "great students and great faculty." The guest speaker was the new CUNY Chancellor, James Millikin. The Chancellor mentioned some of his summer activities at CUNY, which included appointing several college presidents and visiting and meeting with faculty at all 24 CUNY campuses. He was proud to see that the top three colleges in a national "bang for your buck" list were three CUNY colleges, including Brooklyn College as number one. He feels however that we have work to do to increase retention and graduation rates. Among other things, he is interested in education related to new uses of technology, in the role of online education, and in increased fundraising for CUNY. He said he and his staff were disappointed in the recent poor performance of CUNYfirst, but that at least that took the focus off of Pathways for a while.

Related to Pathways, during the comment and answer session following the Chancellor's talk, a Brooklyn College UFS member (me) said that the Brooklyn College Faculty Council does not accept Pathways; does not accept the process used to arrive at Pathways, which did not include the CUNY faculty governance bodies; and is in the process of developing our own recommendations about what the structure of our gen ed curriculum should be. I said the UFS and PSC once proposed to Chancellor Goldstein that Pathways would be acceptable to the CUNY faculty if 6 credits were added to it, but that Chancellor Goldstein unfortunately rejected this proposal. I also said we were pleased that Interim Chancellor Kelly made some changes to Pathways and asked if Chancellor Millikin would be willing to make additional changes to Pathways. Chancellor Millikin said he can't do anything about the process that was used to develop Pathways, but that he does believe in shared governance in which faculty have a significant role, that we should see how the changes approved by Interim Chancellor Kelly go, and that he will listen to faculty input about Pathways and has an open mind about it. Other issues raised by UFS faculty included the reduced admission to the senior colleges of African American students, questions about appropriate use of standardized tests, a need for more investment in improved technology at CUNY, the inadequate writing skills of many CUNY students and what we are doing about it,

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support of returning veteran students, and reduced enrollment in CUNY schools of education. Related to the reduced enrollment in schools of education, one UFS rep said one reason for this is massive enrollment in Touro College and other such schools, which are very good at recruiting students, but not so good at giving them a good education after they have been recruited. Finally, the Chancellor said he would welcome email from us about our concerns and about our suggestions for improving education at CUNY.

Chair Martell (after the Chancellor left) said he feels that Chancellor Millikin has a very different attitude from ex-Chancellor Goldstein and a willingness to work with the CUNY faculty and to "look at things anew." Martell also said the university last year seemed to be rushing towards making some changes in CUNY doctoral programs, but that Chancellor Millikin seems to be putting these plans for changes on hold for now.

We heard brief statements about meetings of some CUNY Board committees and brief statements and invitations to join the four current UFS standing committees: Academic Freedom, Libraries and Information Technology, Status of the Faculty, and Student Affairs. The UFS is also creating two new committees: an Academic Affairs Committee and an Enrollment Management Committee.

After this meeting UFS reps received a report about the Sept. 9 meeting of the CUNY Enrollment Management Council, where Dean Robert Ptachik "began by acknowledging the extremity of the previous week's CUNYfirst (CF) breakdowns and their impact on registration at the colleges" and "Jim Murphy, Dean of Enrollment Management, pointed out the outages probably did the most damage to graduate enrollments as such students tend to register at night and off-hours and were less likely to return once turned away. He also characterized communication as 'terrible' and said that people needed to know that CIS, at various points, was unable to determine when the system would be back up."

- (6113) Degree Lists      Professor Langsam presented Degree Lists 2015/3 & 4, which were approved with a vote of 86 yeas, 0 nays, and 4 abstentions.
- (6114) Report of Standing Committees
- Committee on Campus Planning: Professor Smithsimon (Sociology) presented the annual report, which was accepted.
- Committee on Course and Standing: Professor Cohen (Music) presented the annual report, which was accepted.
- Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy, and Budget: Professor MacIntyre (Music) presented the annual report, which was accepted.
- (6115) Old Business
- The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education formally submitted the General Education Review and provided a brief overview. Professor Dexter (CIS) noted that credit is due to Professor Brooks (English), who chaired the Committee on Academic Foundations during the 2013-2014 academic year. Professor Aja (PRLS) thanked the Committee for its hard work and called for a diversity component in general education. Professor Perez y Gonzalez agreed that a diversity component is essential for general education and is a curriculum-oriented goal. Professor Shortell asked if departments should focus on competencies. Professor Kellogg stated that it was the opinion of the committee that the focus should be on proficiency. Professor MacIntyre stated that a missing competency was the understanding of the creative process. The report was accepted with a vote of 82 yeas, 4 nays, and 3 abstentions.
- (6116) New Business
- Professor Ebert (History) presented the following motion, regarding the nominations to the

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CUNY Common Core Review Committee: “Be It Resolved that this body will provide an exemption in this instance only to all previous motions asserting non-compliance to Pathways.” A discussion followed. Professor Bank Munoz suggested tabling the nominations until the November meeting. The Provost responded that he needs the names sooner, as the committee will be constituted this week but that November may be okay. Professor Ebert stated that is worthwhile to have a discussion, especially at this critical moment in general education at Brooklyn College. We should be part of a larger conversation, and we have two operating general education requirements at the moment. Professor Shortell stated that we have just gone through the general education review and reminded Faculty Council of the resolution at the spring, 2013 Stated Meeting of the Faculty, which called for the administration to respect faculty governance. He stated that it not time to change our position on Pathways, especially if we end up developing a new curriculum, which is our decision. Professor Fox stated that Faculty Council rejected Pathways, because faculty governance bodies were not included. Professor Robin (Political Science) pointed out Brooklyn College faculty would be 1/23 of the total membership on the committee, and hence have little influence. Therefore, it’s not worth overturning our principle of non-cooperation. The Provost stated he asked for a number of possible representatives, because the committees want broad representation across disciplines. Professor Kellogg asked if the administration planned to forward names to CUNY Central if Faculty Council did not propose them. The Provost responded in the affirmative. Professor MacIntyre inquired about the status of the two Pathways lawsuits. Professor Raphan (**CIS**) stated it was odd that the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on General Education supported this. Professor Kellogg stated that there are two separate issues: the review of general education is going forward and CUNY Central is deciding Pathways. The Provost stated that there are courses waiting for Pathways approval and that transfers will come to Brooklyn College with Pathways courses. We should have a say in what students get credit for in Pathways. Professor Shortell stated that no one wants to harm students, but there is difference between holding an election and the Provost choosing. Pathways was imposed and now CUNY Central is asking us to manage it. The President stated that the discussion was very good and respectful. She reminded Faculty Council members that votes are public knowledge. However, Faculty Council Steering and the administration have a firm commitment to never ask for these votes, so she urged Faculty Council members to vote their consciences. The motion failed with a vote of 26 yeas, 54 nays, and 9 abstentions.

(6117) Adjournment

There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam  
Chair

Martha Nadell  
Secretary