

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL

December 8, 2015

- (6227) Call to order      The fourth 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 Perez y Gonzalez (PRLS), who announced that she would lead Faculty Council, as Faculty Council Chair Professor Langsam (CIS) was at a meeting of the New York State Emergency Medical Services Council.
- (6228) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Ciszowska (Chemistry), Adams (SEED); School Delegate: Rubinson (Edu.), Bowdoin, Braine, Fox, & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Crump & Magliozzo (Nat. & Bev. Sci.) were absent (-9); Langsam (CIS) were excused (-1); Administrators: Carey, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6229) Minutes of November 10, 2015      The minutes of November 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.
- (6230) Steering Committee      Professor Perez y Gonzalez announced the passing of the father of Professor Langsam and stated that condolences extended over e-mail would be appreciated.
- Professor Perez y Gonzalez led two moments of silence for Professors Sirota (HNS) and Weinstein (BUSN). She read the following:
- “Dr Lorraine Sirota, an Associate Professor in the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, passed away on November 8, 2015. Dr. Sirota received her Ed. D. in Nutrition Education from Columbia University Teachers College and soon after began her career as a full-time faculty member at Brooklyn College. Her appointment was initially in the Department of Home Economics and Consumer Studies, where she worked to develop the undergraduate program that leads to the professional credential of Registered Dietitian. She joined the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences in 1985. Her interest throughout her teaching career remained Nutrition Education as applied to the needs of the community. She developed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses relevant to that field, and mentored many students whose calling lay in serving our local communities. She retired from CUNY in 2014.”
- “Professor Michael Weinstein passed away on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. He is survived by his wife and two children. This is a great loss for the Department of Business Management and Brooklyn College. Professor Weinstein was an

outstanding professor who was loved and admired by his students and colleagues. He was a kind man and a wonderful colleague with a radiant personality. He will be forever missed.

Professor Weinstein joined the Department of Economics at Brooklyn College in September 1999. Over the years, he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in management, marketing, international business, and finance. Professor Weinstein was a well-accomplished scholar in the areas of international business and management. He received a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Kiev University in Ukraine and a Master of Business Administration from Farleigh Dickinson University. Professor Weinstein was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Management from the Ukrainian National Academy of Management. Professor Weinstein was an exceptional teacher. The following excerpt from a tribute written by a student, who was in his class during the Fall 2015 semester, fully captures Professor Weinstein's extraordinary talent as a teacher:

“Professor Weinstein was a great teacher. I am deeply saddened that we lost him. You could tell that he had a heart of gold. When I remember his reaction to our questions, his facial expression, it still makes me smile :) (...) THANK YOU Professor Weinstein for touching our lives and being a great teacher. You were one of the few remarkable teachers I have ever had.”

Professor Perez y Gonzalez called for nominations for two members of the Committee on Committees. Professor K. Andersen (Film) and Levy (SEEK) were nominated. Professor Perez y Gonzalez then called nominations for the Advisory Committee for Campus Safety. Professors Basil (Biology) and Shapiro (Judaic Studies) were nominated. The Secretary cast one vote for each.

(6231) Communications  
from the Administration

President Gould reported on the financial front. She stated that New York State Governor will be expediting his budget in early January, probably on January 13, 2016. President Gould and Vice President for Community Relations Schechter will be in Albany during the first week of February. Each CUNY campus will present “packets of value,” which describe how the campuses use resources, including hiring new faculty, and various ways of improving academic excellence and infrastructure, which has been challenging. The New York State Legislature put the Maintenance of Effort Bill (MOE) on the Governor's desk, but it is very unlikely that he will sign this bill.

President Gould stated that she had good news. She spoke of Mr. Samuel H. Gottlieb '39, a History major, who, following his graduation, fought in World War II and received many Medals of Honor. He attended Brooklyn Law School and moved to Florida and never came back to Brooklyn College. Acting Director of Alumni Affairs Iadarola and Executive Director of the Brooklyn College Foundation Sillen visited Mr. Gottlieb in 2011. He then decided to leave his estate to Brooklyn College, one of the two causes about which he cared (the other was the Israeli Red Cross). Mr. Gottlieb passed away at the age of 95, and his estate is being settled. Brooklyn College will receive roughly \$1.55 million for the Library in unrestricted funds. The funds will have to be spent within five years. Provost Tramontano, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Giovannelli, and Acting Director of the Library Cramer will consult about the gift and the most important and

immediate needs that we may be able to address beginning this spring, though Brooklyn College will wait until the funds are moved. Recent Library reports will be reviewed with an eye toward what resources might be tapped and how this fund can best be used. It is a wonderful thing, the President stated, and it is a reminder of importance of touching base with alumni and having strong major gifts officers. President Gould thanked Acting Director of Alumni Affairs Iadarola and the Office of Advancement and all who have been associated with Mr. Gottlieb's wonderful desires. She extended special thanks to Mr. Gottlieb himself, may he rest in peace.

Professor Meagher asked Executive Director of Government and External Affairs Schechter if the New York State Legislature is rooting in favor or against the MOE. Executive Director Schechter stated that the bill passed almost unanimously in both houses. In general, as the Governor has said in other veto messages for similar legislation, this kind of legislation would require New York State to cover all incremental costs for CUNY, SUNY, and SUNY hospitals (including labor costs, rent, insurance, and other items) in perpetuity, unless there was a financial barrier. From the Governor's perspective, the veto message does not speak to merits of CUNY or SUNY but speaks to efforts to limit executive power by the legislature. Something like the MOE, which requires New York State to do something, would take away the Governor's power to determine the budget, and he will not sign on to this. Executive Director Schechter commented about the timing. He stated that the Legislature does not want to embarrass the Governor, so, although this bill was passed in June, it was sent to the Governor only recently. Should the Governor veto it, the Legislature will not have time to override the veto. This bill also included the SUNY Hospitals, which alone are facing an \$800 million gap, which is a huge number. That alone, from a fiscal perspective, made the passing of this bill unlikely.

Professor Shortell (Sociology) asked if the President had a chance to convey her concerns about undercover activity at Brooklyn College to the Chancellor and New York City Mayor Di Blasio. President Gould responded that she had conveyed these concerns to the Chancellor, who conveyed them to the Mayor.

Professor Esty (Political Science) asked for information that will be included in the upcoming spring Library report. President Gould stated that a committee will begin with an examination of the Library Café. With this new wrinkle, the report will require more study. In January and early February, Brooklyn College will look very closely at the Library report in the context of new funds. In addition, Executive Director Sillen has already had conversations about existing Library funds. Recommendations will be reviewed and shared.

(6232) Committee on Committees  
(6233) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

The Committee on Committees had nothing to report.

Professor Queneau (BUSN), the liaison with the University Faculty Senate, reported on the UFS meeting of December 1, 2015. The guests were Chancellor Milliken and Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Rabinowitz. First, the Chancellor discussed the tuition increase. There is no request for tuition increases at community colleges, but there is a request for tuition increases at senior colleges, up

to \$300. He mentioned that 66% of undergraduates do not pay tuition and receive PELL and/or TAP. After factoring PELL and TAP, 17 % of community college students pay tuition. The Chancellor discussed the MOE and stated that he is pessimistic about the likelihood of signing. The Chancellor was asked about collective bargaining. He stated that the CUNY offer was reasonable, given the financial situation.

Provost Rabinowitz spoke about to results of the COACHE survey for faculty satisfaction, which had a response rate, depending on the college, of 34-65% (compared to the national response rate of 49%). In terms of senior colleges, the best elements of teaching at CUNY include location, the quality of colleagues, and diversity. The worst aspects of teaching at CUNY include compensation, the teaching load, and facilities. Overall, there is satisfaction in leadership at department level, and department satisfaction is good. Provost Rabinowitz broke down the result by group. Provost Rabinowitz stated that pre-tenured faculty members are, relatively speaking, satisfied. The group that is most unsatisfied is associate professors, who remain at that level for a long time. Women and faculty of color, are also dissatisfied with CUNY.

(6234) Degree Lists

Degree Lists 2016/6 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6235) Report of  
Standing Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 378 with changes. First Professor Perez y Gonzalez thanked Professors Childers (MLL) and Steel (English) for their work on the General Education curriculum. A conversation about the decisions about the front matter of the Bulletin and the placement of courses in General Education categories followed. Professor Ebert (History) stated that some courses do not seem to satisfy the descriptions of categories and pointed to SPEC 1707 and SPEC 2623. Professor Levy (Speech) stated that the course was submitted under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Committee for General Education Implementation, using the appropriate rubrics, goals, and descriptions. Professor Ebert disagreed about the course. He asked about the process of approving courses in the future and stated his concerns about the seeming discouragement of discussion. Professor Cohen remarked that there was no intention to discourage discussion. Professor Perez y Gonzalez stated that the General Education curriculum is not static and can change. Professor Shortell remarked that the Committee on Committees will bring a resolution in the spring reconstituting a standing General Education Committee. He stated that faculty Council has a responsibility as a body to make decisions in conversation with the committee.

Professor Arlig (Philosophy) asked what department chairs should do about the fall schedule. Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Cheng congratulated the Ad Hoc Committee for General Education, current chairs, and earlier chairs. He stated that there was more work to do to move the General Education curriculum into CUNY Central and hoped that it will be operational by Fall 2016. Provost Tramontano reminded Faculty Council that 93 courses must be scribed and forwarded to the Common Core Course Review Committee. The document was approved with a vote

of 87 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Evans (Library) presented Curriculum Document 230, which was approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

- (6236) Old Business      There was no old business.
- (6237) New Business      There was no new business.
- (6238) Adjournment      There being no further business, Professor Perez y Gonzalez declared the meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Perez y Gonzalez  
Acting Chair

Martha Nadell  
Secretary