

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
February 11, 2020

- (6606) Call to order The fifth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CISC).
- (6607) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Fraser (AFST), Schur (CLAS), Cox (CISC), Danto (FILM), Ibrahim (HIST), Rubinson (SPCL), Patkanian (TVRA), Marsh (Theater); Delegates: Girelli-Carasi (Humanities), Gibney (NBS), Grubbs (VMPA) were absent (-11); Perez Rosario (MLAN), Parmar (SEED), Grayson (BUS), Albarillo & Raphael (Humanities) were excused (-5); Administrators: Lewis Queneau, Gould & Whatley were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6608) Minutes of December 12, 2019 The minutes of December 10, 2019 will be available at the next meeting of Faculty Council.
- (6609) Steering Committee Professor Langsam (CISC) welcomed directors of interdisciplinary programs to Faculty Council. He read the following minute for Professor Bob Viscusi (ENGL):
- Minute on the Life of Robert Viscusi
- The department of English celebrates the life and many notable contributions of Professor Robert Viscusi, who died on January 19, 2020. He joined the Brooklyn College faculty as a lecturer in 1968 and, after the completion of his Ph.D. at New York University, moved to a tenure track appointment. The esteem in which he is held and his rise through the ranks are only partly explained by his omnifarious work, beginning with *Max Beerbohm or the Dandy Dante* (Johns Hopkins UP, 1986); a poem, *An Oration Upon the Recent Death of Christopher Columbus* (Bordighera Press, 1993); American Book Award winner (1996), *Astoria: A Novel* (Guernica, 1995); *A New Geography of Time* (Guernica, 2004); *Buried Caesars, and Other Secrets of Italian American Writing* (SUNY Press, 2006); an epic poem in fifty-two books, *Ellis Island* (Bordighera, 2011); with Anthony Tamburri and James Perriconi, co-editors and translators, a mammoth anthology of Italian American writing, *Italoamericana: The Literature of the Italian Migration, 1880-1943* (Fordham UP, 2013). However, more than the size of his corpus, it's the diversity of his talents that overwhelms: literary critic and scholar of English literature from Shakespeare on and of Italian American literature and history, of course;

yet also editor; yet also poet; yet also novelist, yet also essayist; yet also cultural theorist. His extraordinary range, spanning genres and subjects, speaks his energy, his curiosity, his originality, his deeply caring humanity—for migrants and the world that both forces and should welcome the richness that migration brings to other shores—American shores, in his case.

To that end, he worked closely with the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College, CUNY, dedicated to documenting and preserving the migration that is the Italian American experience. Generous friend and encourager, he co-founded the Italian American Writers Association in 1991, in later years opening its meetings to aspiring writers from everywhere.

But we at Brooklyn College were by far the greatest beneficiaries of his care, of his humanism. Then-Provost Ethyle Wolfe appointed him director of the Brooklyn College Institute for the Humanities in 1980 (renamed The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities to honor the legacy of the woman whose inspiration it was and who nurtured it even beyond her retirement). His tenure in that role was long and fruitful, ending only with the beginning of his illness in 2016. Although he was offered better paying positions over the years, he turned them down because of his commitment to the Institute's purpose—especially in the first years, so critical to the College. Through the Humanities Institute, he forged community; his faculty-led semester-long reading groups—now “The Robert Viscusi Faculty Reading Group”—expanded our knowledge through the close reading of difficult texts and fostered intellectual camaraderie. He brought us news of scholarship and creative arts from foreign shores (another instance of inspiriting migration) when Brooklyn College—indeed, all of CUNY—as well as all New York institutions and agencies, struggled through the lean years that began in the mid-1970s and extended well into the 1980s. Perhaps we could not hire new faculty, but Bob was a speed reader, able to keep up with “the best that has been thought and [recently] said,” and then inviting speakers and arranging for conferences on all that may begin, William Wordsworth wrote in 1802, “as the remotest discoveries of the Chemist, the Botanist, or Mineralogist” but become “as proper objects of the Poet's [read Humanist's] art as any upon which it can be employed, if the time should ever come when these things shall be familiar to us....”

Robert Viscusi hastened that time of familiarity by bringing to us original thinkers, makers, and doers—scientists, social theorists, historians, poets, filmmakers, artists, educators, novelists, public intellectuals. Along the way his efforts humanized us, as well. We owe him our deepest respect and gratitude.

Professor Langsam read the following minute for Professor Emeritus Milton J. Rosen (CHEM):

The Chemistry Department mourns the loss of Professor Emeritus Milton J. Rosen, Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Surfactant Research Institute at Brooklyn College, who passed away on February 2nd at 99 years of age and just 9 days away from his 100th birthday.

Born in Brooklyn on February 11th, 1920, Professor Rosen received a

Masters degree from the University of Maryland. He returned to Brooklyn in 1942 to take up a research position within the Glyco Products Company, which began his long career in the field of surfactants (molecules that have both water loving and water hating activities). While working, he completed research studies in the evening towards his doctorate degree at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He was drafted into the Second World War in 1944 and served in the Pacific Theater. After his discharge in 1946, he returned to Brooklyn to begin his long and distinguished career at Brooklyn College. Starting as an interim lecturer, he remained at the College for over 50-years before retiring following a 2010 Research Symposium hosted by the Chemistry Department honoring his 90th birthday, which was attended by friends, past students and colleagues from all over the world.

Professor Rosen established the Surfactant Research Institute at Brooklyn College in 1987, and was a member of the Governing Board of the American Oil Chemists Society from its inception in 1955. Following retirement, he continued as a consultant for several industrial organizations and governmental agencies. He was on the board of several journals in the surface and colloid chemistry area and continued to review manuscripts and research proposals.

Professor Rosen's research resulted in groundbreaking contributions to the field of surfactant science. Collaborations with research groups in Jerusalem, Beijing and Barcelona produced solutions to problems ranging from increasing the permeability of desert soil to improving viability of fish in hard river water. Industrial collaborations with major corporations such as Exxon-Mobile, Proctor & Gamble and Dow Chemical led to patents in all areas of surfactant use, as well as providing funding and support for Brooklyn College graduate students. In 1979, Professor Rosen's "Surfactants and Interfacial Phenomena", became the first book of its kind and a worldwide best seller, which today is in its fourth edition. These are few examples of an active research career that has spanned over 60 years and produced more than 150 papers and patents.

Professor Rosen is survived by his wife, Ellen, and their three children. Professor Rosen met Ellen (the former Chair of the Public Administration department of John Jay College of Criminal Justice) when they both started working in the Chemistry Department the same week, and were together for over 60-years. The Chemistry Department remembers Milton J. Rosen as an outstanding research scientist, teacher, mentor and excellent colleague. He will be sorely missed.

A special election for the position of one at-large member of the Steering Committee of Faculty Council for the spring 2020 semester took place. Professor Estey (POLS) was nominated. The Secretary cast one vote, and he was elected.

Professor Langsam reminded members to fill out the UFS survey on academic freedom.

Professor Langsam thanked President Anderson for an extremely useful Chairs' Retreat and for her openness to faculty concerns. Professor Langsam announced that the President will have small meetings with chairs and members of Faculty Council over the course of the year. He looks forward to open discussion in the future.

(6610)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Anderson reported on staffing transitions and absences in her office. Chief of Staff Haas has taken a position at another institution, and Administrative Executive Associate Stumbo has been out of the office. BC alum Zunera Ahmed will take the position of Special Assistant to the President. She then reported on new staffing at CUNY Central, the appointment of a new president at Baruch, and upcoming presidential searches at other CUNY campuses.

President Anderson then announced that she is chairing a CUNY-wide committee on transfers; the committee will support an agenda that will support transfer students across the university.

President Anderson reported that meetings about local traffic conditions and safety issues had taken place and will continue.

President Anderson reported that she, along with the administration, is working to enhance collaboration between faculty members and the administration; this will include fostering dialogue about bullying, faculty misbehavior, and the authority of chairs.

President Anderson announced that she, in consultation with the chairs, is developing guidelines for promotion and tenure, following requests from untenured faculty members for transparency and clarity in the process.

President Anderson called for solidarity across sectors, given conditions of constrained resources and highlighted efforts to enhance collaboration, communication, transparency, and trust between the faculty and the administration.

President Anderson discussed her lobbying efforts in Albany and locally.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Gilbert discussed strategies to address budget challenges, spring enrollment, as well as the success of the winter session.

A discussion about collaboration, plans to expand the campus for the Business School, and lobbying followed.

Provost Lopes assured Faculty Council that there are no plans to close small programs. In addition, she spoke about sublines and Brooklyn College and CUNY's initial responses to the coronavirus.

- (6611) COACHE Task Force Professor Tesman (THEA) discussed the work of the COACHE Task Force and announced a Town Hall Meeting that will take place on March 5, 2020.
- (6612) Committee on Course & Standing and thanked its members for serving. Professor Levy presented a slate for Faculty Committees. The Secretary cast one vote, and members were elected.
- (6613) Degree Lists Degree Lists 2020/7 & 8 passed with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (6614) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 254 with changes passed with a vote of 88 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 403 with changes passed with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions. Curriculum Document 404 passed with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- Committee on Honorary Degrees: The Committee's slate was submitted.
- (6615) Old Business There was no old business.
- (6616) New Business There was no new business.
- (6617) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary