

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

October 8, 2013

- (6013) Call to order The second meeting of Faculty Council for the 2013-2014 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by the chair, Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6014) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archeao), Green (Africana Stud.), Ikui (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Powell (E&ES), Walker (Library), Miyano (Physics); School Delegates: Lewis & Menser (Humanities & Social Sci.), Davenport & Perdikaris (Nat & Behavior. Sci.) were absent (-11); Kaya (Education), Okome & Patkowski (Humanities & Social Sci.), & Grasso (Nat. & Behavior. Sci) were excused (-4); Administrators: Tramontano, Sillen, Psarris, Gilbert, Hewitt, Fitzgerald, Gold, & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6015) Minutes of September 10, 2013 Professor Langsam presented the minutes of September 10, 2013 with changes. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- (6016) Steering Committee Professor Langsam reminded Faculty Council that, at the first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2013-2014, he had announced the two types of membership in Faculty Council: faculty members, who have voice and vote, and administrators, who have voice but no vote. In order to clarify the constitution of the membership, there will now be three sign-in lists: one for faculty members, one for members of the administration, and one for guests. These lists are derived from the Brooklyn College governance plan. Professor Langsam read the following from Article II, Section C:
1. The Faculty Council shall consist of all of the following, a) through d):
 - a. all department chairpersons.
 - b. an additional delegate of faculty rank or faculty status from each department elected, or reelected, for a term of three years by department members of faculty rank or faculty status. Departments shall elect an alternate delegate to serve with voice and vote at any meeting in the absence of the department delegate.
 - c. delegates-at-large of faculty rank or faculty status, equal to the number of instructional departments, elected in a manner determined by Faculty Council. Delegates at-large shall be elected for a term of three years and may be reelected.
 - d. a maximum of five directors of programs in academic areas which meet criteria established by Faculty Council for this purpose and/or are individually designated by Faculty Council.
 2. The President, the vice presidents, the assistant vice president(s), full deans, director of student records and business manager may attend Faculty Council meetings with voice, but without vote.
- A special election for the Committee on Committees took place. Professor Levy (SEEK) and Miele (SEED) were nominated; Professor Levy received 62 votes and Professor Miele 19 votes. Professor Levy was elected. Professor Langsam announced that the regular election of members to the Committee on Committees would take place in December.
- Professor Langsam thanked the secretary of the Faculty Council office, Ms. Busacco-Streffacio for sending the Faculty Council packet a full week ahead of time.
- Professor Langsam conducted a survey on behalf of the CUNY Faculty Governance Leaders. He asked faculty members to choose among the options provided what they think

the top three priorities for CUNY to support should be. The following are the results:

- More full time faculty (67)
- Improved facilities (labs, equipment, space) 52
- Increased counselors (academic advisors) (21)
- Additional student support programs (16)
- More student scholarships (27)
- Increased faculty research support (reassigned time) (68)

Professor Langsam stated that, in light of all that is happening in general education on campus, the Faculty Council Steering Committee felt that an overall review of general education was in order. This review has the full support of the administration, which has assured Faculty Council that it will be completely faculty driven. Steering has asked the chairs of Academic Foundations and Core, Professors Brooks (English) and Kellogg (Classics) to co-chair a year-long process, which includes defining general education and conducting a broad based review of general education. By next month, Professors Brooks and Kellogg will present a preliminary report on how they plan to proceed, which may include a variety of meetings among faculty, students, and administrators, including town halls. The committees will spend the rest of the academic year conducting the review, hopefully producing a tentative report before graduation. This will be distributed to Faculty Council members, who will discuss it and vote on it during the fall.

(6016) Communications
from the Administration

President Gould recognized the untimely passing of Associate Registrar Randy Hall, whose funeral services were earlier in the day. Ms. Hall joined Brooklyn College in 1985 and spent her entire career at the Office of the Registrar. She was an engaged and caring staff member, who assisted thousands of students, faculty, and staff members. President Gould extended her deepest sympathy to her husband and three children. Vice President for Enrollment Management Joyner will host a memorial service in the spring. President Gould led a moment of silence.

President Gould then updated Faculty Council about CUNY issues, based on the meeting of the Council of Presidents. One of the most important items is the TAP report from CUNY to New York State Governor Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, which was delivered on October 1. The proposal was asked for from both CUNY and SUNY, and both chancellors submitted material. CUNY asked for an increase of the maximum TAP award to \$6500, which would cover full tuition, even once the increases mandated by the compact are in place. This is a goal that would be achieved in phases. An important element is a request for TAP for undocumented students, who number roughly 6500 at CUNY. All of the CUNY presidents are lobbying for this. Other items include streamlining the process that students have to go through with their schedules. There are eleven different schedules, which would be reduced to four. Other items are a request for part time TAP, which has been a difficult issue for working students, and a request to recognize the challenges faced by students with disabilities, who have issues with enrolling in the number of credits required for full-time status. President Gould stated that she and other college presidents are pleased with the report, as it reflects values that we all share. She said that she hopes that the proposal will get some traction. When she goes to Albany to lobby for Brooklyn College, she will also lobby for this.

President Gould reported that CUNY is now working with colleges and directly with CUNY students across the system to get information out to CUNY students about health exchanges. CUNY is working to help articulate which students would benefit from the exchanges.

President Gould reported that Chancellor Kelly created a task force on doctoral education at the senior colleges, including City College, Hunter College, Queens College, and Brooklyn College (and perhaps Lehman College and the College of Staten Island). Three Brooklyn College faculty members in the biological sciences and Chemistry as well as the Dean of the School of Science will participate. Under consideration is the move of some graduate programs in the sciences to individual campuses or to a consortium of campuses. President Gould stated that since all of science practice occurs on college campuses, this is a very important and serious move in the maturation of CUNY.

At the next Board of Trustees meeting, there will be a proposal to modify and streamline the e-permit system. This has been reviewed at the Council of Presidents Academic Affairs Committee and is now being reviewed more broadly. The proposal is student and campus friendly and includes the provision that tuition dollars from e-permits go to the campuses hosting instruction. This is a good move forward in the move toward an integrated university.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Giovannelli gave an update about the current year's budget. Last year, Brooklyn College had a budget of \$120 million in tax levy funds, which includes government funding and tuition and excludes foundation and other auxiliary money. There was a small deficit of roughly \$100,000. Brooklyn College ended up close to break-even point. CUNY holds a reserve fund on behalf of each of the senior colleges. Brooklyn College's reserve fund is of \$3.1 million, which is less than two or three percent. Last year, even though the deficit was small, there was a shortfall of \$2.4 million in revenue, which was offset by expense saving. The shortfall was caused by lower enrollments in graduate programs and in the summer 2012 session. The shortfall would have been larger, but there were stronger undergraduate enrollments, particularly in the spring and among transfers. The enrollment was not strong enough in total to offset the shortfall. On expense side, more than half of the savings came from utilities. Last year was the first year in which individual campuses were responsible for their own utility bills. Brooklyn College benefited from a relatively warm winter and record low natural gas prices. Revenue shortfalls are warnings that there may be recurring problems. The expense savings were one-time occurrences. Coming in to this year, the New York State legislature provided a flat tax levy budget. Growth came from the continued multiyear compact plan, of which we are in the fourth year. There is growth in certain focused areas of expenditure, as part of a plan developed and revisited by CUNY. The compact plan at Brooklyn College will result in a net addition of seven full time faculty positions. The gross faculty change is roughly thirty, resulting with a full time faculty count of 523-524, which is roughly the same level as that of 2010, before the early retirement initiative. Brooklyn College also used compact money for five new advisor positions, with an eye to improving student retention and time to degree completion. The fall 2013 undergraduate enrollment is extremely strong. However, Brooklyn College had another weak summer; across the two summers, there was a drop of roughly 20% of enrollment (12% two years ago and 7-8% last summer). Early signals suggest that graduate enrollment remains low, which is a problem shared by many colleges and universities, including other CUNY campuses. Although Brooklyn College did submit a balanced budget, it is too early to predict the final 2013-14 figures. There is no new CUNY capital money. Already approved capital projects continue, but any new ones are on hold. Brooklyn College is trying to return to enrollment stability and to have the numbers be where they were during the compact period, which will place the college in a much better position. There are a number of initiatives to reenergize the summer.

President Gould then spoke about a report from Chancellor Kelly, that Governor Cuomo is discussing tying some elements of budget to outcomes, on the heel of President Obama's plan. Outcomes in this case would mean graduation rates. Brooklyn College has done

remarkably well, thanks to the faculty and others, she stated. Brooklyn College's retention and graduation rates are rising more rapidly than those of other CUNY colleges, including rates for economically disadvantaged students. The rates may have an impact on budget, so we need to help students, especially sophomores, many of whom leave the college.

(6017) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the updated nominations list for committee assignments for the 2013 -2014 academic year with changes. The nominations passed with a unanimous vote.

(6018) Liaison with the Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) read the following about the most recent University Faculty Senate meeting, at which the guest speaker was Interim Chancellor Kelly:

Interim Chancellor Kelly's first topic was "How I spent my summer vacation." He told us that he met with the UFS Chair and Executive Committee several times, and also with the University Student Senate, with officials in Albany, and with representatives of SUNY and of NY State private colleges. He worked on an early college program which will involve a partnership between high schools, community colleges, and employers who will offer some students in the program a job right after graduation from the community college. He mentioned President Obama's proposed policy of connecting the amount of federal aid to a college to measures like retention, graduation rate, innovation, and debt of graduating students. He is proud that many CUNY students graduate with no debt. He reported some new CUNY appointments, such as the new President of Medgar Evars College and the new Dean of the CUNY School of Public Health. CUNY is lobbying in Albany for an increase in TAP allocations. The Chancellor is concerned about a decrease in diversity at CUNY, especially in the enrollment of African American students. He reported that 42% of CUNY courses are taught by full-time faculty. This compares well with other public colleges, but he would like to see that percentage increase. He said that CUNY wishes to develop more science related doctoral programs and is also interested in internet-related approaches to education. About Pathways, he said it will be evaluated every year for the next three years and he will consult with the UFS about appointing the members of the evaluation committee.

UFS Chair Terry Martell said that he sees a "qualitative difference" in meeting with Interim Chancellor Kelly as compared to Chancellor Goldstein. Kelly listens more and is more responsive. About Pathways, Martell is concerned that the Pathways evaluation committee should include members of the UFS and also well respected general education curriculum experts from outside of CUNY, such as from the MLA or from SUNY. The goal must be to make Pathways better for our students. One faculty member mentioned that in addition to CUNY-wide efforts to modify Pathways, there are individual college efforts going on to modify the individual college versions of Pathways, and asked if Martell could recommend one or more general education curriculum authorities, for example from the MLA or from SUNY, who could consult with us at the individual colleges about guidelines for developing a new general education curriculum. Martell said he would get back to us with some recommendations for speakers. It was reported that the anti-Pathways lawsuits will come before a judge at the end of September. Some UFS members expressed concern that CUNY faculty from the colleges should be involved in new doctoral programs, rather than mainly new hires from the Central Office. Martell also reported that there is an ongoing search for a new permanent Chancellor and that the Board would like to make a decision by January 2014.

At the end of the meeting, Martell reported that the UFS Board is working on a plan to institute an easier procedure for amending the UFS charter.

- (6019) Degree Lists Professor Bowdoin (Library) presented Degree Lists 2014/3 & 4, which were approved with a unanimous vote.
- (6020) Report of Standing Committees
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Tenenbaum (CIS) presented Curriculum Document 364 with changes. It which was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Master Planning, Education Policy & Budget: Professor MacIntyre (Music) presented the annual report, which was accepted.
- (6021) Old Business There was no old business.
- (6022) New Business There was no new business.
- (6023) Adjournment There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yediyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary