

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

September 8, 2015

- (6191) Call to order The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2015-2016 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6192) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Ciszowska (Chemistry), Cox (CIS), Li (ECAE), Shottenkirk (Philosophy), Robin (Poli. Sci.), Adams (SEED); School Delegates: Murrow & Rubinson (Education), Bowdoin, Braine & Fox (Humanities & Social Sci.) Magliozzo (Nat. & Bev. Sci.), Entin (Program. Dir.) were absent (-13); Parmar (Film) were excused (-1); Administrators: Carey, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6193) Minutes of May 5, 2015 Professor Langsam announced that the minutes of May 5, 2015 would be presented at the October meeting of Faculty Council.
- (6194) Steering Committee Professor Langsam welcomed returning and new members to Faculty Council. He then thanked Professor Walker (Library), who is leaving Brooklyn College for another post. We wish her all success and thank her for all that she has done for Brooklyn College, he stated. He remarked that Faculty Council is an extremely important body, indeed the most important body at Brooklyn College. He described the governance structure of Brooklyn College. The Faculty is constituted by the entirety of faculty members at Brooklyn College and meets only twice per year at the Stated Meeting of the Faculty. Faculty Council is the legislative body of The Faculty. Its responsibilities include the formation of policy regarding admission and retention of students, including health and scholarship standards, student attendance, curriculum, awarding of college credit, and the granting of degrees. Over the last two years, Faculty Council was involved in a very intense and heated discussion of General Education. At the end of last semester, Faculty Council passed a motion that defined General Education at Brooklyn College. This year, Faculty Council will focus on implementation. Faculty Council members will have already received an e-mail about implementation. At the next meeting, the chairs of the General Education Committee will speak about progress in this arena. Professor Langsam reminded members that Faculty Council operated under *Roberts Rules of Order* modified by the New York State Open Meeting Law, which means that anyone can attend but only members can speak. All votes must be public, which is why we vote with a clicker. Professor Langsam assured members that Faculty Council Steering and the Brooklyn College administration will never look at these votes. Rather than a simple majority winning in a vote that is a final item, a majority of members of Faculty Council is required for a positive vote. If anyone has any concerns, Faculty Council Steering is ready for any communication and advocacy.

Professor Langsam announced that the elections for Chairperson, Secretary, and two members at-large of Faculty Council would take place at the October meeting.

An election for the slate from which President Gould would choose three representatives for the Presidential Search Committee took place. For the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Professors Davis (English) and Evans (Library) were nominated. The Secretary cast a single vote for both. For the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, Professors

Hainline (Psychology), Hejtmanek (Anthropology), Kobrak (Chemistry), and Langsam were nominated. Professors Hainline and Langsam were chosen with votes of 50 and 65, respectively. For the School of Visual, Media, and Performing Arts, Professors Grubbs (Music), Macias (TVR), Rodman (TVR), and Vivier (Theater) were nominated. Professors Grubbs and Vivier were chosen with votes of 51 (first round) and 48 (second round), respectively. For the School of Business, Professors Bassell (Business Management), Klein (Economics), and Queneau (Business Management) were nominated. Professors Klein and Queneau were chosen with votes of 59 and 75, respectively. For the School of Education, Professors Li (ECEA), Bloomfield (SPCL), and Taubman (SEED) were nominated. Professors Li and Taubman were chosen with votes of 52 and 54, respectively.

(6195) Communications
from the Administration

President Gould welcomed back Faculty Council members. She told Faculty Council that CUNY By-Laws indicate that the President must select three faculty members for the search committee.

President Gould stated that we are starting off the year with some challenges, which she went over with the chairs at some length the previous week. There is lots of information available. Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration Giovannelli has volunteered to have a session with those who want to know more about the budget. President Gould spoke briefly about the budget cuts mandated at the last minute by CUNY because of New York State. The problem lies with New York State, so President Gould urged all to Albany to advocate for CUNY. New York State Governor Cuomo signed the budget in April. At that point, CUNY realized that the Governor had no interest in covering mandatory costs. For the senior colleges, which are not supported by New York City, the mandatory costs totaled \$63 million. CUNY and the PSC worked very hard on this, because of the common concern about budget cuts. There were lots of hands on deck, but no one had any traction with the Governor. At the end of June, the Governor did not restore the cuts, so CUNY faced a \$63 million cut, which was passed down. The President reported that she heard that CUNY Central was taking around a 6% but, but it has not been transparent about it. Brooklyn College has a 3% budget cut, which means that rather than receiving a regular fall budget, \$3.4 million was taken off of the top of the budget. Moreover, CUNY did not receive additional funds from students, who are paying \$300 more per semester than last year. Those funds, amounting to roughly \$4 million, have been put aside for a bucket for the faculty and staff contract. That is a good thing, stated President Gould, but the way CUNY went about doing this was difficult, because Brooklyn College had hired more than twenty new faculty. Brooklyn College did not receive the expected \$1 million in student fees for these new lines. President Gould stated that her fellow College Presidents were all dumbfounded. This is a good cause, she remarked, because we all want a new contract to be in place. In addition, some step increases have not been provided by the Governor or CUNY. That amounts to around \$750,000. In total, Brooklyn College has a roughly \$5 million budget hole that was not anticipated last spring. It was not until June 30, 2015 that this information was disseminated. During the month of July, President Gould, Provost Tramontano, SVP Giovannelli, and Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning and CFO Gilbert, scrambled as they attempted to figure out how to address the budget cut quickly. President Gould reminded Faculty Council that \$4 million was a base cut and will have to be addressed next year as well. There is some flexibility in the total budget of \$120 million. Approximately \$1.8 to \$2 million in reserves will be used. Energy savings will amount to \$1 to \$1.2 million. Brooklyn College's healthy enrollment, which has not increased since last year but whose composition has shifted, will also help. Incoming graduate student numbers are up but returning graduate student numbers are down. New freshman enrollment is stable, but there is an uptick in returning undergrads. This healthy enrollment will provide additional funds by the end of year, which will be added to the reserves again. Over \$1 million will come from stopped searches, unfilled positions in all staff and administrative

areas. That will continue throughout the year. There was an effort to reduce the adjunct expenditures by about \$500,000, but Brooklyn College was unable to cut the adjunct budget. Brooklyn College has moved the budget to respond to student need. The Provost and the Deans are watching the adjunct budget closely, so we don't overspend in that area. There is the same number of full time faculty that there were in the spring, but there are fewer substitute instructors and more adjuncts. This was not an easy thing to do, especially at the last minute. It will be easier to plan for spring. We will be more mindful about adjunct spending. There will be faculty searches, but the Provost is looking at them carefully. President Gould thanked faculty for the help they are giving. Let's hope that lobbying this year will lead to a more rational approach to the budget, President Gould stated. The legislature, to their credit, did move forward to support mandatory costs going forward in future budgets for CUNY and SUNY. This is sitting on the Governor's desk, and most think that he probably will not sign it. President Gould stated that we must be vigilant and we must not be complacent with the Governor's office.

President Gould reported that the Chancellor has created a task force on experiential learning. The Governor thinks that CUNY and SUNY should spend year exploring if it makes sense to require experiential learning of all students. Brooklyn College does not have a representative on the task force, but the entire campus will be asked to give more information about experiential learning. Brooklyn College will report on the breadth of experiential learning and think about whether it makes sense to require it.

Provost Tramontano spoke about Middle States. The Middle States Monitoring Report is due on April 1, 2016. Assistant Provost Wagner has retired. Professor Mel Pipe (Psychology) is serving as Acting Assistant Provost. This document is extremely important. Assistant Provost Pipe is gathering the information and getting it into the format that Middle States requires. The Provost thanked Acting Assistant Provost Pipe, former Assistant Provost Wagner, and Professor Walker for their service.

(6196) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the nominations for Faculty Council committees with changes. Professors Alexakos (SEED) and Chanowitz (Psychology) were nominated from the floor to the Committee on Core Curriculum. Professor Alexakos was added to the slate with a vote of 46 to 33. The nominations were approved unanimously.

(6197) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

As the University Faculty Senate had not yet met for the 2015-2016 academic year, there was no report from the liaison with the University Faculty Senate.

(6198) Degree Lists

Professor Langsam reported that Degree Lists 2015/14 & 15 were approved over the summer by Faculty Council Steering. Degree Lists 2016/1 & 2 were approved with a vote of 79 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.

(6199) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Evans presented Curriculum Document 229, which was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements & Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum: Professor Cohen (Music) listed the deadlines for the submission of new courses (September 16, 2015, October 19, 2015, November 16, 2015, December 14, 2015, February 22, 2016, March 21, 2016, and April 18, 2016). He urged departments to submit new courses in time for the December meeting to address the problem with courses not getting into CUNYFirst in a timely enough manner for fall 2016 registration.

Committee on Graduate Admissions and Standards: Professor Porter (Sociology) presented

the annual report, which was corrected and accepted.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Whitlock presented the annual report, which was accepted.

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen presented the annual report, which was accepted.

Committee on Library: Professor Estey (Political Science) presented the annual report. Professor Vitale (Sociology) asked about the Topfer fund. Professor Walker stated that Brooklyn College has information about how the funds have been since President Gould has been at Brooklyn College, but that information is not available for the period before then. not before then. Professor Entin (American Studies) asked if Brooklyn College had enough funds to maintain the building. Professor Walker stated that the library doesn't maintain its own building. Foundation repair has been scheduled, and work orders are in place. As of last Friday, the renovation of the Multipurpose Room was completed, thanks to funds for repair. The Provost stated that infrastructure problems stem from usage that this building gets and that we don't have all the resources we need. The Library, he stated, is the soul of Brooklyn College, but we need a restitution of budget. Professor Walker reported that health and safety issues have been prioritized.

Committee on Research: Professor Biasi (CIS) presented the annual report, which was accepted.

Committee on Review of Student Records: The annual report was accepted.

(6200) Old Business

There was no old business.

(6201) New Business

There was no new business.

(6202) Adjournment

There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:47. pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary