

**POLICY COUNCIL
Minutes of the April 23, 2015 Meeting**

Present: President Karen L. Gould, Senior Vice President Joseph Giovannelli, Vice President Milga Morales, Associate Provost Matthew Moore, Associate Provost Terrence Cheng, Assistant Vice President Alan Gilbert, Dean Maria Conelli, Dean April Bedford, Dean Willie Hopkins, Dean Ronald Jackson, Dean Kleanthis Psarris, Professor Yedidyah Langsam, Professor Douglas Cohen, Professor Prudence Cumberbatch, Professor Namulundah Florence, Professor William Gargan, Professor Louise Hainline, Professor Alex Vitale, Professor Judith Wild, Jennifer Mikhli, Michael Lutz, Joseph Awadje, Jacob Levin, Timothy Donnelly, Joseph Grunfeld, Steven Krischer, Adam Zauderer, Mariam Jakhshvili.

Absent: Provost William Tramontano, Dean Richard Greenwald, Professor Kip Marsh, Professor Caroline Arnold, Professor Graciela Elizalde-Utnick, Professor Amy Hughes, Nisan Zaghi, Keston Boyce, Omari Williams.

Non-voting: Nicole Haas

1. The Minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Associate Provost Terrence Cheng provided an update on the status of the SEEK resolution submitted by Brooklyn College to the CUNY Board of Trustees for approval at the June 29, 2015 meeting. If approved, the effective date for this change is July 1, 2015. All tenured faculty have new department homes. AP Cheng is working to have the appropriate staff for the SEEK Program including a new director, two continuing counselors and hiring two new counselors.
3. James Eaton provided an in depth overview of how the evaluation system works. There are 23 fixed-response questions. The PSC-CUNY contract requires the college to take into account student evaluations in P&T decision-making. There are 5 open-ended questions, and questions 1 through 4 are critical questions (good and bad) and can only be seen by the faculty member and the department chair and they are not included in the faculty member's personnel file. The 5th question "What would you like to tell other students?" is published on the portal intentionally to be an alternative to Rate-My-Professor, and it is filtered for key words (vulgarity, profanity, etc.). Since 2008, the process has been done online and is anonymous. Many faculty members are unaware of the process for raising complaints about content and should be informed of the redress process since unlike with social media, there is no opportunity to challenge the student's comment about the professor. Student participation and response rates to the survey have been

declining due to CUNYfirst, since students are no longer exclusively driven to the Brooklyn College Web Central portal for many essential services.

4. Evelyn Guzman, Director of Scholarship and Honors Recruiting, explained the process for dispersing graduate scholarships at Brooklyn College, of which there are two types: 1) department-specific (\$212,000) and 2) general (\$70,000). In a review of the process, it became apparent that 21% of the general fund scholarships were unused but only 2% of departmental funds were unused. Therefore, it was decided to divide the \$70,000 in general funds equally among the departments to increase the number of student recipients. Every department has a scholarships committee which is responsible for communicating to its students the availability of the general fund money that is now being granted by the department along with the department-specific allocations. This new policy should be reiterated at CAP and graduate deputies should also be informed. This information will now also be sent directly to graduate students by the Scholarships Office.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.