

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL

March 10, 2015

- (6154) Call to order      The sixth 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).
- (6155) Roll Call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Hadler (Art), Eshel (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Li (ECAE), Girelli-Carasi (Mod Lang), Watson (SEEK); School Delegates: Minter (Humanities & Social Sci.), Perdikaris (Nat. & Behav. Sci.), were absent (-9); Johnson (Kinesiology), Walker (Library), were excused (-2); Administrators: Sillen, Joyner, Carey, Psarris, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6156) Minutes of February 10, 2015      Professor Langsam presented the minutes of February 10, 2015, which were approved unanimously.
- (6157) Steering Committee      Professor Langsam announced that the election for Brooklyn College representatives to the University Faculty Senate will take place online from March 16-20.
- Professor Langsam announced that there would be a vote for a faculty member to the Brooklyn College Association Board at the April Faculty Council meeting. Nominations will be taken for a panel of up to six faculty members from which the President would choose one.
- Professor Langsam announced that the following week there would be two town hall meetings to discuss the General Education proposals.
- (6158) Communications from the Administration      President Gould reported that she had been in Albany in February to lobby for financial support for the Roosevelt Science project. The Brooklyn delegation in the New York State Legislature was very supportive of the project.
- President Gould highlighted various challenges in Governor Cuomo's proposed budget. There was no money allocated for the contract and none for the increased cost of fringe benefits. President Gould pointed out that if the proposed budget passed with no changes, this would have serious ramifications for the senior colleges. President Gould encouraged departments who were undergoing faculty searches to be strategic in their hires. The College would reassess where the budget was and the implications for the College sometime in May.
- President Gould was pleased to report that the Board of Trustees had approved a refurbishment of the alarm system at Brooklyn College.
- President Gould announced that the College was committing to a refurbishment of the backbone of the e-mail servers and that this came as a result of the recommendations of the Technology Committee.
- (6159) Committee on Committees      Professor Shortell (Sociology) announced that Professor Naomi Schiller (Anthro) had agreed to fill the vacancy on the Academic Integrity Committee. There were no nominations from the

floor. Professor Schiller was elected unanimously.

Professor Shortell presented the resolution to amend the charge of the Committee on Academic Integrity to more accurately reflect the work of the committee which had made various changes to conform to CUNY's revised Policy on Academic Integrity as required by the CUNY Board of Trustees. The resolution read:

**Be it resolved** that Faculty Council of Brooklyn College amends the charge of the Committee on Academic Integrity as follows:

FROM

*The Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) shall consist of five members of the faculty. To assure continuity, at least two members should serve for two consecutive years. The AIC will oversee the implementation, interpretation, maintenance, and revision of academic integrity policies at Brooklyn College. This includes: (A) ~~educating students and faculty about the College's expectations, policies, and procedures on Academic Integrity,~~ (B) ensuring that each academic department has a Departmental Academic Integrity Committee (DAIC) to review contested grade reductions resulting from documented incidents of student cheating and plagiarism and providing such committees with advice and assistance, (C) conducting hearings that pertain to student and faculty appeals of the decisions made by DAIC's, (D) reviewing existing policies and procedures and preparing and submitting appropriate recommendations and legislation to Faculty Council and other governance bodies. The committee will consult relevant documentation (e.g., ~~Faculty Report forms~~) collected by the ~~Office of the Dean for student Life, and a representative from that office may attend meetings in an advisory capacity. Files on decisions from this committee will be maintained by the Office for the Dean of Student Life.~~ An attorney from the college's legal affairs office may also be present to act as legal advisor to the committee. # shall submit to the Faculty Council at its regular April meeting an annual report of its activities.*

TO

*The Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) shall consist of five members of the faculty. To assure continuity, at least two members should serve for two consecutive years. The AIC will oversee the implementation, interpretation, maintenance, and revision of academic integrity policy at Brooklyn College. This includes: (A) conducting hearings when students choose to contest faculty allegations of academic dishonesty, (B) reviewing existing policies and procedures and preparing and submitting appropriate recommendations and legislation to Faculty Council and other governance bodies, and (C) educating students and faculty about the College's expectations, policies, and procedures on Academic Integrity. The committee will consult relevant documentation (e.g., the Faculty Action Report for Incidents of Academic Dishonesty) collected by the campus Academic Integrity Officer in the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. The Academic Integrity Officer may attend meetings in an advisory capacity. Files on decisions from this committee will be maintained by the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. An attorney from the college's legal affairs office may also be present to act as legal advisor to the committee. The AIC shall submit to the Faculty Council at its regular April meeting an annual report of its activities.*

The resolution was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention.

Professor Langsam noted the importance of faculty familiarizing themselves with CUNY's Policy on Academic Integrity.

Professor Shortell made a call for volunteers for committee service and asked those present

to encourage their colleagues to serve, and especially look for faculty who may be willing to chair committees. Professor Shortell emphasized how vital it is to have adequate representation from all the schools on major committees.

(6160) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) submitted the following report from the February 10, 2015 Meeting of the CUNY University Faculty Senate:

Guest speaker CUNY Chancellor James Millikin spoke about his recent presentation to the NY State Legislature. The Chancellor highlighted his support for the Dream Act, which would allow undocumented college students to be eligible to apply for state tuition assistance. The Chancellor was proud that three CUNY colleges were listed in the top 10 “Bang for your Buck” US colleges in a recent national report. Many CUNY students, he said, come from families whose income places them in the bottom quintile of the US economy. Nationally, 50% of students whose family income is in the top quintile receive a BA degree, whereas for students whose family income is in the bottom quintile, only one in ten receive a BA degree. But those who do receive a degree have a better chance of obtaining a good career and salary. Chancellor Millikin said CUNY would like to hire 500 new full-time faculty next year. CUNY has 3500 fewer full-time faculty than it did in 1974 but more students. But the Governor’s budget proposal would not allow many new hires. It does not fully fund the ASAP program, reduces funding for CUNY childcare programs and the SEEK and College Discovery programs, although negotiations may restore funding. The budget currently does not include funding of \$25 million in mandated fringe benefits, funding for step increases, and funding for operating expenses of some newly built CUNY facilities. The budget also includes \$35 million less in TAP funds than the amount required to cover all TAP eligible students.

Chair Martell reported that the Governor says he is increasing the CUNY budget by \$52 million; the CUNY Compact tuition increases will provide \$60 million more in funding, but the Governor’s budget does not cover about \$48 million in mandated expenses, which includes the \$25 million referred to earlier by the Chancellor, as well as other mandated expenses, which means that the State is not increasing its share of funding for CUNY. The CUNY Compact was supposed to include additional revenue from increased student tuition and increased funding from the State, but it seems that the State is not fulfilling its part of the agreement. As this will be the last of the five years of the agreed upon yearly tuition increases of \$300, the Governor’s proposed budget does not seem to support any salary increases in a new union contract or funding for new lines for next year.

In reference to the Governor’s demand for “required experiential learning” at CUNY, the Chancellor stated his belief that faculty should have a voice in this matter. Chair Martell referred to this demand as “a huge unfunded mandate” and reported that the UFS Executive Committee is considering how to respond. One UFS member commented, “The proposal is job readiness oriented. It assumes the purpose of higher education is to prepare students for the workforce. Liberal education doesn’t seem to enter the Governor’s mind.” Some representatives pointed out that it is good for our students to have internship opportunities, which would help them to get jobs after graduation, although they believe that this and other curriculum recommendations should come from faculty, not as mandates from Albany.

During the question session, BC representative Len Fox told the Chancellor that at Brooklyn College, the Provost, following the orders of Chancellor Goldstein, put into the college bulletin a Pathways curriculum that was not accepted by Faculty Council. A Faculty Council Committee was working hard developing a curriculum the faculty could believe in and accept. BC faculty hoped that when this proposed curriculum is sent to the Provost and to him, he will seriously look at and consider it. In response, the Chancellor said that he understood that Pathways was somewhat modified last year and that a committee is currently reviewing it. He

asked if he would be receiving this proposed Brooklyn College general education curriculum, and he was given an affirmative response.

The UFS Spring conference on International Education, Friday, April 24 at John Jay College, will cover such topics as starting study abroad programs, applying for grants to study or do research abroad, and integrating globalization into CUNY class curricula.

(6161) Degree Lists Professor Langsam presented Degree Lists 2015/10, which was approved with a vote of 86 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.

(6162) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy and Budget: Professor Bank Munoz (Sociology) read aloud the charge of the committee:

*The Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy and Budget shall consist of six members of the faculty and one student. It shall be charged with identifying current and emerging needs in all areas within the jurisdiction of the faculty and with making appropriate recommendations. In addition, the committee shall consider the budgetary policy of the college, particularly in effect of budgetary decisions on the academic program. The committee shall exercise an advisory role in the formation of the fiscal policy of the college and shall keep the Faculty Council informed on all developments in this area. The committee shall consult with all student, faculty, and administrative agencies pertinent to its duties and shall have access to all relevant documentations. It shall submit to the Faculty Council reports and recommendations appropriate to its charge, including an annual report in May.*

After reading the charge, Professor Bank Munoz added the following remarks:

“Admittedly this is a really broad charge. Master Planning sees itself as an oversight committee as well as the faculty’s big picture committee that thinks about the implications of changes to educational policy, budget and the mission of the College.

“According to our governance plan, curriculum is in the hands of faculty, while budget is in the hands of the administration. While Master Planning does not have the authority to approve or pass policy, particularly as it relates to the budget, we are in our full right to discuss and have opinions. As such, all major curricular changes in departments and programs should come to us.

“There are very specific guidelines on new programs and we will have the updated guide to developing programs ready by the end of the year. In the meantime, departments and programs should reach out to Master Planning if you are considering new programs, concentrations, tracks, certificates, etc. The same goes for splitting programs up, eliminating existing programs or making other fundamental changes. Again, I want to reinforce that the committee is well aware that we do not have the authority to approve or reject; however we can make recommendations.

“Master Planning has found it disconcerting that this year alone the administration has split departments in the School of Business and moved the status of Seek from a department to a program without consultation with Master Planning. These are changes to educational policy and budget and clearly in the purview of Master Planning. Similarly, a department has tried to fast track a change in their program by going directly to Faculty Council without Master Planning consultation. I urge us all to follow our own governance plan. If you are considering program changes, reach out

to me. Master Planning meets a minimum of once a month.”

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 374. It was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Professor Cohen announced that March 16 was the deadline for submissions to the committee in order for new courses and changes to appear in the 2015-2016 Bulletin. Special topics courses may be submitted beyond this deadline.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Whitlock (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 226. FILM 7514G was withdrawn because the department had not sought clearance from the TV and Radio Department. The ensuing document was approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.

(6163) Old Business

There was no old business.

(6164) New Business

Ad Hoc Committee on General Education: Co-Chair Professors Dexter (CIS) and committee member Steel (English) presented the report of the committee (co-chair Elaine Brooks [English] was unable to attend). Professor Dexter thanked the past and current committee members for all their work, particularly Professor Kellog (Classics), explained the background and context for the two general education frameworks presented in the report. Professor Langsam then opened the floor for discussion. After a lively, varied, and thoughtful discussion, Professor Langsam reminded faculty that a vote on the two models would take place at the April 14 Faculty Council meeting.

(6165) Adjournment

There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam  
Chair

Sharona Levy  
Acting Secretary