

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

December 9, 2014

- (6130) Call to order The fourth 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).
- (6131) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Mallory & Hadler (Art), Eshel (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Li (ECAE), Cheng (E&ES), Balk (H&NS), Ebert (History), Zeng (Kinesiology), Walker (Library), Tung (Physics), Robin (Poli Sci.), Watson (SEEK), Bank Munoz (Sociology); School Delegates: Childers, Patkowski & Remy (Humanities & Social Sci.), Augenstein, Grassman & Perdikaris (Nat. & Behav. Sci.), Hughes (Vis., Media & Perform.) were absent (-22); O’Keeffe & Okome (Humanities & Social Sci.) Jones (Nat & Behav Sci.) were excused (-3); Administrators: Joyner, Carey, Moore, Wagner, Psarris, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6132) Minutes of October 14, 2014 & November 11, 2014 Professor Langsam presented the minutes of October 14, 2014 & November 11, 2014, which were approved unanimously.
- (6133) Steering Committee Professor Langsam conducted the election for two members for the Committee on Committees. Professor Gargan (Library) and Grasso (Psychology) were nominated. The Secretary of Faculty Council cast one vote for their election.
- Professor Langsam announced that the special election for the position of Acting Secretary of Faculty Council would take place at the February meeting.
- (6134) Communications from the Administration President Gould described the efforts of the Institute for College Access and Success. The organization initiated a project on student debt last year and published a report entitled “Student Debt and the Class of 2013.” President Gould announced that Brooklyn College had made the list of low-debt colleges. Along with four other CUNY campuses, Brooklyn College is on the list of twenty institutions with the lowest average student debt in the country.
- President Gould stated that conversations and meetings about the contract continue. She declared that she and other CUNY presidents are increasingly concerned that campuses may well feel the weight of the contract without a financial commitment from New York State Governor Cuomo in this academic year and in the following year. She has asked Provost Tramontano to delay a number of searches for faculty. Provost Tramontano will make the decision about the lines quickly and in consultation with the deans.
- President Gould announced that Brooklyn College received a communication from Middle States stating that Brooklyn College had been re-accredited. However, Middle States is asking for an assessment report within eighteen months. We will have to take this very seriously.

Provost Tramontano stated that Brooklyn College received the report, based on the visiting team that came to Brooklyn College. The report had asked that Brooklyn College look at its graduate programs, credit hour policies, and assessment. Middle States asked for a "monitoring report," which means that there was a remote possibility that Brooklyn College could have fallen out of compliance on this standard. Brooklyn College has until April 1, 2016 to produce this report. Middle States is looking for assessment of student outcomes, which is not necessarily restricted to what is taught in courses. Assessment could include academic support services, including the registrar or CAASS. Provost Tramontano stated that Assistant Provost for Special Projects Wagner and he will have a conversation with the Middle States officer. He stated that CUNY Central was surprised that Brooklyn College received this request, but this is relatively common.

Provost Tramontano discussed troubling information received from CUNY Central. Only 14% of courses at Brooklyn College are in compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Brooklyn College is at the bottom of the list at CUNY in terms of compliance. Provost Tramontano urged Faculty Council members to report this problem to full-time and part-time teaching staff and to address this problem.

Provost Tramontano announced that he would disclose the delayed searches to departments by the beginning of the following week.

Faculty Council members responded to Provost Tramontano's remarks about the low rate of compliance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act. They raised concerns about the difficulty of reporting textbooks and finding information in CUNY First. They noted that if adjuncts are appointed at the last minute, they are unable to report their textbooks in a timely manner. Provost Tramontano recognized these difficulties and pointed out that the deadline for reporting fall semester textbooks is in February of the previous semester. President Gould stated that she did not expect compliance to reach 100% but did expect it to be higher. Provost Tramontano stated that the highest level of compliance is 57% and that the other senior colleges are in the 30-40% range. President Gould placed the issue of compliance within the context of reducing student debt.

(6135) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) announced a vacancy on the Core Committee.

The election of five members to the Ad Hoc Faculty Council Committee on Distance Learning was held. For the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professors Remy (History), Girelli - Carasi (Modern Languages), and Evans (Library) were nominated. They received 35, 16, and 25 votes respectively, and Professor Remy was elected. For the School of Business, Professor Yusheng Peng (Econ) was nominated and elected with a single vote from the Secretary. For the School of Education, Professors O'Connor-Petruso (CBSE) and Rubinson (SPCL) were nominated. They received 33 and 42 votes respectively, and Professor Rubinson was elected. For the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, Professor Velling (Math) was nominated and elected with a single vote from the Secretary. For the School of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts, Professor Dunphy (TVR) was nominated and elected with a single vote from the Secretary. A discussion of the charge of this committee and the possibilities of on-line instruction followed. A faculty member asked about the purpose of the committee, to which Professor Langsam responded that Brooklyn College chairs asked Faculty Council to organize a committee to discuss distance learning. Provost Tramontano stated that one of the things involved in Middle States accreditation is attention to on-line courses. After programs add a certain number of on-line courses, they must be re-accredited. Having some guidance about on-line instruction would be helpful as the number of on-line courses increase. Professor Shortell stated that the committee could consider gaps in policy and make recommendations about policy. It could consider what we are doing now and look into changes. Professor Langsam referred to an earlier report on on-line instruction, which may be helpful to the new committee. President Gould discussed the

value about on-line or hybrid instruction, especially during the summer. She raised questions about monitoring, standards, and assessment. She also raised the possibility of the committee exploring where the administration could be helpful if faculty and departments offer on-line instruction. Professor Tremper (English) pointed out that CUNY is offering an on-line workshop for faculty members interested in on-line instruction.

- (6136) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate Professor Fox (English) had nothing to report, as the University Faculty Senate had not yet met.
- (6137) Degree Lists Professor Langsam presented Degree Lists 2015/6 & 7, which were approved with a vote of 67 yeas, 1 nay, and 4 abstentions.
- (6138) Report of Standing Committees
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 372 with changes. It was approved with a vote of 69 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.
 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Whitlock (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 224, which was approved with a vote of 61 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions.
- (6139) Old Business There was no old business.
- (6140) New Business Professor Langsam, at the request of Associate Provost Cheng, discussed issues relating to faculty governance, the Brooklyn College curriculum, and student appeals. He stated that the final decisions on any academic matters are in the hands of the Committees on Course and Standing and Graduate Admissions and Standards. They serve as the supreme court of Brooklyn College, when it comes to academic decisions. The administration has no responsibility for these decisions. Faculty and Chairs should realize that Faculty Council approved requirements in the Brooklyn College Bulletin. Once these requirements are in place, faculty and students must live with them. If faculty members do not like them, they should try to change them, rather than send students to the committees for appeals. In addition, faculty members should not make any representations to students that these requirements can be changed. If students want to sue, Brooklyn College has a lawyer. Faculty members should not send students to deans or provost to pursue complaints. If faculty members do not like regulations, they should attempt to change them through Faculty Council. A vast number of appeals result from misrepresentations to students about the possibility of success with appeals. Professor Langsam suggested that Chairs add "permission of the Chair and curriculum committee" to their programs, so that they may substitute courses for requirements.
- (6141) Adjournment There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
 Chair

Martha Nadell
 Secretary