

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
February 16, 2016

The fifth 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).

(6239) Roll call
(6240) Minutes of
December 8, 2015

The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Day (Africana), Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Cheng (E&ES), Robin (Poli. Sci.), Adams (SEED); School Delegate: Rubinson (Edu.), Porter, & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Hardin (Nat. & Bev. Sci.) were absent (-10); Jeffery & Zolkower (Education), Grubbs (Vis, Media & Per. Arts) were excused (-3); Administrators: Carey, Conelli, Gilbert, Feltman, Greenwald, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.

The minutes of December 8, 2015 were approved unanimously.

(6241) Steering Committee

Professor Langsam thanked Faculty Council members for their condolences on the death of his father.

Professor Langsam read a minute for Professor Thomas Boyle (English):

Professor Thomas Boyle of the English department died in his home in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he was raised, on July 15, 2015. He was 76.

Professor Boyle received his B.A. degree from Cornell University and his Ph.D. from New York University. He served in the Army in the late 1960s.

He began his teaching career at Brooklyn College as a lecturer in 1969 and taught British nineteenth- and twentieth-century fiction as well as creative writing and, of course, composition. He also served as Deputy Chair of the department in the 1980s. Torn between his aspirations to write novels and academic scholarship, he excelled at both, writing the well-regarded *Black Swine in the Sewers of Hampstead*, an examination of sensationalism and crime reporting in the Victorian era, and mysteries, three of which are set in Brooklyn—*Only the Dead Know Brooklyn*, *Post-Mortem Effects*, and *Brooklyn Three*. His first, an international intrigue set in Portugal, *The Cold Stove League*, was published in 1983. The New York Times called *Brooklyn Three* “A poetically violent finale to Boyle’s surreal odyssey through his beloved and despised borough.” He was the recipient of a number of awards and fellowships, including an NEH and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

He will be remembered as a popular teacher and well-liked colleague.

He is survived by his wife, Bessie Jamieson, whom he first met in high school, his son William T. Boyle from a former marriage, two stepchildren, and four step-grandchildren.

Professor Langsam made a brief announcement about the status of the General Education document. Faculty Council approved the document at its December 2015 meeting. This document was to be included in the regular undergraduate curriculum document, which would have been sent to the CUNY Board of Trustees for its approval. Although President Gould had told Faculty Council that it had done a wonderful job and that she would write a letter of support for the General Education curriculum, the Provost stated that he did not support it and would not send it to CUNY Central, because it did not meet Pathways requirements. Faculty Council, however, insisted that the document be sent to CUNY Central. The document was immediately rejected and sent back to Brooklyn College. Professor Langsam suggested that this occurred, because the General Education curriculum did not receive support from the administration. In order to get the rest of the undergraduate curriculum document passed, Faculty Council authorized the Brooklyn College administration

to remove the General Education curriculum. CUNY Central approved the revised curriculum document.

Professor Langsam described the current state of General Education at Brooklyn College. He declared that Faculty Council maintains that the Brooklyn College Administration is in violation of governance, because it enacted a curriculum that was not approved by Faculty Council. As far as Faculty Council is concerned, the only General Education curriculum in place is the Core. He stated that Faculty Council has not and will not prevent any student from graduating, despite the fact that students have not met the General Education curriculum requirements recognized by the Faculty. It is possible that a revised General Education curriculum document will come before Faculty Council, which will have the opportunity to vote on its merits. However, there is no guarantee that a new curriculum will not be rejected. Professor Langsam then stated that, given these events, there is no way that a new General Education can be implemented for the 2016- 2017 academic year; it could be implemented in Fall 2017, at the earliest. Faculty Council's resolution to refuse to participate in Pathways and its declaration that administration in violation of Brooklyn College governance remains in effect. Professor Langsam then discussed the courses that were submitted with the General Education curriculum. Although there is no new General Education curriculum in effect, the Brooklyn College Administration may submit them to CUNY Central for inclusion in the General Education curriculum at Brooklyn College, as it has done in the past. In order for these courses to be part of this illegal General Education plan, they must be scribed and placed into buckets. However, Faculty Council's resolution to not participate in Pathways remains in effect. Faculty Council may not scribe those courses. The Brooklyn College Administration may repeat what it did when CUNY Central implemented Pathways. The Administration may scribe the courses or may induce individual faculty members to violate the Faculty Council resolution to scribe the courses.

Professor Wills (History) asked if the President had approached the Chancellor about a waiver for the General Education curriculum approved by Faculty Council. President Gould stated that she did support the work of Faculty Council and that Brooklyn College did send the curriculum to CUNY Central and asked for the appropriate review. However, CUNY Academic Affairs, led by Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Rabinowitz, sent the document back to Brooklyn College within twenty-four hours. President Gould stated that she did approach Chancellor Milliken, who referred her to Academic Affairs. A Faculty Council member asked if students are required to participate in the Core curriculum.

Professor Langsam said Faculty Council has approved students' graduation, even though they have followed the Pathways rather than the Core curriculum. He was asked who was in charge of the Brooklyn College curriculum – the Faculty or the CUNY Board of Trustees. He asserted that CUNY by-laws state that if a college passes a governance document that the Board of Trustees approves, the college's by-laws takes precedence over CUNY by-laws. With that logic, the Faculty are in charge of curriculum. However, CUNY Central apparently believes that since the Board of Trustees approves everything, it is in charge of curriculum. He also stated that when goes to meetings with faculty governance leaders from other campuses, they declare that they look at Brooklyn College as a role model for how faculty should behave. Professor Shortell (Soc) stated that the Faculty followed Brooklyn College governance procedures during the entire General Education review process. However, the document was vetoed before it made it to the Board of Trustees. This was due, in part, because Provost Tramontano did not support it. The Provost referred to the Board of Trustees subcommittees. The Executive Vice Chancellor sends material to subcommittees before the Board of Trustees votes and it was not the case that this was the only instance when this happened. Professor Hass (Psych) asked about the differences between the Brooklyn College General Education curriculum and Pathways. Professor Langsam stated that that question was out of order, but Professor Hass disagreed.

Professor Childers (MLL) asserted that the difference was quite small. Professor Wills asked for clarification about the course of events relating to the General Education curriculum. Professor Langsam stated that the first set of emails from the Provost's office stated that the document could not be sent to CUNY Central, because it did not confirm to pathways. An email, which stated that Faculty Council wanted the document submitted, was sent back. Within 24 hours back, Faculty Council authorized the Undergraduate Curriculum committee to resubmit the document without the General Education Curriculum.

Professor Langsam announced that nominations for the University Faculty Senate would take place on-line during the week of February 22; elections will take place during the week of March 13.

Professor Langsam thanked administration for new equipment in the Woody Tanger Auditorium.

(6242) Communications
from the Administration

President Gould spoke about the budget. She reminded Faculty Council that the New York State Governor Cuomo issued a budget on January 13, 2016. Between January 19 and February 3, the New York State Legislature held budget hearings; CUNY Chancellor Milliken testified the previous Monday. The Governor issued his 30-day budget amendments on February 12. There were no substantial changes, regarding CUNY and the Governor's plan to move \$485 million from the New York State budget to that of New York City and regarding an increase in TAP. She stated that, during the week of March 7-11, the Senate and Assembly will pass their bills, which will include an articulation of where they stand relating to the Governor's budget. The final budget will be released on April 1, 2016. CUNY college presidents will not necessarily know about the realities of April 1 budget, as CUNY will have to determine what is happening at the central level. Many CUNY presidents are pushing for knowing sooner, so there is not a repeat of what happened last June, when there was a last-minute announcement about the CUNY budget. President Gould and Executive Director of Government and External Affairs Schechter were in Albany before the Chancellor and met with assembly members and senators. At a well-attended breakfast for Brooklyn representatives, they shared information about Brooklyn College students, retention rates, diversity, and underlined a number of important issues. At all of the meetings, President Gould pushed hard for full coverage of mandatory costs, because the Governor's executive budget does not give CUNY full mandatory costs and fringes; it is not as robust as it should be. The response in their meetings was very positive, among members of both the senate and the assembly. President Gould also pushed for TAP increase for students. If TAP coverage doesn't go up, the senior colleges pay for the difference. If there were better TAP coverage, there would be better revenue flow. President Gould also reported about the request for tuition increases of up to \$300 over next five years, something for which students have no appetite, she stated. President Gould reminded legislators that there are costs that Brooklyn College must cover, including faculty and student services oriented staff. If there is no tuition increases, an increase in the CUNY base budget or in TAP coverage is necessary. She stated that there seemed to be interest in those items. However, the conversations that President Gould had were with assembly members and senators from the New York City area; there are different conversations in upstate New York. President Gould rejected the idea that somehow New York State would offload \$485 million and that we would have appeal to a mayor who doesn't have appetite for that. That was a bad risk, she stated; we have to articulate to elected officials what will happen if there is a cut of \$200 million or of \$400 million from the CUNY budget. We should be prepared to talk about the effects of such a large magnitude of cuts.

(6243) Adjournment

A number of students staged a protest at Faculty Council. As business could not continue, Professor Langsam adjourned the meeting at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary