



BROOKLYN COLLEGE

POLICY COUNCIL

Minutes of the April 18th, 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 Willie Hopkins, Dean Kimberley Phillips, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Steven Schechter, Professor Andrew Arlig, Professor Moustafa Bayoumi, Professor Ellen Belton, Professor William Childers, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor Mark Kobrak, Professor Yedidiah Langsam, Professor Bruce MacIntyre, Professor Paula Massood, Professor Priya Parmar, Professor Wayne Powell, Michael Amar, Ezra Bibi, Jonathan Douek, Norman Gamss, Jeremy Simon, Corrine Vialva.

Absent: Dean Deborah Shanley, Professor David Balk, Mark Beinhorn, Lacyann Dunkley, Shovonte Hope, Jack Levenson, David Manela, Trevor Watts, Robin Green-Williamson, Carlyle Price, Corrise Vialva.

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

2/14/12 Minutes

The minutes of the February 14, 2012 meeting were approved.

Revisions to Brooklyn College Governance

Professor Yedidiah Langsam of the Policy Council Governance Committee, presented proposed changes to the Governance Plan for review and approval by the full Policy Council. The proposed amendments included changes to Article IV, the section pertaining to the Council on Administrative Policy (CAP). One of those amendments involved making more explicit the composition and the function of the Committee on Personnel and Budget by listing it in a separate dedicated section, Article V. Other proposed amendments involved changes in the composition and functioning of CAP itself. The Policy Council voted unanimously to approve all proposed changes. The proposed revisions will be sent to the CUNY Board of Trustees for final approval and adoption.

Report from Standing Committees

Associate Dean Donna Wilson of the Committee on Faculty and Student Relations, brought three issues for discussion: 1) Academic Advisement 2) Bereavement Assistance and 3) Honors and Honors Societies.

The Committee relayed the need, expressed by students, for more high-level advising and mentoring by the faculty. They advocated mandatory advisement at regular intervals, and an improvement in Degree Works.

There was a request for an institutional bereavement policy with standard procedures to assist students who suffer a loss of a loved one or friend, or who themselves are suffering from serious illness. Professor Balk suggested that we draw on examples from other institutions. Vice President Milga Morales will check to see if CUNY has a policy. It was suggested that an ad hoc advisory committee be convened, which could include the college ombudsperson, local clergy and others.

Students want assistance on how to attain honors within their major and their disciplines. Brooklyn College is underrepresented in academic disciplines, especially in the sciences. Economic hardship might be one of the factors that inhibits such student engagement. This issue will be addressed by the academic deans and the Provost for follow-up.

Information Technology

The President said that she will hire a consultant, Phil Hill of The Delta Initiative. The firm specializes in higher education technology and deployment, and has advised such colleges as the California State system, University of Maryland and UCLA. The consultant's work will be comprehensive – Mr. Hill has an understanding of the administrative and academic components of IT, as well as the need for a responsive customer service model. The consultant or his designee(s) will come to Brooklyn College in fall 2012 to get a sense of the campus and the scope of work ahead, which will include environmental scans through surveys, interviews and focus groups with all campus constituencies – faculty, students and staff. Faculty Council is willing to assist in the process by surveying faculty and soliciting and engaging input and participation from chairs, deans, and vested faculty members. A report will be prepared for release to the campus community in early 2013.

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