

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

April 4, 2017

- (6347) Call to order The seventh meeting of Faculty Council for the 2016-2017 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6348) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Perdikaris (Anthro & Archae), Studamire (Biology), Rubal-Lopez (CBSE), Balk (HNS), Alonso (Modern Lang), Shottenkirk (Philosophy), Adams (SEED), Elizalde-Utnick (SPCL); School Delegate: Murrow (Educ.), Minter & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Yanofsky (Nat. & Bev. Sci.), were absent (-12); Levy (Speech) were excused (-1); Administrators: Sillen, Carey, Conelli, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6349) Minutes of March 21, 2017 The minutes of March 21, 2017 were approved unanimously.
- (6350) Steering Committee Professor Langsam held a moment of silence for Professor Hyman (Hy) Sardy (Economics) and read out the following for the moment of silence for Professor Len Fox (English):
- Professor Len Fox died March 15, 2017 after a valiant struggle with an aggressive brain tumor. He lost the vision in one eye, yet returned to teaching a full workload until he lost his vision completely during Thanksgiving in 2016. Nonetheless, he retained his equanimity and good humor until the end.*
- In an article "Are There Folksingers/Musicians Out There?" ([The Agora](#), the Brooklyn College Newsletter, v. 14, n.1, pp. 10-11), Len wrote about community, explaining how important it was to "reach out and try to find others who have a common interest, and then try to get together, at the college or one of our houses or a neighborhood meeting place." He discussed taking his love for music, passion for social justice, and appreciation of other cultures with him in all he did. Looking back over his life, we see the evidence: after graduating from college in 1966, he spent two years in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, where he met his wife Ginny. Together they lived a life of love and service to their larger communities.*
- Len began as an adjunct lecturer at Brooklyn in 1973 before completing a dissertation in Applied Linguistics. During forty years at the college, he taught just about every course offered by the ESL Program as well as some in the English Department. He worked devotedly with students and colleagues, not only because he was dedicated and conscientious but because he genuinely loved what he did. He consistently taught a full load, and often an overload, both teaching and overseeing the running of the ESL program. He served: he served on committees at the college – Recruitment, Admissions, Basic Skills, Middle States Review, the Center for Teaching and Faculty Council. He represented the college at the University Faculty Senate. He helped plan Faculty Day as well as participated in its sing-alongs. He served outside the college in professional organizations from the CUNY ESL Discipline Council (co-chair several times) to NYS TESOL (President) to International TESOL (Chair, Committee on Professional Standards). He often served*

as an informed and influential leader in his field, creating links between classroom practice and theoretical concepts. He was a reader of CUNY Writing Proficiency tests, a mentor of less experienced faculty, and an author of numerous textbooks, articles, and a handbook used far beyond Brooklyn College. His work was recognized through awards from professional peers, such as the NYS TESOL Distinguished Service Award and the BC Excellence in College Citizenship Award. He even volunteered to co-lead meditation sittings at the college (2010-2013) and taught Sunday school at Judson Memorial Church.

Len was curious about everything and could not help sharing what he learned with those around him. He always offered to help and only said no to those who tried to limit or underserve others. He was generous and thoughtful to everyone—friends, colleagues, students, all of us. He touched each of us in ways he may not have known. His spirit and music will remain. Len not only carried on, but he did so with joy and good spirit.

Professor Langsam made the following announcement:

The Commencement 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient would be Mr. Fredy Peccerelli.

Professor Langsam opened nominations for a slate of up to eight candidates to the Brooklyn College Association Board, from which the President will select two members and two alternatives. The following slate was approved: Professors Theodore Raphan (CIS), Kara Andersen (Film), Karen Stern (History), Terry Dowd (Chemistry) and Mike Cloud (Art).

(6351) Communications
from the Administration

President Anderson reported on the new state budget. There was still no clarity on the maintenance of effort. A tuition increase was under consideration but would not cover the contractual increases. A proposal for a 10% tithe from the foundations was rejected by the NYS Legislature, but the governor has modified the proposal to cover only unrestricted funds, which would put a strain on the foundations. Turning from the budget, the President addressed affirmative action. A faculty working group has been tasked with recommending affirmative action best practices for hiring and retaining faculty that could be implemented under the College's current budget constraints. Acknowledged as a problem across the CUNY system, the President circulated university data on faculty diversity to the chairs for the purposes of discussion at CAP, and the President related that the chairs had voted to support affirmative action hiring. President Anderson appreciated that affirmative action hiring was a priority for many at the College and looked forward to the working group recommendations. The President announced that the Chancellor had appointed her to a special committee of college presidents and staff on faculty diversity. As a CUNY priority, this committee has been convened to look at recruitment, retention and accountability. Among its tasks: to examine past and current efforts to effectively increase the number of faculty from underrepresented groups; to renew, revise and develop recommendations both short- and long-term; to discuss steps to implement these recommendations, particularly for evaluation and accountability across the college campuses. In response to questions, President Anderson clarified some of the topics involved in the state budgetary process, the Excelsior scholarship and the College's affirmative action goals, pointing out that, given the budget issues, retention of underrepresented faculty has been a particular problem at CUNY.

(6352) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) appealed for volunteers to serve on next year's committees. Committee preferences were due back no later than Tuesday, April 18. In response to an earlier request to expand his analysis of committee service, Professor Shortell explained that he could not present a similar analysis by race as he does not have access to those sensitive data. He reiterated that senior faculty members are not serving in proportion to their numbers.

(6353) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Langsam reported the results of the election for representatives to the University Faculty Senate:

Professors Myles Bassell (Business Management), Douglas Cohen (Music), Mojubaolu Okome (Political Science), and Tony Wilson (Biology) were elected to a three-year term ending May 2020; and Professor Charles Haine (Film) was elected as an alternate senator to a one-year term ending May 2018.

Professor Langsam welcomed and introduced the UFS Chair Katherine Conway (BMCC). Professor Conway, who is in the first year of her two-year term, expressed her pleasure at being on campus and addressing Faculty Council. Explaining the important role UFS serves, Professor Conway spoke about the need for faculty from Brooklyn College to strongly represent campus needs and perspectives at UFS. UFS acts as a liaison to the University with many standing and ad-hoc committees that work with the Chancellery at all levels. The UFS Chair is also a non-voting member of the CUNY Board of Trustees. Professor Conway covered a number of items. She spoke about the NYS budget. She reported, for those who had not seen the notice, that the Chancellor had throat cancer. And she reminded the faculty that the Inspector General's investigation was ongoing. There remained a number of high-level open positions at CUNY. Given the multiple challenges, she characterized this period as a fragile time at CUNY. Adding to this is the uncertainty for Mayor DeBlasio as to what support the State will commit to. CUNY has presented the Mayor with two new requests: increased funding for the senior colleges and a senior college workload reduction allocation. Professor Hainline, who sits on the budget advisory committee that meets regularly with Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Sapienza, is an excellent resource for those interested in finding out more on budget matters. A number of the trustees on the CUNY Board want to see a more diverse faculty. Professor Langsam at the Faculty Governance Leaders meeting with human resources staff spoke clearly to the challenge of diversifying the faculty when the campuses are doing so little hiring. And faculty leaders raised the related issue of retention of diverse faculty. Though CUNY hired about 1,000 new faculty using Compact funds (which came from tuition increases), from 2010-2015 CUNY lost approximately 1,200 faculty members. For non-traditional faculty groups, the proportion that resigned or were non-reappointed was higher than it was for traditional faculty groups. So everyone needs to dig deep to get at these issues. There are no easy answers when there is no money. The CUNY strategic plan highlights online education as a priority. A task force was formed to draft an RFP for a third-party vendor to provide services to help grow CUNY's online offerings, unrelated to content. The Chancellor envisioned the vendor as providing a cafeteria-

style menu from which each college can choose the services they would like to purchase. The RFP went out March 27. In an update on experiential learning, which the Governor had proposed mandating, faculty at CUNY and SUNY jointly reiterate that curricular matters are in the purview of the faculty. The Legislature acknowledged the fact, and the Governor dropped the issue. CUNY formed a task force to look at experiential learning at the University and if it would be possible in CUNY first to identify specific courses as containing an experiential learning opportunity (ELO). Lehman College has been particularly active in looking into this area. It is important that faculty and the colleges have some common framework for what would constitute an ELO experience and how to define them. Professor Hainline is also serving as the UFS representative to a task force engaged in drafting a new memorandum of understanding with the Research Foundation after more than 40 years. A number of faculty, particularly at CCNY, have expressed their view that faculty are not getting the service faculty should from the RF. Professor Conway is soliciting feedback from faculty about their experiences with the RF. CUNY hired McKinsey & Company consulting firm, tasked with looking at the one-third of CUNY's budget that is non-academic. The goal was to improve processes. They did a broad examination of CUNY and then a deep dive at two campuses. One of their recommendations was to use a federated model. To oversee this effort, CUNY will hire a transformation officer who will report to VC Sapienza. CUNY will also be hiring a person to deal with risk or compliance. The UFS Spring Conference on the topic of Shared Governance will be at John Jay College on April 28. Bill Thompson, the Chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees, and Félix Matos Rodriguez, the president of Queens College, have agreed to serve on the panel. The final panelist is Dr. Barbara Gitenstein, the 2006 recipient of the AAUP Ralph S. Brown Award for Shared Governance. Professor Conway then opened the floor to questions.

(6354) Degree Lists

Professor Bowdoin (Library) reported that the Committee on Review of Student Records had reviewed the list, and it was in order. Degree Lists 2017/11 was approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6355) Report of
Standing Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professors Cohen (Music) and Shortell presented Curriculum Document 386 on general education, adopting CUNY Pathways categories. After a thorough discussion that clarified a number of questions and the issues involved, including the processes for future submissions, Curriculum Document 386 was approved with a vote of 75 yeas, 3 nays, and 4 abstentions. Professor Cohen then presented Curriculum Documents 387 and 388. The students on the committee had some questions about the proposed changes to the English Department courses, and these questions and the department response are in the Appendix. Most of these questions concern the increase in the number of credits for the major and minors. Professor Cohen explained that the increased credit hour could be accomplished through a number of methods including online time. Curriculum Document 387 was approved with a vote of 75 yeas, 3 nays, and 4 abstentions. Curriculum Document 388 was approved with a vote of 80 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Evans (Library) presented Curriculum Document 240. There was a discussion of the difficulty of getting material to the Committee in time for the April meeting due to the fact of two snow days and the dates of spring break. Professor Langsam indicated that Faculty Council would support a request to the Provost that he accept for presentation to the Board of Trustees some departmental curriculum changes that could be approved at the May Faculty Council meeting. Curriculum Document 240 was approved with a vote of 75 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on the Library: Professor Carp (History) presented the annual report of the committee. Professor Langsam thanked the members of the committee for their work.

Committee on Computer Utilization and Educational Technology: An announcement was made of the committee's upcoming workshop, co-sponsored with the Center for Teaching, "Technically Speaking: Faculty Conversations about Technology" on Thursday April 27 from 11 am-2:30 pm in the Library.

(6356) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yediyah Langsam
Chair

William Gargan (substituting for Sharona A. Levy)
Secretary