

POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the February 14, 2012 Meeting

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Provost William Tramontano, Acting Vice President Alan Gilbert, Vice President Milga Morales, Associate Provost Jerry Mirotznik, Associate Provost Donna Wilson, Jeremy Thompson, Dean Maria Conelli, Dean Kimberley Phillips, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Andrew Arlig, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Yedidiah Langsam, Professor Bruce MacIntyre, Professor Paula Masood, Professor Priya Parmar, Professor Wayne Powell, Michael Amar, Ezra Bibi, Jonathan Douek, Norman Gamss, Jack Levenson, David Manela, Jeremy Simon, Trevor Watts.

Absent: Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Deborah Shanley, Professor Ellen Belton, Professor David Balk, Professor Moustafa Bayoumi, Professor William Childers, Mark Beinhorn, Lacyann Dunkley, Robin Green-Williamson, Shovonte Hope, Carlyle Price, Corrine Vialva, Corrise Vialva.

Non-voting: Nicole Hosten-Haas, David Wells.

11/16/11 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

Standing Committees – elections

The students caucused and completed their slate. Professor Arlig agreed to serve on the External Relations committee, thereby filling the last faculty vacancy on a committee. A vote for all slates was unanimously approved (see attached list of Standing Committees).

President's Update – budget, enrollment

The President noted that CUNY's budget is in a state of relative stability. We anticipate no new cuts, and our budget will remain stable as long as we meet our enrollment targets.

How to Grow Summer School

The President stated that summer school generates revenue for the College and most importantly it is an accelerated pathway to graduation. More and more, states nationwide are tying state funding to retention and graduation rates. Provost Tramontano gave a brief explanation of graduation rates and explained how data is used to determine course offerings. Primary obstacles to summer school enrollments that emerged in the discussion included: insufficient seats in courses that students want

and need to take; other institutions do a better job of offering sequences (like Physics I and 2) and high demand courses (like Anatomy and Physiology) in the summers; faculty conduct research in the summer and are frequently unavailable to teach upper-level electives; there is the impression that not enough upper-tier sections are offered in the summer; and Brooklyn starts its summer 1 session later than many other colleges. ... Student Michael Amar suggested that the college survey students online to find out what they would like to see offered during the summer sessions. Professor Powell noted that a full commitment to half a summer of teaching is not attractive to faculty, ; a suggestion subsequently was made to eliminate intersession and lengthen summer sessions but with an earlier start. A straw vote was taken to gauge opinion. The vote was 10 yes, 7 no and 4 undecided. Professor MacIntyre added that in addition to a survey of student course preference, we also need to ask them what else they would like the College to provide, such as study abroad, work, internships. He added that we need a clear idea of our target population, and he advocated shorter terms such as 2-3 week intensive programs which would work well with the courses in the arts.

Students raised the issue of poor communications about important dates (i.e. start of summer school). They suggested a prominent place on the BC website for important and time-sensitive information. There was also a complaint that on Blackboard, student cannot use an external email address but only ones issued by Brooklyn College, thereby forcing students to have more (and unnecessary) email accounts.

Technology Planning – infrastructure and resources

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.