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BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FACULTY COUNCIL

March 11, 2014

- (6060) Call to order      The sixth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2013-20134 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6061) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Day (Africana), Bankoff (Anthro & Archeao), Eshel (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Powell (E&ES), Alonso & Chang (Modern Lang.), Miyano (Physics), Elizalde-Utnick (SPCL); School Delegates: Murrow (Educ), Childers (Humanities & Soc Sci), Hainline & Perdikaris (Nat & Bevbehavior Sci), Ball (Visual, Media & Performing), were absent (-14); Walker (Library), Emmer (Speech), Bullard & Tesman (Visual, Media & Performing) were excused (-4); Administrators: Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6062) Minutes of February 11, 2014      Professor Langsam (CIS) presented the minutes of February 11, 2014. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- (6063) Steering Committee      Professor Langsam thanked the Ad Hoc General Education Review Committee and the Committee Chairs Professor Brooks (English) and Professor Kellogg (Classics) for a very successful, well attended townhall meeting. There will be another meeting on March 24 at 5:00 pm. Professor Langsam urged Faculty Council members to attend. Professor Langsam thanked Associate Provost Cheng for the food at the meeting.
- Professor Langsam stated that faculty received notice from Provost Tramontano regarding elections for the University Faculty Senate. Nominations took place March 3-March 7, 2014. Elections will take place from March 24-2014. He encouraged faculty to vote. Professor Langsam announced that elections for nominations to the Brooklyn College Association Board will take place at the April 2014 meeting of Faculty Council. He stated that the Disciplinary Panel election did not place, as three individuals have been chosen by the Chair of Faculty Council in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs. The individuals served last year.
- Professor Shortell presented the Special Resolution for General Education. He stated that Interim Chancellor Kelly indicates some changes to the program, including relaxing the three hour-three credit rule on courses. The resolution directs Brooklyn College to restore labs to science general education courses and to provide resources to departments to do so. Professor Langsam stated that President Gould and Provost Tramontano have committed necessary funds for this. The resolution reads as follows:

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**Special Resolution on General Education**

**Whereas**, according to the Governance Plan of Brooklyn College (Article II), the faculty “shall be responsible for the formulation of policy relating to the admission and retention of students, including health and scholarship standards; student attendance, including leaves of absence; curriculum; awarding of college credit; granting of degrees”; and

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**Whereas**, Faculty Council is “the legislative body of the Faculty and shall have all the responsibilities of a faculty”; and

**Whereas**, Faculty Council, at its meeting of April 3, 2012, voted not to “implement a [CUNY] Pathways curriculum under the current guidelines,” and again, at its meeting of May 8, 2012, reaffirmed that stand, and since that time has not approved any Pathways-related curricular changes; and

**Whereas**, Faculty Council, at its meeting of November 12, 2013, directed the College administration to correct the changes to the general education requirements in the 2013-2014 Undergraduate Bulletin it made without approval by Faculty Council; and

**Whereas**, the College administration has not corrected the Undergraduate Bulletin; and,

**Whereas**, Interim Chancellor William P. Kelly announced on February 13, 2014, that the 3 credit limit on general education courses has been removed, beginning in fall 2014,

**Be it therefore resolved** that the Faculty Council of Brooklyn College directs the College administration to restore the four hour, three credit lower tier lab science courses to the Undergraduate Bulletin and allow departments to schedule them in the fall 2014 semester and beyond until such time as Faculty Council approves any revisions of the general education curriculum,

**And further be it resolved** that the chairs of the lab science departments should only offer the four hour, three credit lower tier general education courses.

The resolution passed with a vote of 80 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6052) Communications  
from the Administration

Provost Tramontano thanked Faculty Council for the vote on the Special Resolution, which, he stated, says a lot about Brooklyn College’s general science education and its support for graduate students. He informed Faculty Council that President Gould was at the ACE meeting in California. He then spoke about the searches for the two vacant dean positions are progressing. All of the finalists for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences have visited campus. Finalists for the School of Education will begin to visit during the week of March 17. Another important search underway for director of the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, which is a consortial institute formed by a number of CUNY schools, with Brooklyn College as the lead, a number of other schools, such as Cornell, Columbia, Stevens Institute of Technology, Rutgers, and Stonybrook, and a number of other partners, such as the National Parks Service, the New York Department of Parks and Recreation. This is a real feather in the cap of CUNY and of Brooklyn College, which will host the institute until its building is constructed on the Jamaica Bay site. Professor Lipke (Biology) is chairing the search. Other members include Professors Wilson (Biology), Gould (Sociology), and Marra (Earth and Environmental Sciences). The thirty-four faculty searches are proceeding well. Provost Tramontano hopes that many will be completed by mid-April. Deans are beginning the process of thinking about lines for the 2014-2015 academic year.

CUNY has started a project known as the CUNY Leadership Academy. CUNY asked the Presidents and Provosts of its campuses to nominate faculty members who they think can assume positions of leadership and responsibility, not only within CUNY but also at other universities. Provost Tramontano nominated eight individuals for the class of twenty. Professor Nadell (English) and Professor Pipe (Psychology) were selected as part of the first class. Provost Tramontano hopes to nominate additional Brooklyn College faculty in the future. Professor Lipke has been nominated as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, which is an offshoot of the American Society of Microbiology, which says a lot about the scientific excellence at Brooklyn College. In addition, *Brooklyn Magazine* has named Professor Courtney (English), Professor Lerner (English), and Professor McCoy (Art) as part of the list of the 100 most influential people in Brooklyn. Provost Tramontano hopes to have the first draft of the periodic review report for Middle States available for comments

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by the end of March or beginning of April. In addition, the Assessment Council has had its second meeting, which is important for the general education review process. He then stated that, with the release of the two legal decisions about Pathways and the current review of general education in process, both the President and the Provost look forward to the general education review and for the implementation of a revised general education that best serves the students of Brooklyn College and realistically fits within the 42 credit framework of Pathways. He urged faculty members to take a look at the incoming Chancellor's biography and at the core curriculum he championed at the University of Nebraska.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Giovannelli spoke about the current operating budget, next year's budget, and the capital budget. He stated that Brooklyn College is nearly three-quarters through the current 2014 academic fiscal year. The total tax-levy budget is about \$118 million. A portion is derived through the CUNY Compact program, which ties part of the budget to tuition payments and other revenues. CUNY estimates that an additional \$57 million is spent centrally by CUNY on Brooklyn College costs, such as fringe benefits. The non-Compact portion of the budget was virtually flat. There were no mandated budget cuts, so we did not see lay-offs, furloughs, or frozen faculty searches. On the other hand, New York State did not support funding for base salary increases or for any new initiatives, with a few minor exceptions. As a result of a projected shortfall in tuition, he estimated that there would be an operating shortfall between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, which represents around 1% of the total tax-levy budget. Brooklyn College will cover any deficits from its reserves, which stand around \$3.2 million. While the reserves protect us this year, the underlying cause of these deficits and the trends they point to are troubling. This deficit is a revenue, rather than an overspending, problem. Indeed, the projections indicate a tuition shortfall as much as \$3 million, but the college, with the aid of its staff, has been able to identify almost \$1.5 million in expense saving. Brooklyn College expects to reduce the impact of the revenue shortfall by holding back some expenses. The cause of the tuition shortfall is complex. In general, undergraduate enrollment remains strong. However, this strength has not been sufficient to offset lower tuition revenue caused by shrinking summer enrollments and lower graduate enrollment and revenue. Several initiatives are underway to address these underlying issues. SVP Giovannelli turned to next year's budget. He stated that there is much activity in Albany as we come closer to the April 1 New York State budget deadline. It looks as though the outlines of next year's budget will be very similar to this year's budget. There will be no mandated expense reductions and, with the exception of another year of mandated tuition increases, no significant base budget increases. Brooklyn College will develop a new Compact plan for FY2015 over the next few months. It will once again include support to recruit new full-time faculty, as well as other investments that benefit teaching and support faculty and student success. Construction projects that already have approved funding continue on track, including the Performing Arts Center, the systematic rehabilitation of laboratories in New Ingersoll, the new Graduate Cinema School, and several significant campus infrastructure projects. Brooklyn College continues to lobby New York State for the Roosevelt Science Teaching Commons, but beyond that Brooklyn College's focus will be on smaller scale projects. SVP Giovannelli asked faculty to contact him if they had questions.

Professor Shortell stated that he hopes that the administration will publically support whatever the general education review committee recommends at the conclusion of the review process. The main point is that faculty members are responsible for curriculum. Faculty may or may not choose a Pathways-compliant curriculum and may ask the Brooklyn College administration to go back to the Chancellery to state what the faculty wants to do.

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(6064) Committee on  
Committees

Professor Shortell stated that there was an opening for the chair of the Research Committee. He asked faculty members to send back forms about committee assignments.

(6065) Liaison with the  
Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) read the following report:

Before the UFS plenary, I attended a meeting of the UFS Student Affairs Committee. This committee has been discussing to what extent at CUNY we serve our students and to what extent we can serve them better in such areas as welcoming new students, helping them with the transition to college culture, encouraging them to get involved in campus activities, offering effective advisement, including students in college governance, and offering leadership training to students. In speaking to members of this Faculty Council, I am aware that I am speaking to colleagues who are making a large contribution to college service and to serving students, but it was suggested at the UFS Student Affairs Committee meeting that more CUNY faculty could be more involved in mentoring, supporting, and advising students, and that there should be more of a college culture in which such service-oriented and student-oriented work is more expected, encouraged, and rewarded. In other words, what we perhaps need is a culture shift toward encouraging more of this sort of work. Also, it was suggested that college presidents and administrators should probably consider student advising more of a priority, meaning that they should dedicate more resources to this area and should do more to encourage activities, events, and programs aimed at improving student advisement and student integration into the college community.

Also before the meeting, there was a meeting of the University Faculty Senate Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons, which wrote the following resolution:

Whereas, the UFS Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons was founded in 2010 to work actively to promote access to education for incarcerated individuals in New York State, after the elimination of their eligibility for tuition assistance through the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) in 1995, and

Whereas, the UFS Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons has been active in several projects meant to support CUNY faculty who are committed to supporting the educational aspirations of incarcerated and re-entering students throughout the City University, and

Whereas, the UFS Committee has brought together faculty across CUNY who have variously: dedicated their careers to researching and teaching in the field of Criminal Justice; assisted re-entering students; and/or volunteered as educators of incarcerated students or advocates for incarcerated and reentering students in public forums, and

Whereas, in February, 2011, the City University Faculty Senate sponsored a conference which brought CUNY Faculty active in this area together with Correctional Facility Administrators, Legislators, and Faculty from private colleges who also work to promote educational opportunities for the incarcerated,

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the University Faculty Senate Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons strongly endorse Governor Cuomo's Proposal to offer funding for college programs in ten New York Prisons, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the University Faculty Senate Committee on Higher Education in the Prisons request an endorsement of Governor Cuomo's Proposal from the full body of the City University Faculty Senate.

If anyone is interested in CUNY's work in the prisons, and in particular in helping to develop a Mathematics curriculum for students in prisons, they should contact me for the contact

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information for Emily Tai, the Chair of this Committee.

**Notes on the Plenary**

There were two invited guest speakers at the meeting: Brian Cohen, CUNY Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer, and Rachel Stephenson, Director of a new CUNY program called the CUNY Service Corps.

Brian reported on the work of his office related to academic technology. He stressed that his office wants to and is working with UFS faculty committees, such as the UFS library and the UFS technology committees, on such matters as improving blackboard, improving library technology, developing virtual labs, developing textbook savings projects, and improving cunyfirst. In case we didn't know, he informed us that we can arrange with our college chief technology officer to upload Microsoft Office at home. About virtual labs, he explained that the goal is for students to have access at home to any academic computer software that they would use at a CUNY college. About textbook savings, he reported that CUNY students spend an average of \$490 a semester on textbooks. CUNY wants to be able to negotiate contracts with textbook sellers that will allow students to get at a reduced rate new or used books or e-books, or e-books on loan just for the time that students are in a class. This might involve moving away from having expensive on campus bookstores and giving students more computer access to textbooks.

It was notable that whenever Brian mentioned CUNYFirst, there was a collective groan from the UFS members. During the comment and question time, it was mentioned that David Arnov of Brooklyn College wrote an article last year in the PSC newspaper saying that due to not having or not wanting to spend enough money to buy a program intended for a college, CUNY bought a program not intended for a college and tried to "tweak" it to make it work for a college. UFS members said that it hasn't been tweaked enough and there is some doubt that it ever will be. It was suggested that SIMS was working just fine but that due to the obsession of the CUNY Central Administration with having central control over everything, they threw away a system that was working well, broke the old system, and don't seem able to fix the new one. A common CUNYFirst experience is going through ten screens to do something for a student and finally getting the message that you are not authorized to do what you want to do, then moving on to the next student, going through ten different screens, and getting the same final "not authorized" message. CUNY faculty and staff are outraged, enraged, frustrated, discouraged, and depressed about trying to work with this system. Some people are retiring from CUNY due to their frustration with the system. We wonder if the overall drop in enrollment at CUNY might be partly related to problems with trying to register students with CUNYFirst.

Brian acknowledged that there are problems with CUNYFirst. He said that the problems are often related to not being authorized to do something, which is related to security, and it might take some time to figure out what you need to be authorized to do and to get all the necessary authorizations. He acknowledged that the multiscreen menu system is a problem and said they are trying to make it better. He said that SIMS did not work so well when it was first introduced, about 30 years ago, but after 30 years of use, it was working pretty well. One might ask why this system that was working well was thrown away and if it will take another 30 years before CUNYFirst is working well.

The second speaker, Rachel Stephenson, described what sounds like an excellent relatively new community service program called the CUNY Service Corps, in which students are paid \$12/hour to work 12 hours/week for 24 weeks cooperatively with CUNY faculty and sometimes with one of 96 "community partners," which are mostly small, non-profit, service-

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oriented organizations doing work related to such areas as health care, education, economic development and sustainability. CUNY faculty can work with this program by using the students as research assistants or by supervising students who are doing independent study or are enrolled in an internship course. The program currently exists at seven CUNY colleges and next year will expand to Medgar Evars. It does not exist at the current time at Brooklyn College.

In Chair Martell's report, he mentioned that there is an upcoming April national conference on collective bargaining in higher education and an April SUNY-sponsored conference on shared governance in higher education. He has been pleased to see that CUNY is starting to make some adjustments to Pathways, including allowing a Pathways course to be 3 credits but 4 hours, allowing some waivers for some degree programs with special needs, and saying that members of a Pathways review committee will be appointed by faculty governance bodies. Related to this last adjustment, the Brooklyn College Faculty Council should be contacted soon about appointing faculty to this CUNY-wide Common Core Course Review Committee (the CCCRC). Chair Martell credits Interim Chancellor Kelly with a significant change in attitude about working with faculty, and he believes that Kelly will encourage the new Chancellor to maintain this change.

Martell said a piece of good news is that Governor Cuomo's proposed budget for CUNY is not bad. For example, in the past, when there was increased money from increased tuition, Albany would often cut its contribution, so that CUNY would wind up with no increase in its funding, but the Governor is proposing that CUNY will get an increased budget as a result of the increased tuition money. On the other hand, there is no proposed increase in capital funds for improving CUNY facilities.

Also on the negative side, Martell reports that there has been an overall drop in CUNY enrollment, including a drop at Brooklyn College. Since this means a drop in money available to the College from tuition, we should be concerned that there may be some immediate negative effects at the college, such as on plans to hire new faculty.

- (6066) Degree Lists Professor Bowdoin (Library) presented Degree List 2014/10 which were approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (6067) Report of Standing Committees  
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 368 with changes, which was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.  
 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Grubbs (Music) presented Curriculum Document 218, which was approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 0 nays and 1 abstention.  
 Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget: Professor MacIntyre (Music) presented a Resolution recommending support in principle of an Advanced Certificate in Early Intervention and Parenting. The resolution passed with 78 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (6068) Old Business There was no old business.
- (6069) New Business The Committee on Core Curriculum announced that the Core Conference will be on April 25, 2014.

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Professor Shapiro (Judaic Studies) announced that during the week of March 31 to April 4, Professor Ilan Stavans of Amherst College would lead a series of on-campus events as part of the Language Diversity Project..

Dean Shanley announced that the celebration of the life of Dacota Stewart-Dick, formerly of Brooklyn College, would take place that evening.

(6070) Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam  
Chair

Martha Nadell  
Secretary