

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

November 10, 2015

- (6215) Call to order The third 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).
- (6216) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Byam (Africana), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Law (Poli Sci), Adams (SEED); School Delegate: Rubinson (Edu.), Bowdoin, Braine, Fox, & Sowers (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Magliozzo (Nat. & Bev. Sci.) were absent (-10); Biais (Nat Behav & Sci) were excused (-1); Administrators: Sillen, Carey, Moore, Hopkins, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6217) Minutes of October 13, 2015 The minutes of October 13, 2015, with a change, were approved unanimously.
- (6218) Steering Committee Professor Langsam led two moments of silence for Professors Lennert Anderson (Art) and Dan Eshel (Bio). He read the following:
 “It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Lennart Anderson, a Distinguished Professor in the Art Department, who began here in 1974. Born in 1928, Professor Anderson attended the The Art Institute of Chicago, Cranbrook Academy and he also studied at the Art Students League under Edwin Dickinson. His prestigious awards included a Guggenheim fellowship, a Tiffany Foundation grant, a National Endowment for the Arts grant and the Rome Prize. He had a long career exhibiting in solo shows around New York City and elsewhere. In addition to his time at Brooklyn College, he taught at Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Pratt Institute, the Skowhegan School, and the New York Studio School. A truly wonderful painter and teacher, he is survived by his children Eliza, Orrin and Jeanette.”

 “Professor Dan Eshel of the Biology Department was known for putting the needs of his students and faculty members first and for his kind and reflective manner, Professor Eshel was held in the highest regard by all who worked with him. “Fairness,” “integrity,” and “true professionalism” are the words colleagues have used to characterize Professor Eshel’s leadership in the department and among fellow chairs from across the college. Professor Eshel received his Bachelor of Science degree, Master’s degree, and Ph.D. from Ben Gurion University in Be’er Sheva, Israel. He began his academic career at Brooklyn College in 1993, served as acting chair in 2012-13, and became chair of the Department of Biology in July of 2013. Professor Eshel passed away on November 6. He is survived by his loving wife Ilana. We extend our condolences to Professor Eshel’s wife, family and friends, as well as to his colleagues, students, and staff in the Department of Biology. He is mourned and greatly missed by all who knew him.”

On behalf of Steering, Professor Langsam thanked Brooklyn College faculty who were arrested at the recent contract protest. He reminded Faculty Council that the 20th anniversary of Faculty Day would occur on May 24, 2016. Faculty members are encouraged to participate. He reminded Faculty Council members that they must show their Brooklyn College IDs in order to enter the Brooklyn College Library, just as students must do. Cooperation is appreciated. He announced that, at the December meeting of Faculty Council, elections would take place for two members of the Committee on Committees. Nominees must be members of Faculty Council and must be willing to serve.

(6219) Communications
from the Administration

President Gould provided an update relating to Facilities. As a result of conversations in several locations, this semester and last spring, an on-the-ground scan of all water fountains is underway. Some water fountains work well, others do not work at all, and others are on their last legs. Brooklyn College is now undergoing a budget analysis so that current water fountains may be replaced with sustainable water fountains, where members of the Brooklyn College community will be able to refill their water bottles. These water fountains will be phased in, because of budget concerns and priority to replace non-functioning water fountains first. She asked faculty members to let Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration Giovannelli know if they notice water fountains that do not function.

President Gould stated that, partially as a result of last year's report from the Committee on the Library and some student issues, there will be a thorough examination of the Library Café, through appropriate staff, security, and the Acting Director of the Library. Every aspect of the 24-hour café will be evaluated, including questions about service, who is coming in, how long are they staying, are they sleeping or awake, etc. There have been a number of allegations around student realm, some of which seem to be hyperbolic. Nonetheless, this examination is important, as this is the only place on campus that is open 24 hours. The administration wants to make sure that the site is functioning well, efficiently, safely, and securely. If there are technological items that are non-functional or declining, there will be an assessment of how to replace them. A report will be issued in the spring. The report will speak to broader issues relating to the Library as well, including the rising cost of journals. There had been some hope that CUNY Central would provide help with scientific journals, but, due to budget and personnel constraints, this is not the case, despite the fact that CUNY is a large university system. This may change in the future.

Provost Tramontano stated that the link to the COACHE survey has been sent out and that the next phase of the conversation is set to begin. He has already spoken to Faculty Council Steering and the leadership of CAP. A steering committee will be formed to decide how to dissect the report. Then several subcommittees will address after specific problems. The process will commence in the following week.

Provost Tramontano stated that Brooklyn College successfully submitted a proposal for the \$12 million CUNY Strategic Investment Initiative for the senior college. A first-rate proposal submitted by Professor Cherrier (EES) was successful. The project addresses sustainability, student success, and experiential learning. Funds in the amount of \$600,000 will be used to instruct and then send students into parks, including Jamaica Bay. Professor Balk and Chu (HNS) put forth a proposal to develop a new MPH program. Professor Levy (Speech) and Director of the Speech and Hearing Center Bergen put forth a proposal. Associate Provost Chang and Acting Vice President of Enrollment Management O'Reilly put forth a proposal for advisement, especially for students in the Koppelman School of Business. Dean of the Koppelman School of Business Hopkins stated that Associate Dean Scott should get credit for drafting the proposal coming out of that school.

President Gould congratulated Vice President for Student Affairs Morales for the Division of

Student Affairs, and the Veteran Students' Services, which was rated number one in CUNY.

Professor Estey (Poli Sci) asked about the information that will be included in spring report about the Library. President Gould stated that she would have more information at the December meeting. Professor Vitale (Sociology) asked about new allegations of spying targeting Brooklyn College student clubs by the New York Police Department. He referred to a previous resolution calling on the Brooklyn College Administration to reach out to the NYPD and other agencies to express deep concern about these activities. He asked President Gould about actual outreach to government agencies that may be behind this spying. President Gould responded that she is very concerned, as are students, about the alleged planting. There are a number of rumors going around, some of which are not correct. She stated that she would report on what she knows, which is second hand; the students, who believe that they were being watched and who believe that an undercover person was embedded in their activities, have not shared their story with her, even though they were invited to do so. They have shared some of their story with other students, who have raised the issue in general terms. That is understandable because the students are very nervous. This puts President Gould in a difficult position in terms of talking about it, as she wants to respect the confidentiality of the students. However, she is concerned, based on information from a faculty member and a student group. This was brought to President Gould's attention during the early part of the summer. She was given a photograph about the alleged undercover infiltrator. With the consent of the faculty member, this photograph was shared with Campus Safety. She encouraged the faculty member to speak to Director of Campus Safety and Public Security Wenz, to whom she spoke as well. He had no knowledge of this activity. What is troubling is that this appears to have been going on for some time. The reason that students became alarmed after quite a long time of interacting with this person has to do with arrests last spring in Queens. A number of individuals were arrested for alleged efforts to commit violent activities. As a result of that information becoming public, a couple of Brooklyn College students began to believe that the NYPD informant might be the same person. And, in fact, it appears to be that the person who was spending time with some of our students, in their club activities, at their homes, and socially, was the same person involved with the Queens arrests. This is very disturbing. President Gould has relayed this to CUNY senior administration, but has not contacted the mayor. The problem that she has is that she does not know all of the specifics. However, at the urging of faculty, she will feel quite justified in taking the next step. She will let the Chancellor know about this. She will declare that we are alarmed once again, on behalf of students and the campus community, about this kind of campus activity. President Gould then reminded Faculty Council that campus security at Brooklyn College is never notified when there is undercover activity on or near campus. If an arrest is about to be made, NYPD will contact campus security immediately prior to the action. However, NYPD never informs campus security about undercover activity. This is very troubling, she stated. We all have responsibility to help our students be aware of their own safety needs; unfortunately, in the world we live in today, our students are not always aware of the ways in which they can be watched and lured. Brooklyn College wants students to make sure that student clubs understand why we ask them to have information about members in the room at club activities. We want to make sure that no one else is in the room trying to make friends and pretend they are students. At the Student Center, which is not on campus and has lots of traffic, it can be easy to become one of the group, for example. Faculty, said President Gould, will notice increasing requests for card identification, because of an entirely separate matter. Director Wenz was informed by the NYPD in late August that there was illegal activity in the area on the streets. Last year one student visiting the campus was taken aside in broad daylight and intimidated. Campus security wants to make sure that these elements do not enter campus. Some of this activity appears to be gang-related initiation rites and is

located in some high schools. Students themselves have expressed concerns, when they don't feel as though campus security does not check cards at the gates enough.

- (6220) Committee on Committees Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the nomination of Professor Gerstein (ACCT) for the Committee on Campus Planning, which was approved unanimously.
- (6221) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate Professor Queneau (BuMa), the liaison with the University Faculty Senate, reported on the UFS meeting of October 27, 2015. The guest was Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Rabinowitz. She spoke about nine priorities for CUNY. The first is remediation. Roughly 82% of community college students need remediation, in writing, reading, or math. Notable is the fact that 76% need remediation in math and 60% never graduate. The second priority is degree completion/academic momentum to degree. One idea to address this issue is reverse transfer, which would involve students that transfer before they reach 60 credits. Once they reach 60 credits at a senior college, they would receive an associate's degree from the community college. Another issues is the ease of transfer. Pathways will be reviewed to see if it does indeed ease transfer. The third priority is the improvement of teacher education. The fourth is workforce education and development. The fifth is faculty satisfaction, development, and advancement. A task force will be created in that arena. The sixth priority is research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The seventh is strategic and master planning. The eighth priority is digital CUNY, which would use on-line learning to speed degree completion. The ninth priority is global CUNY, which would push. Global experiences and opportunities. Currently, only 1600 students study abroad, which is a small number given the scale of CUNY. Provost Rabinowitz responded to a question about the COACHE survey. She stated that it was up to the leadership of each campus to decide how to make the results available and how to use those results to make improvements. There was a question about whether a similar survey related to adjuncts could be conducted in the future. She stated that the idea was good and may happen. Professor Queneau referred to a pervious concern about intellectual property rights for online courses. The response from the Chancellor was good, he reported.
- (6222) Degree Lists Degree List 2016/5 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (6223) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 377, which was approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. Professor Langsam asked about the status of the current year's *Bulletin*. Assistant Vice President of Communication & Marketing Carey stated that the *Bulletin* had to be rethought. The office for Communication's & Marketing office took the existing Bulletin and separated the front from the back matter. As the office reviewed it, it found a number of errors that had to be corrected. In the interim, the office posted links to where the front matter The back matter comes from ITS and is posted as a pdf. The office will make sure that everything is correct in the front matter and back matter. The office is at the last stages of this editing process, so a final pdf can be delivered. There were some issues with how corrections are made and there will conversations about how to post addenda. Professor Langsam reminded Faculty Council that the front matter in the *Bulletin* is under control of Faculty Council. Any changes to the *Bulletin* must be approved by Faculty Council and not made based on other considerations. The fact that there is no *Bulletin* for this year, even as we are starting spring registration, is something that should have been seen ahead of time, and indeed next year's *Bulletin* should be underway, when there is less than a year to go.

The Brooklyn College administration has previously emphasized deadlines for the *Bulletin* so that there must be a Bulletin by the end of August seems to be odd, given today's calendar date. He reiterated the concern that the Bulletin is not yet complete, which is very troubling. A question was raised about deadlines for Faculty Council. For a course to be in the 2016-2017 *Bulletin*, it must be in by the April meeting of Faculty Council. However, courses that are not approved by the December meeting of Faculty Council, will not be available in CUNYFirst in a timely manner for fall registration.

Ad Hoc Committee on General Education Implementation: Professors Steel (English) and Childers (MLL) presented the Resolution on the General Education and Courses for Majors. They explained the reasons for bringing the resolution forward. First, this may increase regular faculty participation in General Education, as it may address workload constraints for faculty, whose primary responsibility is teaching in departmental majors. Second, this may reduce the separation of majors and non-majors in General Education courses. Third, this may allow departments to audition their majors for students. Fourth, it may allow the broadest possible participation of departments in General Education. They first presented an amendment to change the final paragraph to the following: "BE IT RESOLVED that their own discretion, departments have the option of offering major courses as General Education courses and students may count those toward the major, up to a limit of six credits per major." A second amendment was proposed: to change "six credits" to "two courses." The second amendment passed with a vote of 73 yeas, 9 nays, and 1 abstention. A third amendment was proposed: to add "minors/ concentrations." The third amendment passed with a vote of 73 yeas, 6 nays, and 3 abstentions. A fourth amendment was proposed "of at least six credits". A fifth amendment was proposed: "of at least three credits each." The fifth amendment passed unanimously. The fourth amendment passed unanimously. A sixth amendment was proposed to include "programs." The amendment passed unanimously. A motion was made to return the resolution to the committee. The question was called. Following a quorum call (76 members present), the calling of the question passed with 67 yeas, 17 nays, and 1 abstention. The motion to send the resolution back to committee failed with 25 yeas, 53 nays, and 0 abstentions. A seventh amendment was made to include "and these may count to toward the major/minor/concentration." An eighth amendment was made to strike "at their discretion." The eighth amendment passed unanimously. The seventh amendment passed unanimously. The final resolution included the following final paragraph: "BE IT RESOLVED that departments and programs have the option of offering major/minor/concentration courses as Gen Ed courses, and these may count toward the major/minor/concentration, up to the limit of two courses (of at least three credits each) per major/minor/concentration." The resolution passed with a vote of 60 yeas, 6 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Committee on Computer Utilization & Educational Technology: The annual report was presented and accepted.

(6224) Old Business

There was no old business.

(6225) New Business

There was no new business.

(6226) Adjournment

There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 5:00. pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary