

**POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the February 11, 2015 Meeting**

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Provost William Tramontano, Senior Vice President Joseph Giovannelli, Vice President Milga Morales, Associate Provost Matthew Moore, Associate Provost Terrence Cheng, Assistant Vice President Alan Gilbert, Dean Ronald Jackson, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Prudence Cumberbatch, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor William Gargan, Professor Louise Hainline, Professor Amy Hughes, Professor Judith Wild, Jennifer Mikhli, Michael Lutz, Joseph Awadjie, Jacob Levine, Timothy Donnelly, Steven Krischer, Adam Zauderer, Mariam Jakhashvili.

Absent: Dean Maria Conelli, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Richard Greenwald, Dean April Bedford, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Kip Marsh, Professor Caroline Arnold, Professor Graciela Elizalde-Utnick, Professor Alex Vitale, Nisan Zaghi, Joseph Grunfeld, Keston Boyce, Omari Williams.

Non-voting: Sharona Levy

1. The Minutes of the December 2, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved, with the following amendment to item 3: Votes in the departmental Appointments Committee, and in the School Promotion and Tenure Committees, need to be added to the summary of the promotion and tenure process.
2. President Gould announced that the revisions to the Brooklyn College Governance Plan, eliminating candidate and chair interviews in the promotion and tenure process, were approved by the Board of Trustees at its January meeting. These changes are effective this semester.
3. Vice President Giovannelli reported on the pilot project to open the doors of Ingersoll as an entrance on Bedford Avenue. Because of mechanical problems with the doors, they have been propped open, creating temperature problems in the building. The project may well not be economically feasible. It has also been necessary to close the southern side door (toward the Lily Pond) of the Library vestibule, to prevent the ceiling pipes on that side from freezing.
4. President Gould informed Policy Council that a resolution will be submitted to the Board of Trustees turning the SEEK department into a program in the office of the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. While this does not require a vote of Policy Council, it is important the body to be informed of all actions that promote student success. Provost Tramontano explained that SEEK will serve students (roughly 800 at Brooklyn College) much more effectively as a program than as a

department, mainly because SEEK counselors in a department must be appointed as faculty, who are on a 9-month schedule; SEEK, by contrast, operates year round, and provides many of its most important services in the summer, when faculty counselors are on annual leave. As a program, rather than a department, SEEK will be able to hire counselors with titles in the HEO (Higher Education Officer) series, working on a 12-month schedule; this will enable SEEK to provide students with comprehensive services throughout the year. Professor Levy, the current chair of the SEEK department, added that of the 11 SEEK programs at campuses of the City University, only 4 are still departments, precisely because it is harder, for the reasons already discussed, for a department to provide the kind of services SEEK students need. She underscored the importance of the summer, and the winter Intersession, critical times when faculty are freed from teaching, but HEO counselors can devote their full energies to student services. Since SEEK is funded by the state, the move from departmental to program status is not a money-saving measure for the college: it is a question, not of saving money, but of providing the best services we can to students in SEEK.

5. President Gould reported to the Council on the creation of a new Department of Finance in the School of Business, to become effective in Fall 2015. When this reorganization is complete, we will have a Department of Finance and a Department of Business Management, two departments replacing what is now the single Department of Finance and Business Management. Before the introduction of the five schools the Department of Economics was split into three departments: Economics, Accounting, and Finance and Business Management. That earlier reorganization brought the college's business offerings more into line with standard in the field, as does this separation of this department into two. This decision rests ultimately with the President, but she is committed to discussing this change with Policy Council, as she did the initial creation of the three departments in the school. The fiscal impact of the reorganization is modest: the main cost is hiring new faculty in Finance. Fundraising efforts for the School of Business have yielded very robust results, with a capital campaign soon to exceed its \$10 million target; the addition of two new endowed chairs, one in Accounting and one in Finance; and the upcoming launch of an Investment Academy, based on a \$1 million donation, in Fall 2015. She stressed that the most important thing about these changes is that they will enable us to serve our students better. The Provost also emphasized the positive impact on students, adding that the School of Business now serves roughly 25% of our student body. The creation of a separate Finance Department is an important step toward accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which will enhance the value of a business degree from Brooklyn College.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.