

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

September 12, 2017

- (6367) Call to order The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2017-2018 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6368) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Zelcer & Crossman (Accting), Shottenkirk (Philosophy); School Delegate: Zolkower (Educ.), Childers & Okome (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Hardin (Nat. & Bev. Sci.), Porter (Prog Dir.), Grubbs & Vivier (Visual, Media & Perform) were absent (-10); Amanik (Judaic) & MacIntyre (Music) were excused (-2); Administrators: Gould, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6369) Minutes of April 4, 2017 The minutes of April 4, 2017 and May 9, 2017 were approved unanimously.
- (6370) Steering Committee Professor Langsam welcomed new and returning members of Faculty Council. He declared that the workings of Faculty Council are of critical importance to Brooklyn College and reminded members of their responsibilities, according to the governance documents of Brooklyn College. Faculty Council membership has grown to 110, he stated. As Faculty Council uses Roberts Rules of Order and follows the General Construction Law of New York State, this means that a quorum is 56. Any final action requires a minimum of 56 members to pass. Professor Langsam welcomed returning Secretary of Faculty Council Professor Nadell (English) and member of Steering Perez y Gonzalez (PRLS). He thanked Faculty Council office secretary Busacco-Streffacio for putting all Faculty Council documents on the website.
- Professor Langsam announced that there would be a special election at the next meeting for two seats, which will be vacated by Professors Gargan (Library) and Perez y Gonzales.
- Professor Vitale (Sociology) and Basil (Biology) were nominated to the Advisory Committee to Campus Safety. The Secretary cast a single vote for the nominations.
- (6371) Communications from the Administration President Anderson welcomed Faculty Council members back to campus. She first spoke about enrollment, which has reached roughly 17,500. This includes a number of Excelsior Scholarship students, whom Brooklyn College is treating as a cohort. These students will receive specialized support and advisement, reflecting CUNY's

strong momentum program and culture of completion.

President Anderson then discussed concerns about the allocation of faculty lines, the consultation process for this allocation, and the transparency of the process. She stated that what happened this year did not comport with the nineteen-month process agreed upon by CAP. This nineteen-month process for the allocation of lines the following year will begin in January 2018. President Anderson related this issue to the need for clarifying the role of deans, which includes consulting and communicating with faculty and Chairs about the process. She stressed the importance of the Provost's consulting with the Deans and Deans' consulting with the Chairs and faculty. She stated that she deeply regrets that the process did not inspire confidence and trust and hopes that it will in the future.

President Anderson spoke about faculty diversity, which has been an area of concern at Brooklyn College. She then introduced and welcomed the new Chief Diversity Officer Thomas, who has held numerous roles in higher education and will help work on diversifying the faculty. President Anderson then remarked that departments will develop affirmative action plans: departments themselves will deliberate on their strengths and weaknesses in terms of the underrepresentation of minorities and women. Some preliminary work has been done, and President Anderson will discuss this again the following month.

President Anderson then spoke about DACA. She referred to her earlier statement about Brooklyn College's core values. Brooklyn College will do everything it can to protect DACA students. She stated that most DACA students don't have a lot of other legal options. This is a serious situation for them, but they need to be screened for other possible immigration relief. Citizenship Now is helping students, staff, and faculty who have questions and is screening students for other forms of relief. CAASS Director Perez is coordinating efforts. President Anderson then responded to the questions about the possibility of ICE coming to campus. New York is a sanctuary city, which means that New York City police will not be deployed as adjuncts to ICE and will not enforce federal immigration law. CUNY is protected campus and will not use its own security force to enforce immigration law. No one from ICE will be allowed on campus without a court-ordered rule indicating that they are allowed to come on campus. They will not be able cannot get any information about students without a court-ordered warrant. This is not about deportation at this moment; it is about, however, losing work authorization, which is a particular challenge for students. Brooklyn College is trying to brainstorm about what alternative students may have. Free mental health counseling is being offered, as many students are experiencing trauma around this issue.

President Anderson then discussed the strategic planning process. Professor Lewis (Sociology) is leading the effort, which will include goals, benchmarks, and outcomes. In addition, the strategic plan will provide a mechanism for resource allocation. President Anderson urged Faculty Council members to be involved in the strategic planning process.

President Anderson then remarked that the adjunct payroll issue was resolved this

year. She thanked Chairs, the Office of Finance, Budget, & Planning, and Human Resources.

Professor Bloomfield (SPCL) asked if conversations between students and those on campus who are not doctors or lawyers were privileged. President Anderson replied that she did not think so. She stated that it was important to get students to mental health counselors and lawyers. This information is on the Brooklyn College portal. Other information is forthcoming from CUNY Central and Citizenship Now. Professor Meagher (SEED) mentioned four-credit courses, which may be an issue worth revisiting.

President Anderson then made a presentation about the FY17 budget, which included a discussion of our current budget challenges and strategies to address them. She traced how the Brooklyn College budget compares over time, emphasized the need to do more with less, and highlighted the possibilities of reorganization and efficiencies. A robust dialogue about challenges around the budget and suggestions about how best President Anderson can use her bully pulpit followed. Other issues raised included summer compensation for chairs, the challenges of balancing research and creative work with summer administrative responsibilities, the upkeep of facilities, PSC-CUNY activities around the Maintenance of Effort bill, and the Akedemos contract. Professor Perez y Gonzalez announced the Defend DACA town hall and a visit from Sandra Cisneros.

(6372) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the list of nominations to the Faculty Council committee assignments for 2017-18 with changes. A number of nominations came from the floor. The nominations passed unanimously.

(6373) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

There was no report.

(6374) Degree Lists

Professor Langsam announced that Faculty Council Steering approved Degree Lists 2017/14 &15 over the summer. Degree Lists 2018/ 1 &2 passed with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6765) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: The report was presented and accepted.

Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget: Professor Bank Muñoz (Sociology) and Whitlock (CIS) discussed the Report on School Structure. President Anderson thanked Master Planning for its thorough and thoughtful work. The following conversation included suggestions about the number of schools, defining the roles and responsibilities of the deans, the history of the school structure, fundraising, the relationship of staff to their schools, and the formation of advisory boards at the school level. A Faculty Council member moved to endorse the report and direct Master Planning to come back to Faculty Council with a set of

motions. The motion was passed with a vote of 78 yeas, 4 nays, and 3 abstentions.

Committee on Review of Student Records: The report was presented and accepted.

Committee on Student Advisement: The report was presented and accepted.

(6376) Old Business There was no old business.

(6377) New Business There was no new business.

(6378) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary