

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

February 8, 2011

- (5770) Call to order    The fifth 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).
- (5771) Roll call        The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Thomas (Africana), Girelli-Carasi(Mod. Lang.); Divisional Delegates: Grubbs (Arts), Juszczak (Science), Estey (Social Sci.) were absent (-5); Tung (Physics), Reguer (Judaic Studies) Walker (Library) were excused (-3); Administrators: Little, Green, Wagner, Hewitt, Gilbert, Joyner & Czirak were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (5772) Minutes of September, 2010    Professor Nadell (English) presented the minutes of December 7, 2010. The minutes were approved with minor corrections.
- (5773) Steering Committee    Professor Pérez y González announced that Professor Langsam (CIS) had been elected chair of the Committee on Committees.
- Professor Pérez y González announced that nominations for the University Faculty Senate will take place on line from February 28 through March 4 and that elections will take place between March 21 and 25. Elections will be held for four senators representing full-time faculty, one senator representing part-time faculty, and two alternates.
- (5774) Communications from the Administration    President Gould asked Vice President for Enrollment Management Joyner to introduce the new Director of Graduate Admissions. He introduced Simon Harley, who has ten years of experience, most recently at Touro College as Director of Graduate Admissions and the Royal Veterinary College (London). He has an MA in Higher Education Administration, as well as an MA in English Literature from Glasgow.
- President Gould then announced the appointment of the Director of Diversity and Equity Ms. Natalie Mason-Kinsey, formerly of CCNY.
- President Gould announced that, within a week, an e-mail, announcing the ERI participants, will be sent. This will enable the campus community to thank and celebrate the many years of dedication of the 58 faculty and staff that are taking the ERI.
- President Gould discussed the Supplemental Assistance Tuition Fund. She thanked contributors, among them a number of Faculty Council members as well as a student, who noted the importance of the help she had received at Brooklyn College. The fund awarded \$100 to each student, an amount that nearly covers the tuition increase. Approximately \$70,000 was distributed. There are additional funds from the Brooklyn College Foundation and the emergency fund for students in need. Additional funds will remain in place for students in need. This may become part of Brooklyn College's annual efforts. All of the contributions will go directly to students.
- President Gould then turned to the budget. The governor's initial budget includes an interest in reducing CUNY and SUNY funding by 10 %, prompting discussion within CUNY and with the governor and his staff.. At the current time, the CUNY budget cuts will probably be passed on to campuses as a 4% cut (partly based on the fact that the governor's reduction does not include the 5% tuition increase). It is important to note, President Gould declared, that this is an initial budget and that

there will be discussions, lobbying, debating, and arm twisting. It is anticipated that the final budget will be delivered at the end of March. There are some encouraging signs, including the fact that there is not, at this moment, a debate about reducing TAP. The Chancellor and his staff indicated that TAP will remain secure at \$5000. The current 2% to 5% proposed tuition increase for the fall has been taken off the table, as it is not in the governor's plan.

President Gould then discussed the fact that CUNY will become a tobacco-free campus by Fall 2012. Policy Council will gather committees to look at this and to prepare a June report on how to move the campus in this direction. This is more complex for a campus like Brooklyn College, compared to, say, Baruch. There will be thoughtful discussions about how to proceed from here. She acknowledged Leslie Jacobson for her tremendous work in representing Brooklyn College and for her contributions to this matter.

Next, President Gould spoke next about the events of the last ten days regarding an adjunct appointment. They have been challenging and have catapulted the campus into the national press, which has been neither good nor pleasant. She reaffirmed her strong stance for academic freedom, as well as that of the provost. They will do everything to make sure the campus feels this. It is time to do the work of the semester out of the limelight and to turn to the many issues that will be discussed in classrooms. She encourages respectful conversations and debates in the classroom.

Professor Meagher (Education) asked about TAP and the message that fundraising sends about a state institution to the legislature. President Gould responded that a better nomenclature is "state located" institution. This is the regrettable national scene in public higher education. She knows that she speaks for the Chancellor when she states that this situation is not going to change. We are not going to be able to reverse this, so what we are trying to do, she stated, is to hold the line as much as we can in lobbying efforts. She also declared that we would show the legislature what CUNY would do so the burden would not be placed on students. She stated that there would have to be much more fundraising and that she and Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Sillen were open to ideas. Vice President Sillen spoke about the relationship between public and private funding. He stated that the BC Foundation is very careful not to relieve the state of its responsibilities. There is no funding for financial aid but for merit, for example.

Professor MacIntyre (Music) spoke next. He stated that he felt compelled to make Faculty Council aware that there is a space crisis in Music. The faculty of the Conservatory of Music voted unanimously to express their extreme outrage and utter disappointment that the swing space has not been prepared properly and that it has been set up neither on time nor in the manner promised. There are inadequate spaces for teaching and for faculty offices. He has been receiving complaints from faculty and students, which is outrageous. The planning, he declared, has been miserable and the execution worse.

(5775) Motion  
Regarding the  
Substitution of  
Courses by  
Department Chairs  
and Program  
Directors

Professors Langsam, Bonaffini (Modern Languages) and Gurskis (Film) made a motion to postpone discussion of the Motion Regarding the Substitution of Courses by Department Chairs and Program Directors. Professor Langsam stated that he did not think that there were enough Faculty Council members present to give this a fair hearing and that there was a desire to discuss this within departments. The motion to postpone was defeated with a vote of 39 yeas, 37 nays, and 2 abstentions. Professors Langsam, Bonaffini, and Gurskis presented the motion. They inserted a change in the language of the resolution: "Bylaws" should read "governance plan" in the first two whereases. Since the last meeting of Faculty Council, several changes were made. In cases of joint programs, directors of both programs will give approval for substitutions. They also addressed the misstatements of facts made at the last meeting. In order to clarify, the motion makes explicit that the resolution refers only to departmental requirements and not to the Core, basic skills requirements, residency requirements, and language

requirements. Professor Langsam corrected the misstatement about the May 10, 1994 motion, which authorized deputy chairs to make any substitutions for graduate programs. Explicit reference to graduate programs was removed from the resolution. He then discussed the process. Students will still go through an application to Center for Academic Advisement and Student Success (CAASS).. It is only the point of approval that will be changed. The majority of chairs approve this motion` and have found that a large number of students have been caught in this situation and need help to graduate in a timely manner. Professor Bonaffini spoke of the burden of the Committee on Course & Standing, of chairs, and especially of students. He stated Course & Standing is not the right place to handle substitutions, as it does not follow the timeline of students who come to see chairs at the last minute because of the cancellation of classes or degree audit. He stated that the person best qualified to judge if a course is an appropriate substitution is the chair, in consultation with departmental curriculum committees and departmental faculty members. In addition, given budgetary considerations and faculty limitations, it is not possible to offer course that students need. Professor Bell spoke strongly in favor of this motion. Departments in what will become the School of Business have 3000 students that it must help graduate. Doing so in an environment of massive cutbacks requires flexibility. In addition, he stated that many of our students have full-time jobs and thus have schedules that prevent them from completing requirements. These students will be, he stated, potential donors and we should treat them correctly. Professor Yarrow stated that of all of the requests for substitutions that Course & Standing received in 2009-2010, 70% were approved on the spot and 14% were pending. The most common questions was if this was a curriculum decision that should be fixed globally or a unique situation. Of the 14% (roughly 50 cases), all but two were positively resolved. The committee concluded the fall semester of 2010 without single open case. The committee has continued to clear its docket each week. Registrar Honigswachs provided Course & Standing with information about how departments keep flexibility within their programs. She urged departments to handle this at the departmental level. Professor Moore (Philosophy) stated that the principle objection to the resolution is that it seems to give department chairs virtually unchecked power that can only be checked with the triennial elections. This objection ignores the crucial fact that chairs have the right and duty to set department schedules and must square the needs of the students with the ever grimmer budget. No matter how conscientious chairs are, some students may be harmed by this dynamic. This resolution would will give chairs the power to ameliorate the worst of the harm that students experience due to the negotiation between curricular decisions and budget. He pleaded with Faculty Council to support the resolution for the sake of the students. Professor Dexter (CIS) stated that he was not convinced that this was the right solution to the problem. He was concerned about how Brooklyn College would look like in the eyes of CUNY if chairs had the right to make arbitrary decisions about courses. He did not want Brooklyn College to be so flexible, given CUNY 's desire to homogenize general education. The solution may be the right one but he thought that it was between left to departments rather than to Faculty Council. Professor Wills (History) stated that it not chairs alone who understand the needs of students. She was concerned that deputies would make decisions without regard to the remainder of departmental members. The resolution would come at the expense of faculty governance, if chairs could make decisions without regard to other departmental faculty members. Professor Lipke (Biology) stated that his department unanimously supported the resolution. He was concerned about how much time Course & Standing and chairs has spent on making sure that two students did not graduate last year. It seems an inordinate waste of time and takes the decision power away from departments and places it into a committee that may have no members from those departments whose students may submit petitions. The question was called. The motion was defeated by 44 yeas, 33 nays, and 2 abstentions.

(5776) Resolution Concerning the Addition of the

Professor Gould (Sociology) introduced Resolution Concerning the Addition of the Program Director of Children's Studies to a Voting Seat in Faculty Council. The motion passed with a vote of 67 yeas, 8 nays, and 5 abstentions.

Program Director of  
Children's Studies to  
a Voting Seat in  
Faculty Council

- (5777) Committee on Committees Professor Langsam announced that faculty members will receive a letter seeking nomination for Faculty Council committees. He encourage faculty members to respond early.
- (5778) Liaison with University Faculty Senate Professor Leslie Jacobson reported on the University Faculty Senate. She stated that there was a moment of silence for Bernard Sohmer, who was Chair of the UFS from 1998-2002. He was known for his intellect, for is concern for faculty, and for his excellent service. There will be a memorial service on February 13, 2011 at CCNY. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Alexandra Logue spoke about transfer students who need or have in excess of 120 credit in order to graduate. Vice Chancellor Logue pointed out that the additional credits have resulted in \$72 million of excess charges to students and to CUNY. Terrence Martell, the Vice-Chair of the UFS, offered a rebuttal to the Vice Chancellor's estimate of a \$72 million cost. He stated that the additional credits students take in fact translates to \$4 million. The question is why students are taking excess credits (i.e. changing majors). In response to this problem, CUNY is proposing a general education requirement for all campuses. The UFS, in response, is setting up a transfer education committee to work on general education requirements.
- (5779) Degree lists Degree lists 2011/19, 20, 21 & 22 were presented by Professor Bowdoin (Library) and were approved.
- (5780) Report of Standing Committees  
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum presented Curriculum Document 343. For the April curriculum document, the deadline will be March 11, 2011. The document was approved.  
  
Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Florence presented Curriculum Document 200. The document was approved.  
  
Committee on Course & Standing: Professor Remy (History) presented the "Resolution Concerning 'Bridge to Brooklyn College' and the Offering of Brooklyn College Courses on the Campuses of Private High Schools," which would authorize the continuation of the Bridge to Brooklyn program. A discussion about concerns about extra work, pressure to hire specific adjuncts, observation of adjuncts, and the F-replacement policy followed. Professor Jacobson called the question, which passed with a vote of 70 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. [The motion was declared to have been defeated based on a 2/3 majority vote of the body, however, it actually **passed** with a vote of a 53 yeas, 19 nays, and 2 abstentions. It was later determined that only a majority of the body was required to pass most motions.]
- (5781) Old Business There was no old business.
- (5782) New Business There was no new business.
- (5783) 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

