

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

FACULTY COUNCIL

May 8, 2012

- (5902) Call to order    The eighth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2011-2012 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Prof. Maria Pérez y González (PRLS).
- (5903) Roll call        The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Thomas (Africana), Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Arlig (Philosophy), Jayaraman (Political Sci.), Nunez (SEED); Divisional Delegates: Taylor (Arts), Perdikaris & Sharman (Social Sci.) were absent (-9); Nadell (English), Wills & Winslow (Social Sci.) were excused (-3); Administrators: Perez, Hewitt & Green were also absent and excused. All other members were present. 75 present. Ballot 1
- (5904) Minutes of April 3, 2012        The Chair asked the acting secretary, Prof. William Gargan (Library), to present the minutes of the April 3 meeting for approval. The vote was 74 yes, 1 no. Ballot 2.
- (5905) Motion to Move the Agenda    Directly after the minutes were approved, the Chair recognized Prof. Gura, who made a motion to move the agenda so that the first item to be taken up would be the "Contingency Plan for General Education Model," which was sponsored by the committees on Core Curriculum, Academic Foundations, and Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements. The motion, which required a 2/3 vote, was seconded and the resulting vote was 69 yes, 7 no, and 3 abstentions. The motion passed. Ballot 3.
- (5906) Contingency Plan for General Education Model    Prof. Pérez y González announced time limits on discussion and debate: those presenting a motion were asked to limit their remarks to 5 minutes, while participants in discussion were asked to keep their comments to 2 minutes. She reminded everyone to address their comments to the Chair.
- Professors Moore (Philosophy), Tenenbaum (CIS), and Brooks (English) were asked to present the document. Prof. Moore introduced the plan, urging Council to support it: "The curricular framework included in this resolution is our attempt to balance, under far from ideal conditions, such competing considerations as curricular quality and interdepartmental equity, academic rigor and student choice. Some have suggested that adoption of this framework would further weaken our already diminished control over curriculum. But I would remind you, first of all, that this resolution in no way reverses this body's earlier decision not to comply with the University's directive. Moreover, and more importantly, I submit that we would more seriously weaken faculty governance by failing to adopt a contingency plan; for our administration has made it abundantly clear that they intend to submit a general education framework to 80th Street. If they do so with no authoritative guidance from Faculty Council, we will have passively handed over that much more of our influence over the shape of general education. Your curriculum committees have worked long and hard, and in close consultation with you, to bring you this plan today. We urge you to embrace this body's responsibility for curriculum by voting yes on this resolution, and putting this contingency plan in place." The resolution was voted upon and passed with a vote of 60 yes, 21 no. Ballot 4. The Chair thanked the committees involved and Council as well for their hard work leading to the passage of this resolution.

(5907) Steering  
Committee

The Chair announced that a second meeting of Council was scheduled for next Thursday should it be necessary to meet again. She then asked all of the Council members present who would no longer be serving next year to stand and be recognized. They received a round of applause from the Body in gratitude for their past service.

The Chair announced the names of those who were elected to the University Faculty Senate: Leonard Fox (English), Louise Hainline (Psychology), Vanessa Perez Rosario (PRLS), Douglas Cohen (Music), Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome (Political Science), and Jessica Siegel (English) have been elected either as senator or alternates.

Nominations and elections for school delegates at large and alternates to Faculty Council will be done in an online election. Nominations will be solicited from May 14-16; the election will be held between May 22-25; the results will be announced on May 29 or, if there is a tie, on June 4. Thirty-five people are to be elected. The breakdown by school will be included in an email that will be going out shortly. Basically, the formula used to determine school delegates is as follows: the total number of eligible faculty in the School divided by the total number of eligible faculty in the College, multiplied by the number of departments in the College. This results in the following distribution of school delegates:

Business-3  
Education-3  
Humanities and Social Sciences-13  
Natural and Behavioral Sciences-11  
Visual, Media, and Performing Arts-5.

That equals 35, based on 500 full time faculty members with faculty rank and status who are eligible to serve.

Prof. Morales has asked us to nominate up to 6 members to the BCA (Brooklyn College Association) Board. This is the organization that helps distribute student activities fees to student organizations. Professors Beth Evans (Library), Namulundah Florence (Secondary Education), Michael Menser (Philosophy), Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome (Political Science) and Len Fox (English) received nominations. The Chair instructed the Secretary to cast a single ballot for all candidates.

The Brooklyn College budget session, led by AVP Gilbert, was held last Thursday. It went very well but there were not many in attendance. We will try to hold another in the fall. The Chair thanked Acting VP Alan Gilbert for his cooperation and participation.

(5908)  
Communications  
from the  
Administration

President Gould had a couple of comments about Pathways. She said that she hoped that Council would be engaged in decision making today that will affect ourselves and all of our students. She and the Provost have the responsibility to implement Pathways and they need Council's guidance. Turning to the budget, President Gould noted that "We are anticipating a stable budget for the coming year – that means that we will be able to reinstate the cuts that we had to announce last summer on OTPS and temporary services. That was a ten percent cut across the campus in all units, including the Library." She added that she was sure that all units, including the Library, will welcome the additional ten percent. The director

of the Library will be able to add needed staff and the college will be able to hire a little more robustly for fall. Based on information provided by the Provost, she announced that twenty-seven new searches for faculty have been completed. She thanked everyone who participated in all of the searches, noting that all the hard work will be rewarded with the arrival of the new hires in the fall. President Gould then introduced Richard Felton, the new registrar. Finally, the President noted that she wanted to make a few comments for the record on the events of last week in respect to the demonstration that occurred on Wednesday, May 2, 2012: "No one involved in coordinating the demonstration – neither students nor PSC – made any attempt to communicate with the administration about their plans in advance. Given that information was circulated widely around the internet to draw students from across New York City to our campus, we took appropriate steps to monitor campus entrances and ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. And we will continue to do so if this occurs again. At no time during the demonstration, either on the quad or in Boylan Hall, did NYPD officers come on to our campus. Reports on blogs and elsewhere indicate that pepper spray, batons, and riot cuffs were used. These reports are entirely false. Two students were arrested, regrettably. One threw a female peace officer to the floor, resulting in several injuries; another took deliberate steps to physically prevent officers from escorting the crowd from Boylan Hall, despite several warnings and despite the videotaping that our officers did. I've seen the footage. Based on the footage I have viewed and reports from personnel on the scene, although the situation was intense for all involved there is no doubt, I am confident that our peace officers acted appropriately and did not use excessive force. If information to the contrary comes to light, we will review it. We are all supportive of free speech. However, this does not mean that individuals are permitted to obstruct hallways, stairwells, or office entrances or to disrupt classes and the administrative work of the institution in which we are all engaged and which is our primary purpose. I will be sending a longer statement to the campus community in the next day or two and at this time, I have no further comment on this matter.

Provost's report: The Provost thanked Council members for the Pathways vote. He said that he is appreciative that we will now be able to move forward as a community. He noted that there will be a lot of work involved that cannot be done by the Provost's Office alone, simply because the new model changes a few of the basic concepts of the Core and introduces some distribution components rather than mandated courses. There will be a lot of work in terms of scribing, a lot of work in terms of inputting in the goals and the outcomes, and this work must begin soon. The deadline will have to be set sometime in the fall. We cannot wait until December to submit everything. Provost Tramontano went on to say that he had already begun to receive information from Central about the way submitted courses have come in – all of the "dos and don'ts." His office will begin to send things out – all of the different forms that the Pathways review committees need to look at courses. The Provost's Office is there to assist but this work needs to be a group effort. This needs to be a faculty led effort when it comes to thinking about the courses, learning outcomes and goals and how they will fit into Pathways. Finally, the Provost once again thanked Matthew Moore, Aaron Tenenbaum, and Elaine Brooks for helping to put the proposal forward.

The Chair asked for questions. After being recognized, Prof. Menser (Philosophy) noted that there was a good deal of frustration on campus but he said that he wished to offer praise for the Office of Finance and Administration as well as the Office of Student Affairs. He described how students, in an election held April 23-25, were allowed to decide how to spend \$25,000 of their own money from the student activity fees in a

project devoted to participatory budgeting promoted by the City Council: "They had 5 proposals to choose from; the proposals themselves were created by students in 2 town hall meetings, where in facilitated discussions, students talked about their needs, deliberated about priorities and then collaborated to construct proposals to meet those needs. In the following weeks, more than 35 proposals were assessed and vetted by a committee of students, faculty and administrators to make sure the proposals were technically and legally feasible. (Sadly, for example, the tree house on the quad with a wireless printer and a charging station for cell phones did not make the cut --safety issues.) The winners were: a major upgrade for the SUBO basement, seating in Boylan Hall, and hoop houses for the campus garden."

He thanked the BC college community for its participation and support and he expressed his hope that the process would widen and deepen in the years ahead. In particular he noted the efforts of David Wells, who pushed the idea to student government and helped guide the entire process. He also gave thanks to all three of the BC student governments for putting up funds for the project, as well as to AVP Alan Gilbert and his office for, not only supporting the process and helping to vet the proposals, but also for making sure that students needs and their funds were respected throughout the entire process.

Finally, in light of recent events, he said that he believed that "this was an inspiring example of how faculty and administration can support students in a process that both recognizes their needs and empowers them to creatively address them. Students, faculty and administration worked together in a way that was inclusive, democratic, and fair with respect to an issue of real consequence: a budget. It also showed that when given the opportunity for real participation, students will rise to the occasion."

After asking for other questions, The Chair recognized Prof. Entin (English).

Prof. Entin said that he realized that the President didn't want to comment further on the events of last week and that he respected that – but that he wanted to encourage her to facilitate a wider campus discussion about the place of student protest on campus. He went on to say that "the students have been speaking out about concerns that I think are real for them, real financial issues in these lean times, since last fall. They delivered a petition to your office, signed by several hundred people in April and I think that as a campus community, as educators, we need to do a better job of engaging with them productively. The people who were protesting and sitting in outside your office are our students. We need to make the issues they are raising and their presence on this campus an educational opportunity, and I think we need to do more to work with them, to respect them, and I strongly encourage you to consider dropping the charges against them. They have been peaceful for months and months and months on this campus."

Prof. Entin's remarks were met with applause. The Chair then recognized Prof. Naomi Braine (Sociology).

Prof. Braine encouraged the President to have some discussion about what constitutes appropriate behavior by campus security. She noted that she was present on the second floor of Boylan Hall during the demonstration. She said that she saw a peaceful group of students sitting on the floor with their arms linked forcefully grabbed by security and dragged and pulled down the hall. She said that she believed Security crossed the threshold in initiating physical contact and escalating

aggression. She concluded by emphasizing the need for the College to examine just what constitutes an appropriate Security response.

The Chair called next on Prof. Cunningham (Africana Studies), who began by saying that it was clear that there was going to be some dispute about the facts. He added that he knew the person who had been arrested and that he found it hard to conceive that he could have done what he was being charged with. Noting that the President had spoken eloquently the other day of her experiences with protests as a college student, Prof. Cunningham said that he wished to talk about his own experience in the 1960s and how his college responded to his activities. Prof. Cunningham said that he did far worse than the students in the demonstration – and that unfortunately his actions were commemorated in the autobiography of the head of the board of trustees at the time, who was also a teacher here and head of the history department. Prof. Cunningham noted that he could not repeat the language the board member used to castigate the movement that he was a part of, some of it correct, some of it incorrect. But in spite of his differences with members of the board of trustees, there were two understandings that were absolutely clear: that this was a campus matter and that police were not to be called in – which, he added parenthetically, did not happen here. “It was a matter of people having faith,” he said, “that even when we made errors – and certainly I made errors -- we made them out of the best of intentions. The student we are talking about – and this has nothing to do with what happened there – is a 3.78 student. He is a Rosen fellow and has other things. This is a student who has a very bright future and I would encourage us to drop the charges because of the kind of college we want to be and the relationship we want to have with our students and that we want our students to have with us.”

A round of applause followed Prof. Cunningham’s remarks.

The Chair called next on Prof. Hadler.

Prof. Hadler (Art) expressed her support for her colleagues who had just spoken. She said she wished to speak anecdotally about what it means to be in an educational institution, as we all are, when one of our students appears in tears because she has been removed, having done nothing wrong, except attend a peaceful demonstration. We then wind up then having discussions about what is appropriate behavior in a peaceful demonstration, having to somehow attack our own administration, based on our belief in the right to demonstrate peacefully. So these incidents cause an unintended ripple effect in our classrooms. She urged the faculty to stand behind these students.

Prof. Hadler’s remarks were also applauded.

(5909) Liaison with University Faculty Senate

Prof. Namulundah Florence (Secondary Education) reported on the University Faculty Senate’s 365<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of April 7, 2012. There were two reports, one from the Chancellor and another from Brian Cohen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology and University CIO. In his report Chancellor Goldstein made the following points:

- CUNY’s budget is stable and looks promising for capital investments.
- There has been an increase in research funds for faculty, although the benefits are limited to a few campuses.

- Admissions are on the increase. One issue is students who require extensive "remedial" work to succeed. CUNY spends about \$30 million dollars annually on such programs. The Chancellor is putting together a "Remedial Task Force" to consider how remedial programs can be run most effectively.
- The University will be hiring some new high level science research faculty to create a new graduate science institute. They hope to attract more grant money and more science doctoral students to this institute.
- Bill Scheafer is overseeing a job creating task force for CUNY graduates by aligning Corporate requirements with CUNY's academic preparation. We want our students to be able to get a job after they graduate.
- The Chancellor's work with Bloomberg has raised about 66 million dollars towards boosting NYC colleges.
- . The New Community College opens in September 2012. In contrast to the average 16% average graduation rates across CUNY community colleges, NCC projects a rate of 50 to 65 percent by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. *The New York Times* plans to do a feature story on the NCC.
- The vanguard NCC replaces traditional discipline departments for interdisciplinary units.
- The ROTC is not being established on CUNY campuses. It is being reinstated.
- The Chancellor objects to and is trying to change the current national trend of counting graduation rates, as it does not take account of the fact that so many students at CUNY and other colleges are transfer students (e.g., at Brooklyn College, about 70% of the entering students are transfer students).

Brian Cohen's report noted the following:

- CUNY is still rolling out CUNY First. Campuses like the NCC, Hostos, and Lehman are already operating CUNY First. 12 other campuses are to go live in June.
- CUNY has and continues to be cautious in adopting new software because of the pricing as much as for issues of confidentiality. In reality, technology cannot keep up with technology. The plan is that faculty work closely with campus IT with suggestions for solutions.
- The limit of retiree access to college emails is not unique to CUNY. It involves issues of confidentiality and control. VC Frederick P. Schaffer will speak to the UFS at the next scheduled meeting.

## Other news:

The Diversity Report is now available online. Following a lengthy investigation of CUNY campuses, a task force, appointed by the chancellor, has issued a Diversity Report which will impact searches, appointments, faculty relations in departments, retention etc. Brooklyn College did not do so well. A link to the document can be found at

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ohrm/diversity/DiversityActionPlan>

The way in which a campus improves its diversity of faculty and staff will be added to the PMP evaluation of presidents.

The following were nominated to serve on the next Executive Council: Chair (Terry Martel); Vice Chair (Karen Kaplowitz); Secretary (Ann Friedman); Treasurer (Phil Pecorino); At Large (Stefan Baumrin, Kay Conway, Jay Wizer, Mike Vozick, Kathleen Barker, Mojubaolu Okome (Brooklyn College), Emily Tai; and Roberta Brody).

(5910) Committee on Prof. Langsam reported that there was a complete slate for next year with one notable exception -- no chair and vacancy on the Core Curriculum Committee. The Chair called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she called for a vote. The slate of nominees was approved by a vote of 78 yes, 1 no. Ballot 5.

(5911) Degree Lists Degree lists 2012/ 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32 were presented by Prof. Thurm (CIS) and were approved with a vote of 78 yes, 1 no. Ballot 6. The chair thanked the committee and the Registrar's Office for all of their hard work.

(5912) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Prof. Tenenbaum (CIS) announced that special topics courses may be submitted until May 20<sup>th</sup>. Special topics do not have to be approved by Faculty Council. Faculty Council needs only to be notified about them. They have to be approved only by the curriculum committee and by the provost. He pointed out that a list of editorial changes to Curriculum Document 353 had been handed out at the door. He then presented Curriculum Document 355 – noting one change on page 12: the last sentence stating the number of credits etc. – that sentence is removed. There is an addendum to 355. We will vote first on the main document and then move to the addendum.

The vote on the main document was 78 yes, 2 no. Ballot 7

Prof. Tenenbaum next presented the CD 355 addendum, dealing with courses from Health and Nutrition Sciences that had been pulled from an earlier document. The courses being put forward at this time are needed to comply with requirements associated with an accreditation review by the Didactic Program in Dietetics. There is some question as to when these courses will go into effect – fall 2013 or retroactively to fall 2012. Provost Tramontano said that any regulations that stood in the way of accreditation would be waived if needed and they would go into effect Fall 2012. The vote on the document was 77 yes, 1 no. Ballot 8. The Chair thanked the committee for its tremendous work on the curriculum and for keeping us up to date.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Prof. Jennifer Ball (Art) presented Curriculum Document 208 with an appendix of changes. Prof. Gura (Speech) raised a question about Business 7257X. He yielded the floor to Prof. Bell (Business), who informed Council that the Speech department had granted clearance for the new course. Prof. Florence noted a correction on page 3 at the sixth line of the second paragraph, the line beginning with "English," the phrase "mathematics (grades 5-9)" needs to be added. The vote was 75 yes, 0 no. Ballot 9.

Prof. Ball presented the committee's annual report, which was accepted without comment. The Chair thanked Prof. Ball and her committee for their hard work

Committee on Academic Foundations: Prof Brooks (English) presented the annual report, which was accepted without comment. The Chair thanked Prof. Brooks and her committee for their hard work.

Committee on College integrity and Academic Freedom: Prof. Paul Moses (English) presented the committee's report on its investigation of charges of anti-Semitism recently made against Brooklyn College in the process of hiring and promotion within the School of Business. After a careful review of the public record, the committee reported that there was no pattern of anti-Semitic bias as alleged. Furthermore, the college administration responded to the allegations appropriately. He noted that the Chancellor's Office was continuing its own investigation and that this was a good thing. However, speaking personally, he did not see how anyone looking at the facts objectively would find differently than our committee did. The Chair pointed out one correction: Prof. Langsam should not be listed at the end of the report as a member "ex officio." The Chair then asked for any questions or comments on the report.

Prof. Hyman Sardy (Economics) rose, noting that he found the report to be "inadequate, incorrect, wrong" based on the fact that, as stated in the report, the Chancellor's Office's investigation, led by General Counsel Frederick Schaffer, was still underway. He questioned the committee's wisdom in making its report before the CUNY investigation was concluded. He called for the Body "to table these resolutions. "

The Chair pointed out that there were no resolutions on the floor, only a report, a statement by the committee. Prof. Langsam rose to note that Council was being asked to vote to accept this statement. The Chair clarified her remarks, noting that, while the statement was not a resolution, it would indeed be voted upon.

Prof. Moses responded to Prof. Sardy by saying that if anything, he thought the committee took too long. With all the media attention, he would have liked to have responded sooner but the spring break made that difficult.

Prof. Sardy expressed his opinion that parts of the statement were contradictory and reiterated his motion that any action on the resolution be tabled.

The Chair ruled his motion out of order, saying that the statement before the Body was not a resolution and should only be voted up or down. She called for a vote. The vote was 57 yes, 12 no, and 8 abstentions. Ballot 10. The statement was accepted.

The Committee on College Integrity and Academic Freedom's annual report was accepted without question or comment.



Committee on Computer Utilization and Educational Technology: Prof. Rudowsky presented the annual report, which was accepted with thanks and without comment.

Committee on the Core Curriculum: Prof. Moore (Philosophy) presented the annual report. A question was raised about the future status of the core curriculum in light of Pathways. Prof. Perez y Gonzalez, making a personal comment as the chair of Faculty Council, noted that the uncertainty surrounding that issues may be one reason why the core committee still has no chair at the present time. The Committee on Committees is having some difficulty in filling that slot. She noted that "at Brooklyn College our governance plan gives authority over curriculum to faculty – that's Faculty Council. We understand the pressures that the Provost is under from the Chancellor and we did do a contingency gen ed model that we just passed today. We shall see how it proceeds. That's the best answer I can give you now. Provost Tramontano seems to want to comment."

The Provost noted that a review of the core has been scheduled for 2013-14, long before Pathways was introduced. Given that the Core is a living document, he suggested that the Core Curriculum Committee might begin discussion leading towards that review, keeping in mind that whatever comes forward will have to be put into those categories that Pathways has established.

Prof. Langsam rose, expressing his belief that this Body had not authorized Faculty Council "to do anything more on the core as it now stands. The document that we passed today will serve as advice to the administration. If the administration moves forward on curriculum without our approval, I believe that is against our governance and that Faculty Council can decide to take whatever action it deems appropriate. In the absence of such action, it's in the hands of the administration. But we have directed our core curriculum committee not to take any further action on Pathways, so that the ball is now in the administration's court. I understand that they've said what they are going to do but that does not preclude us – this council – from taking any appropriate action that we might feel necessary if we believe that the administration is overstepping its bounds in dealing with curriculum as is stated clearly in our governance."

The Chair next called on Prof. MacIntyre (Music) who asked -- should the contingency plan be needed -- whether CUNY had made available additional reassigned time for committee chairs who would be heavily involved with getting the faculty to redevelop the Pathways core. The Provost replied that CUNY had provided some support for those individuals who would be involved in making the core of the host college.

Prof. Raphan (CIS) noted that Council had voted against cooperating with the implementation of Pathways. He asked what the administration would do if that vote remained unchanged.

The Chair responded by saying that she believed the Provost had already answered that question. She asked the Provost whether he'd like to answer it again. He declined to do so.

Commenting on the funds that the Provost said were being made available, Prof. Langsam noted that individual faculty members would have to rely on their consciences as to whether or not to accept such monies to work on curriculum associated with Pathways. He emphasized, however, that "Faculty Council has directed the Core Curriculum Committee not to cooperate and not to proceed. So the administration I know will do what

they have to do. That's their job. I know they have money that they will use – I'll be polite and not use the word 'bribe' -- to encourage faculty members to work on an individual basis. But they do not speak for Faculty Council, which clearly directed its committees not to cooperate in this encroachment on our governance."

The Chair reminded the Body that the resolution passed was not to implement the Pathways curriculum as presented. Only if certain changes were made would Council authorize its committees to participate.

The Chair recognized Prof. Moore who noted that he was very happy to be going off the committee. However, he wanted to praise the current members of the core committee, saying that it was a wonderful committee to work with and that he now numbers the committee members among his dear friends.

Prof. Langsam made a motion that Faculty Council recognize the extraordinary efforts by this year's Core Curriculum committee -- with its chair -- to deal with extremely difficult issues under pressures of time and other circumstances. The motion was seconded and the vote was 73 yes, 2 no. Ballot 11.

Prof. Stephanie Walker (Library) presented the annual report for the Committee on Honors, Citations, & Awards. There were no questions or comments.

In the absence of Prof. Kathleen Haley (English), the chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, Prof. Pérez y González presented the committee's annual report. Any questions or comments should be directed to Prof. Haley.

Prof. Thurm (CIS) presented the annual report for the Committee on the Review of Student Records. The report was accepted without comments or questions. The chair thanked Prof. Thurm and his committee for their hard work.

(5913) Old Business There was no old business.

(5914) New Business

There was none. The Chair thanked everyone for all of their hard work during the past year. She announced that there would be no May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Prof. Langsam rose to make another motion, moving that Faculty Council thank the Chair for her extraordinary leadership in these difficult times. The vote was 72 yes, 1 no.  
Ballot 12.

(5915) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Pérez y González,  
William Gargan,

Chair  
Acting Secretary