

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

FACULTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2011

- (5784) Call to order The sixth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2010-2011 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Pérez y González (PRLS).
- (5785) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Kingan (Mathematics), Girelli-Carasi (Mod. Lang.), Tung (Physics), Bermanzohn (Political Science), Daraviras (SEEK); Divisional Delegates: Entin (American Stud.), Menser (Humanities), Raphan (Science), Estey & Wills (Social Sci.) were absent (-11); were excused (0); Administrators: Green, Wagner, Hewitt, Gilbert, Wilson, Morales, Joyner, Czirak & Hainline were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5786) Minutes of September, 2010 Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of February 8, 2010. The minutes were approved with minor corrections with a vote of 69 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (5787) Steering Committee Professor Pérez y González announced that the University Faculty Senate nominations have taken place. The elections are coming up the week of March 25, 2011. She thanked Nicole Hosten-Haas, Sandra Stumbo, and Andrey Postoyanets for their efforts.
- Professor Langsam (CIS) announced voting rules that apply to every single body on campus in which voting takes place. In the state of New York, a quorum is the majority of the body, whether seated or present or not. For example, there are 99 seats of Faculty Council. Therefore, the majority is 50. To pass any kind of motion requires the same number, the majority of the entire body, with the exception of special motions, such as a motion to call the question. Those motions require 2/3 of the members present or the majority of the body, whichever is greater. For example, there were 70 members present during the meeting. 2/3 of that number is 47. That is less than the majority of 50. Therefore, 50 votes would be required for a special motion at that moment. If additional members come to Faculty Council, 2/3 of the members present may be greater than the majority. In that case, 2/3 of the members present would be required to pass a special motion. To change the by-laws, however, requires 2/3 of the entire body. The motion regarding the Bridge to Brooklyn program presented at the last Faculty Council meeting passed under these rules. Therefore, Brooklyn College is authorized to continue this program. All other motions from the past year are unaffected by this. In addition, Steering has almost completed making arrangements for a training session in parliamentary procedure for all those present.
- (5788) Communications from the Administration President Gould began with a discussion of the budget. She described her recent visits to Albany, once in February for the caucus of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators' and then again on March 1, 2011 for meetings with legislators. She was accompanied by students both times and had productive meetings. She stated that a 10% cut has been proposed. While there is a lot of pressure being brought to bear on the governor from a number of different quarters, the mood in Albany is different. There is a stark realism about the different governor at the helm. She said that she does not expect the 10% cut to be whittled down anytime soon. She asked all to write to the governor about the budget. She also asked all to write to the senate about the importance of

reinstating Pell grants to a maximum of \$5000 and of allowing students to take Pell grants for summer courses. Most believe that the budget will be on time. What does that mean for Brooklyn College? A 10% cut for CUNY translates into a roughly 4+% cut for Brooklyn College. That will mean between \$4.3 and \$4.5 million. President Gould stated there was good news: spring enrollment is the highest it has been in over a decade. This revenue stream will help the fiscal gap. Summer school will also help. The college is promoting summer school in new ways, by, for example, inviting students who are at home in Brooklyn for the summer to take classes at Brooklyn College. She thanked everyone who is working with Enrollment Management and thanked the library especially for hosting open houses and for helping provide prospective parents and students with positive experiences of Brooklyn College.

She then spoke about the residence hall, which houses over 100 Brooklyn College students, including two students from St. Francis. The residence hall is now working with Enrollment Management and Brooklyn College's legal counsel to devise 2-3 months leases for the summer. While there was a rocky start with the residence hall, students seem to be enjoying their time there. Vice President Morales is planning educational programs for students so that they may have supportive learning environment. She asked that if faculty members hear complaints, problems, or concerns about safety, they should report them to Vice President Morales.

President Gould then updated Faculty Council on the status on the dean searches. She announced the appointment of Dr. Willie Hopkins as the Dean of the School of Business. She stated that he is very experienced and congenial and that the Brooklyn College community is looking forward to his arrival on August 1. She also told Faculty Council to be on the lookout for an announcement about an appointment on the next day (March 9, 2011). There are two additional offers out, with a likelihood of signing shortly. She thanked everyone involved with the searches and declared that the candidates were impressed with faculty, students, and administrators.

President Gould then discussed strategic planning. Input about strategic planning was available until last Friday. Collette Wagner and Nicole Hosten-Haas are looking through the feedback. The steering committee will re-convene and move toward a final document. President Gould stated that this would be macro-document. Details, departments, and units will not appear, as the document is intended to give space and flexibility to align and think about additional things. It does give some direction. However, its most important contribution is that it underscores Brooklyn College's compelling reasons for being, the success and well-being of our students. We are all involved in supporting our students in various ways, and that includes research, as our students need to be exposed to the values and benefits of research.

Provost Tramontano then spoke. He read a statement from the New York State Educational Department about the required contents for bulletins. He then turned the floor to the Director of Communications and Marketing Thompson for an update. Director Thompson thanked Faculty Council members for their patience. The process of putting the bulletin together is broken, and the biggest problem is the transition to a new process, from one that was more traditional. The current process pulls information from three different sources, which makes consistency difficult. He stated that the team is working hard to finalize the 2010-2011 bulletin, so it will be accurate and readable. After this is done, those working on the bulletin will go back to the drawing board. He pledged that this would not happen again and that they will find a process that works.

Professor Fox (English) asked a question about the source of funds for the deans and their staffs, given the state budget cuts. He also raised the large number of faculty retirement and the possibility of replacing those faculty who are retiring. President Gould responded that deans are on administrative lines and that staffing

will come from reallocation. The provost's office, for example, is being downsized; some of the staff will be relocated. Funding for deans does not have to do with funding for faculty lines. She also spoke about the replacements for those faculty taking the ERI. Right now, Brooklyn College is not allowed to fill the ERI lines; there is a "pause." Each campus will determine which ERI lines to fill. Some will be offered for budget reductions. A question is how this relates to fall hiring. The ERIs will not be replaced with tenure track lines but may be with sub lines for fall 2011. The process that chairs go through for line requests will be delayed slightly because of the budget. The college will continue to scrutinize administrative and staff lines to make sure that they are deployed in the most useful ways.

- (5789) Professor Langsam (CIS) stated that faculty should have received a form asking them to volunteer for Faculty Council committees. He encouraged all faculty members to fill them out and to encourage their peers to fill them out as well.
- (5790) Liaison with University Faculty Senate Professor Jacobson (HNS) reported on the University Faculty Senate, which met on February 15, 2011. She announced that a memorial for Professor Martha Bell, who was a very powerful member of the UFS and an important member of the campus community, would take place on March 10, 2011 at noon in the Gold Room. She then announced that the enrollment at the university is 260,000, which is slightly higher than last year. She stated that it would be difficult to speculate about next year, as private colleges are luring students with financial aid packages. She then announced that CUNY and SUNY graduate students are presenting their research in Albany on March 8, 2010. This is a "show and tell" for legislators. Next year, undergraduates will do the same. She then spoke about a panel entitled "Faculty Governance and General Education: Challenges to an Integrated University." She contextualized with a description of Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Lexa Logue's efforts toward general education requirements, which would be transferrable and similar across the university. The UFS has held two plenary sessions on this issue. Most of the meeting of faculty governance leaders was devoted to this question as well. The UFS is calling a meeting to discuss alternative strategic approaches to what the central office has proposed. The chancellor says that this must be a faculty-driven process. The UFS is taking him at his word. This means that the colleges must take the challenge to resolve these issues seriously. We have until June when the Board of Trustees meeting takes place. She then presented the Resolution on Student Transfer, which passed with 71 yeas, 6 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- (5791) Degree lists 2011/23 & 24 were presented by Professor Bowdoin (Library) and were approved.
- (5792) Report of Standing Committees
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 344. The document was approved with 76 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. He announced that the deadline is March 11, 2011 for the April curriculum document. That document will have fall 2011 effective dates. He also announced that he has sent to all chairs lists of inactive courses that do not have new numbers. Some departments have taken care of this and others have not. He has authorization from Steering to propose to Faculty Council that all those course that have not been addressed within a reasonable time (within a week of March 11) will be withdrawn in the April curriculum document.
- Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Florence (Ed) presented Curriculum Document 201 with two changes: pages 3 & 10: Geology should read Earth and Environmental Sciences. The chemistry proposal from pages 7-9 is withdrawn. The document was approved with 74 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- Committee on College Integrity: Professor Augenstein (CIS) read the following statement: The Committee on College Integrity and Academic Freedom met to discuss recent events at the college, particularly the hiring of an adjunct in the

Department of Political Science, the rescission of that hire and his subsequent rehiring. This string of events caused an uproar both within various college bodies, groups outside the college, as well as in the local and national press that potentially impacts the integrity of the college. Because the committee's charge does not require nor did it conduct an independent investigation of the facts of this case, the committee is unable to address the substance of the issues raised.

Although much of the disagreement relating to this matter stems in large measure from the nature of the last-minute hiring decisions and budgetary process that are forced upon the college leadership (both academic and administrative), the Committee would, nevertheless, like to point out that those involved in the hiring process have an obligation to recognize that

- All actions at the college (including personnel actions) must be carried out in a manner that recognizes the principles of both academic freedom and academic responsibility and is free of external pressures.
- In making personnel decisions, the needs of the students are uppermost.
- The image and the reputation of the college are critical (especially at this time of financial crisis). We cannot be perceived as being insensitive to any of our constituencies (neither within the college nor within the community at large).

Committee on Academic Foundations: Professor Jones (CIS) announced two changes to the Academic Foundations Document: first, the CPE has been dropped by CUNY as of December. Second, as of fall of 2011, there is a new assessment of writing with new scores. She asked that if a department whose issues are encompassed by the Academic Foundations Department makes changes, it should report them to the chair of the committee so Faculty Council may address them.

Committee on Honorary Degrees: Professor Chopra (Phil) presented the annual report. It was accepted.

Committee on Campus Planning: Professor Cramer (Library) presented the annual report. It was accepted.

Committee on Library: Professor Rosenfeld (Ed) presented the annual report. It was accepted.

(5793) Old Business Professor Florence presented an on-going report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Aligning Faculty Workload with College Goals. She discussed the three meetings of the committee. She spoke about the primary goal of gathering data and described the steps taken in that direction. She stated that the committee had sent a list of questions to the administration and had met with the administration to discuss them. The committee was interested in clarifying release time. In addition, she spoke about the great dissatisfaction among faculty with workload. She also spoke about the need for clarification of differences and disparities in V sections. She also spoke about the differences between 3 and 4 credit courses. She addressed the PMP, which plays a significant role in defining what someone does and what is expected of them. She agreed that this would be an on-going conversation. She said that the committee welcomes contributions from the BC community. The provost responded and raised the possibility of using the hour before Faculty Council meetings (from 2:15 to 3:15) to discuss more items in detail, including the PMP, what is being counted, how does this effect budgeting, and what are the metrics by which we are bring graded.

(5794) New Business Professor Macintyre (Music) stated that the Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy, and Budget is trying to set up a meeting with the Provost Tramontano and Vice President Little to discuss concerns about the budget and the ERI. He also asked Faculty Council members to be on the lookout out for an announcement. After reviewing a significant new graduate program in the area of film, it will place material on the Faculty Council website so members may review it before the next meeting.

Professor Moore (Phil) introduced a resolution in support of Public Employees Unions. The resolution passed with 66 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention.

(5795) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair thanked the members of Faculty Council for their efforts throughout the year and declared the meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

María Pérez y González,
Chair

Martha Nadell,
Secretary