

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

November 11, 2014

- (6118) Call to order The third meeting of Faculty Council for the 2014-2015 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6119) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Bankoff (Anthro & Archae), Mallory (Art), Eshel (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Cheng (E&ES), Balk & Chu (H&NS), Tung (Physics), Adams (SEED), Watson (SEEK); School Delegates: Childers, Patkowski & Sowers (Humanities & Social Sci.), Cumberbatch (Women's Stud) were absent (-14); Walker (Library), Gonsalves (Humanities & Social Sci.) were excused (-2); Administrators: Gould, Morales, Joyner, Carey, Whatley, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6120) Minutes of October 14, 2014 Professor Langsam announced that the minutes of October 14, 2014 would be presented at the December meeting.
- (6121) Steering Committee Professor Langsam called for nominations for the Brooklyn College Enterprise Corporation Board. Professors Deutch (Library), Steel (English), and Jones (CIS) were nominated. The secretary cast one vote to approve the nominations.
- Professor Langsam announced the December election of two members for the Committee on Committees.
- (6122) Communications from the Administration Provost Tramontano spoke, as President Gould was in Boston at a gathering of Brooklyn College alumni. She sent her regrets. The Provost then led a moment of silence in recognition of Veterans Day. He thanked veterans, especially those from Brooklyn College, who have served the country.
- The Provost reported that Brooklyn College received a Productivity Award at the CUNY Financial Management conference. Brooklyn College won for the third year in a row for its student petition process. He thanked the members of CAASS, especially Directors Perez and Newton, Director of Information Technology Services Gold, Registrar Feltman, and Faculty Council.
- He stated there was not additional news on the contract, one week past the election.
- He announced that the Department of Finance and Business Management would be restructured as of fall 2015. It will be divided into two departments, Finance and Business Management. There would be changes in the designation of some courses.
- He stated that the President wished to convey that she is looking forward to the "Resolution on Principles of General Education Reform" and the discussion it generates.
- Professor Shortell (Sociology) asked about the decision to split Finance and Business Management into two departments. He asked if the administration had made a commitment to future faculty lines. The Provost responded in the affirmative. Professor Bank Munoz (Sociology) stated that the Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget

would like to be consulted on matters relating to the splitting of departments, while recognizing the authority of the administration to do so. Professor MacIntyre (Music) asked how many full time faculty hires will be in the departments, to which the Provost responded six in finance with five adjuncts.

(6123) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell presented nominations for Faculty Council committees with changes, which were approved by the secretary casting one vote. The election of five members to the Ad Hoc Faculty Council Committee on Distance Learning was tabled with a unanimous vote until the next meeting.

(6124) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Fox (English) read the following statement about the **October 28, 2014** meeting of the CUNY University Faculty Senate:

There were two guest speakers at the meeting: Dr. Chase Robinson, President of the CUNY Graduate Center, and Professor Peter Knuepfer, President of the SUNY Faculty Senate.

Dr. Robinson spoke briefly about the past, present, and future of the CUNY Graduate Center. The Center was founded about 53 years ago as a place to grant doctoral degrees to CUNY students. At the beginning, it offered degrees in 3 or 4 areas. Now, it offers degrees in 33 areas. It has 142 Central line faculty, and draws upon a list of about 1800 faculty throughout CUNY who have taught in doctoral programs. In addition to the doctoral degrees offered by the Graduate Center, two CUNY colleges offer doctoral degrees: City College in Engineering and Hunter College in Public Health. For the present and immediate future, the Grad Center has three main goals: 1) to give more support to its doctoral students, 2) to begin to offer some more degrees in career oriented rather than academic research areas, and 3) to do more about disseminating knowledge, for example by encouraging CUNY faculty to do more interdisciplinary research and studies, with other CUNY faculty and with faculty outside of CUNY. In response to a question about the possibility of having some colleges, for example Brooklyn College, offer doctoral degrees in lab science areas, Dr. Robinson said that idea was discussed but was not popular, and he personally thinks programs will be stronger if they can draw on faculty from all CUNY colleges rather than primarily from just one college. In response to a question about if their PhD graduates are finding jobs, he said the Grad Center has done some research about this and found that about 1700 graduates from the last 10 years have full-time research positions.

Professor Kneupfer said that the SUNY FS has 3 meetings over the academic year and an Executive Committee meeting in January. At their last meeting, one of the issues discussed was “seamless transfer” (which according to the CUNY Central administration was what Pathways was supposed to be about). About some history related to this issue, Professor Kneupfer said that in 1998 the SUNY FS voted no confidence in the SUNY Board of Trustees due to its attempt to impose a gen ed curriculum on SUNY. Eventually, the FS agreed with the Board on an amended gen ed curriculum. There is currently ongoing work at SUNY on what courses are needed to lead into a particular major. The FS put together groups of faculty that after some work agreed on what courses should be required to lead into majors in 38 different areas. Professor Kneupfer stressed that this was a faculty-driven process. He also reported that at this meeting the FS passed resolutions on a uniform SUNY sexual assault policy and against LGBT bias on college campuses. There also has been discussion at SUNY about the possibility of “performance based funding.” The FS is not enthusiastic about this idea, but has told the SUNY Chancellor that if this is going to happen, she must collaborate with the faculty in developing such a policy. There also was discussion about how faculty can work with college career centers in helping students to prepare for careers after graduation. During a question session, Professor Kneupfer stated that the recent agreement on steadily increasing tuition at CUNY and SUNY over a five year period means no real increase for colleges because this just covers the increase in mandated costs

and inflation and basically shifts the cost of public higher education from the government to the individual. The SUNY FS will work with the faculty union to try to convince Albany legislators to increase funding for public higher education.

During his report to the UFS, Chair Martell expressed the opinion that nothing is going to happen about Pathways until a new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is chosen, which will probably be soon. He also mentioned that there has been a problem with CUNY transfer students who have completed Pathways requirements but can't be full-time students taking just courses required for a major because some courses in a major area are prerequisites before taking more advanced courses. These students therefore don't qualify for TAP financial aid which is available only for full-time students. It was announced that the CUNY UFS is sponsoring a Nov. 21 Conference on online education, which is an interest of the new Chancellor, who will be the plenary speaker. About 100 people have registered and there is still room for about 24 more.

Previous to this meeting, UFS reps had received a report about a CUNY Enrollment Management Council meeting, where Dean Murphy described cunyfirst as "the elephant in the room." He said that financial aid processes in cunyfirst are not working properly, and that many colleges are uploading information onto ancillary systems as an alternative to cunyfirst. It was also mentioned that CUNY needs to expedite resolution of FACTS system bugs, which are related to TAP financial aid grants, and that colleges need to be able to override a student's record related to TAP grants.

- (6125) Degree Lists Professor Langsam presented Degree Lists 2015/5 & 6, which were approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- (6126) Report of Standing Committees
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen presented Curriculum Document 371 with changes. It was approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Professor Whitlock presented Curriculum Document 223, which was approved with a vote of 79 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (6127) Old Business
 The Ad Hoc Committee on General Education: Professors Dexter (CIS) and Kellogg (Classics) presented the "Resolution on Principles of General Education Reform." Professor Shortell thanked the committee for its efforts. Professor Perez y Gonzalez called for the addition of competency in diversity. She stated that if we want our students to be fully educated individuals, we must take advantage of the rich location they find themselves in. Diversity, as an issue and topic in general education, is essential in our increasingly globalized world, and interdisciplinary departments and programs can address the need for a global understanding of immigration processes. She proposed the following addition: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that general education include diversity as an explicit competency and category." Professors Aja (PRLS) stated that many students lack knowledge about a variety of issues related to diversity. Professor Winslow (SEED) concurred. Professor Fox (English) pointed to the large number of English as Second Language students. Professor Ebert (History) asked if Faculty Council prefer a document that speaks about competencies, rather than avoid them. Professor Kellogg stated that committee supports the goal of diversity but that there were different viewpoints about how this would be achieved. Professor Bank Munoz pointed out that this was best practice across the country. The

amendment passed with a vote of 59 yeas, 13 nays, and 8 abstentions. The discussion then turned to the question of language. Professor Bank Munoz proposed the following addition: "Be It Resolved that all Brooklyn College graduates should be proficient at the intermediate level in language other than English." Professor Girelli-Carasi (Modern Languages) stated that proficiency is not based on a single tests, but a series of tests. He stated that this resolution is venturing into a discussion of definitions of proficiency and the intermediate level, which a number of bodies define differently. He advised proceeding with caution. Another Faculty Council member stated the there are different levels of intermediate. The resolution failed with a vote of 22 yeas, 50 nays, and 0 abstentions. The discussion then turned to the question of the limit on the number of course proposed by the resolution. Professor Tremper (English) pointed out that the number of courses was left vague. Professor Dexter responded that the committee has not yet determined the number of courses. Professor Robin (Political Science) stated that the number of courses shouldn't be limited. He asked if, so as to maximize students' choices and ability to take classes in a range of disciplines, general education should include as many courses as possible. The motion to strike "Be It Resolved that the number of available course that fulfill general education requirements be limited" was made. Professor Kellogg stated that greater student agency is desirable. However, the committee was mindful of the example of upper tier Core courses: over 100 courses were approved for upper tier course, but many have not been offered. She also stated that offering too many courses would cannibalize FTEs. Professor Shortell stated that general education course should be designed as such and not be coterminous with the entire Brooklyn College curriculum. Professor Ebert stated that offering too many courses would have an impact on scheduling. Professor Tremper stated that courses could be rotated into the general education curriculum. Professor Robin stated that he worried that the limit would raise the same problem the current Core curriculum and Pathways have. He declared that he was concerned about student choice, simplicity, clarity and transparency. Professor Hadler (Art) called for a balance between student agency and faculty wisdom. The motion to strike "Be It Resolved that the number of available course that fulfill general education requirements be limited" failed with a vote of 21 yeas, 56 nays, and 2 abstentions. Professor Perez y Gonzales called the question, which passed with a vote of 62 yeas, 16 nays, and 1 abstention. The Resolution passed with a vote of 78 yeas 3 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6128) New Business

Professor Aja reminded Faculty Council members to provide a file about prospective honorands to the Committee on Honorary Degrees

(6129) Adjournment

There being no further business, Professor Langsam declared the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary