

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL

September 6, 2016

- (6285) Call to order      The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2016-2017 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6286) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Studamire (Biology), Ciszowska (Chemistry), DeBey & Li (ECAE), Balk (H&NS), Alonso (Mod Lang), Zeng (Kinesiology), Arlig (Philosophy), Ness (Poli Sci.), Weston (Psychology), Adams (SEED); School Delegate: Sowers & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Hardin (Nat. & Bev. Sci.) were absent (-14); Zeng (Kinesiology), Murrow (Edu) were excused (2); Administrators: Jackson, Carey, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6287) Minutes of May 10, 2016      The minutes of May 10, 2016 were approved unanimously.
- (6288) Steering Committee      Professor Langsam greeted everyone to a new academic year. He welcomed President Michelle Anderson to Brooklyn College and stated that Faculty Council looks forward to working with her on areas of mutual interest and wishes her great success in her tenure at the college. He read out the following statement for a moment of silence on the death of Professor Danny Kopec (CIS):
- “Professor Danny Kopec of the department of Computer and Information Science was born in Kfar Saba, Israel and died at the age of 62 at the beginning of the summer. He was a faculty member since 1999, serving as the department’s graduate deputy chair from 2000-2009, an author, entrepreneur, and International Master of chess. A chess prodigy and Master at 17, he earned his bachelor’s from Dartmouth college and PhD in machine intelligence from the University of Edinburgh. A prolific author, his chess products included eight books and nine feature-length instructional videos. He co-authored textbooks in the area of artificial intelligence and over 100 academic articles. Danny is survived by his wife Sylvia, son David, his sister Patinka, his stepson Oliver, nephews, and fondly remembered by his colleagues, thousands of former students and fans.”*
- Professor Langsam welcomed the new members to Faculty Council. To explain the work that Faculty Council does, he read out the following relevant sections from the Brooklyn College Governance Plan:
- Article II. The Faculty*
- A. *The faculty shall consist of all persons having faculty rank or status. It shall conduct the educational affairs customarily cared for by a college faculty. It shall make its own bylaws consistent with this governance plan and Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York. It shall meet at least once each semester, or more often, at the*

*call of the President or by petition of ten percent of its members, and 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. Meetings of the Faculty shall be chaired by the President.*

- B. *The Faculty Council shall be the legislative body of the Faculty and shall have all the responsibilities of a faculty, as exercised heretofore under the Bylaws and Policy Statements of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York subject only to the review of the Faculty.*

*(amended and approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees on January 26, 2015)*

This great responsibility centers on everything that affects the students and controls the destiny of the college. He reminded the community that the faculty sometimes has to take some hard decisions and stand up for what it believes is the right thing to do for our students, which is the primary reason we are all here.

Faculty Council strictly follows Robert's Rules of Order as modified by the New York State Open Meeting Law. This means: only actual members of Faculty Council may speak; as an open meeting, anyone of the public can attend; the minutes are available upon request. A quorum is needed to pass final matters requires a majority of the total number of the members of Faculty Council (108) whether they are present or not. For this reason, it is important that members stay to the end of the meeting so that a quorum is maintained and business can be conducted. Professor Langsam reminded members that, under the NYS Open Meeting Law, all ballots are public; there are no secret ballots and all votes are recorded. The public, press and members of the Brooklyn College community have the right to see how individual members voted on a particular issue. Faculty Council Steering Committee has committed to the faculty that it will never look at how individual members voted, and Professor Langsam hoped that the administration would make a similar commitment.

Professor Langsam reported on the status of Brooklyn College's general education curriculum. Faculty Council had spent almost four years working to convince the administration at the college and at CUNY that—as the governance states—all matters of curriculum rest in the hands of the faculty. In the course of those years, two motions were passed reiterating Brooklyn College faculty's non-participation in CUNY's Pathways program mandated by the Board of Trustees because the Board did not follow the Brooklyn College governance which the Board itself had approved. Last year, a general education program that various Faculty Council committees worked hard on and that the faculty could be proud of was finally approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees. As such it made sense that the two resolutions of non-participation in Pathways be repealed since CUNY and the Board of Trustees has honored its commitment to Brooklyn College faculty as per the governance.

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the following resolution on behalf of the Steering Committee of Faculty Council:

***Whereas, Article II of the Brooklyn College Governance Plan establishes faculty responsibility for the curriculum, awarding of college credit, and granting of degrees, and***

*Whereas, the Faculty Council of Brooklyn College approved a new general education curriculum on April 12, 2016, and*

*Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York approved the new general education curriculum on June 27, 2016, and*

*Whereas, Faculty Council, at its meeting of April 3, 2012, voted not to “implement a [CUNY] Pathways curriculum under the current guidelines,” and at its meeting of May 8, 2012, reaffirmed that policy, and*

*Whereas, the implementation of a new general education curriculum according to the parameters of the Brooklyn College Governance Plan, renders the resolutions on general education of April 3, 2012, and May 8, 2012, moot*

*Therefore be it resolved, that Faculty Council withdraws the resolutions on general education of April 3, 2012, and May 8, 2012, and*

*Be it further resolved, that the Committee on General Education is empowered to conduct the necessary administrative work to manage the new curriculum with all duly constituted college and university curriculum committees.*

The resolution passed with a vote of 84 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Professor Langsam added that the Provost has assured the Steering Committee that the language in the Bulletin was now to be returned to the control of the faculty so that it could reflect the Brooklyn College general education program as it should have been.

Per the by-laws of the Brooklyn College Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation Board (Article III, Section 2), Faculty Council presents to the President a slate of four faculty from which the President chooses two to serve on the Board. Two faculty members were nominated: Professors Richards (Art) and Tinkelman (Accounting). As there were no other nominations, both names would be sent to the President.

Professor Langsam announced that the Triennial Election of Secretary of the Faculty and Members of the Standing Committee would take place in November at a time to be determined.

(6289) Communications  
from the Administration

President Anderson expressed her appreciation at addressing Brooklyn College’s faculty leadership, not only for the accomplishments, honors and awards of the outstanding faculty, but for its profound commitment to independence and integrity. The presidency is a position of trust, and she took that position of trust very seriously. Her role is to enrich the student experience at the College, to enhance the excellence of the programs offered, to increase the value of the Brooklyn College degree, and to make the institution stronger, more nimble, more responsive to student needs, innovative, visionary and hopeful. President Anderson saw her job, particularly this year, as helping the College withstand serious budget cuts with its mission intact. She will sometimes do things the faculty would agree with and sometimes would not agree with; regardless, President Anderson would ask the faculty not to give up but to continue to engage in dialogue with her and others about the complexity of the challenges the College faced, hopefully coming to appreciate

these challenges from a multiplicity of perspectives, understanding that she sees her role as steward of the institution. President Anderson communicated her profound commitment to public higher education, and that she is deeply inspired by the mission of Brooklyn College, particularly by the College community's desire to provide a first-rate education to those who are immigrants or first- and second-generation in their families to attend college. She voiced a personal commitment to the students, which she knew many faculty members shared. Her presidency was beginning with a listening tour, and she was particularly interested in asking questions about the College's identity, culture, challenges, and hopes for the future. She had four questions for the faculty: What do you consider to be Brooklyn College's identity, both within the campus and in the larger academy? How would you describe Brooklyn College's culture and how would you like to see it improve? What are the most important challenges we face here at Brooklyn College? How can we evolve as an institution; how do you want to see us in 10 years' time? President Anderson would be seeking the responses of faculty, students, staff, alumni, elected officials, and others. She hoped to have open forums to give as many as possible a chance to grapple with these key questions. Her purpose was not only to educate herself but to get everyone thinking about who we were, how we hoped to tackle the upcoming challenges, and what we wanted to be in the future. These questions were also a mechanism by which to lay the foundation for the strategic planning process, which the College needed to engage in collectively and inclusively, to come up with a plan for where we wanted to be in five years. President Anderson then touched on a few specific issues. She acknowledged that facilities were a perennial problem. She had personally experienced Ingersoll's overheated classrooms, and she anticipated fixing them by next year. Many needed projects, such as renovation of lecture halls are being renovated and roof repairs, were being attended to on campus. President Anderson then addressed fiscal affairs. She expressed her commitment to robust fiscal transparency: under shared governance, she believed faculty needed to be engaged in meaningful review and contribute to the outcomes; this was particularly important when facing challenging budget situations. And the Brooklyn College budget had never been tighter. President Anderson explained that she would employ three types of fiscal communication: 1) context, sharing information about the different streams of funding the College receives and the spending restrictions placed on those streams; e.g., 85-90% of the College budget is fixed; 2) CUNY Central Budget Office's quarterly one-page reports about the College budget; these help in understanding how Brooklyn College is seen in relationship to the rest of CUNY and therefore how some of the monies are distributed across the system; 3) faculty hires; in terms of faculty searches for fiscal year 2018, given the current budgetary challenges, President Anderson would tend to be somewhat conservative about full-time searches. She would be meeting with Master Planning and try to proceed judiciously but swiftly with discussion and decision-making on these matters. Fiscal year 2016 seems to have ended decently due to tabling some staff searches, some delays or failed searches; strong enrollment, and energy savings arising from a mild winter. President Anderson would share the final fiscal 2016 quarterly reports when received. For fiscal year 2017, there would be more to share in the next few weeks when the numbers were clearer. Summer enrollments were down 2.7% from last year and fall graduate enrollments are down just over 2%

due to the new GRE requirements for the School of Education and Brooklyn College's Masters in Public Health moving to the CUNY School of Public Health. However, undergraduate enrollment is up 1% as a result of increased retention, which is welcome news. This will modestly help the budget. President Anderson then took questions. Professor Shortell expressed his hope that the president would encourage the Chancellor to revisit the projected January 2017 date for fulfillment of the salary increases in the new agreed-upon contract that has taken six years to settle. President Anderson stated her understanding of the issues and agreed to pass the faculty's strong encouragement to the Chancellor. Professor Bloomfield (School Psychology, Counseling and Leadership) urged the president not to simply put faculty searches in the budgetary box but to consider the importance of seeing hiring as a matter of quality and not just money. President Anderson strongly agreed that this was a valid and necessary part of the discussion. Professor Meagher (Secondary Education) asked the president to elaborate on how CUNY's view of Brooklyn College impacts the institution and its budget. President Anderson explained that at various times of the year each College's leadership negotiates with CUNY Central Office over multiple issues large and small. CUNY's perception of how responsibly the College is using its resources and how well the College interacts with other CUNY units can help put Brooklyn College in the best possible position.

Provost Tramontano introduced two new administrators in his area: Associate Provost for Institutional Planning and Assessment Jo-Ellen Asbury, and Associate Dean of the Library and Director of Academic Information Technology Mary Mallery. He outlined a few of the major initiatives for Academic Affairs this year. Dean April Bedford (School of Education) will be leading the self-study for Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP), which is critical for the School of Education. For the School of Business, Dean Willie Hopkins and his team are five years into the college's plan to attain Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation; the college is on course to do this in the next two years. If so, Brooklyn College would attain AACSB accreditation within 7 years while most institutions require 10. Provost Tramontano congratulated Dean Hopkins, Associate Dean Suzanne Scott, and the faculty of the School of Business for all their help in moving this forward. In spring 2017 the College will begin its preparations for the next Middle States visit in 2019. Associate Provost Asbury will be leading the self-study process. Due to budget constraints, CUNY Central will be offering less assistance. Provost Tramontano encouraged everyone to become familiar with the CUNY Master Plan, which is available online. Moving forward, all our planning initiatives, if they are to be effective, will need to be linked to Middle States. Provost Tramontano apologized for the delay on announcing the membership of the five committees to look at issues raised by the results of the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey. Those committees are to address: Personal Family Policies; Facilities and Infrastructure; Department Life; Relationship to the Administration; and Teaching, Research and Service. He anticipated announcing those committees within two weeks. These committees will be small, have a short length of service, and have a targeted goal of reporting early in the spring semester. Provost Tramontano expressed his concerns about faculty

searches. Last spring the Provost felt he had worked effectively with Master Planning and the deans to understand where the real needs are. But it will be important to see how the long-term budget picture will affect what can be done now and what may have to be put off until later.

(6290) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell presented the list of changes to the Faculty Council committee slate that was approved in May. He outlined the remaining vacancies and took nominations from the floor. The Secretary of Faculty Council cast one vote for the nominated slate.

(6291) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

Professor Queneau (Business Management) reported on the results of the May 17, 2016 University Faculty Senate (UFS) election:

*Chair* – Kay Conway (Business Management, Borough of Manhattan CC)

*Vice Chair* – Kathleen Barker (Psychology, Medgar Evers College)

*Members-At-Large* – Michael Barnhart (Philosophy, Kingsborough CC), Martin Burke (History, Graduate Center), Hugo Fernandez (Humanities, LaGuardia CC), Karen Kaplowitz (English, John Jay College), Phil Pecorino (Philosophy, Queensborough CC)

The resolution on Freedom of Expression and Expressive Conduct that initially passed at the March 29, 2016 UFS Plenary Session generated much online discussion in June and July. Furthermore, several members of the UFS spoke at the public hearing of the June 27, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting to voice their concerns about the policy. As a result, the Board of Trustees tabled the vote on the policy, which has subsequently been revised based on the issues raised at the hearing. Vice Chancellor Frederick Schaeffer will be a guest at the September plenary meeting of the UFS to discuss the amended policy. Professor Okome (Political Science) detailed some of the faculty objections to the policy.

(6292) Degree Lists

Professor Langsam reported that Degree Lists 2016/14 & 15 had been approved in the summer by Faculty Council Steering Committee. Degree Lists 2017/1 & 2 were approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6293) Report of Standing Committees

Professor Langsam presented for Professor Estey (Political Science) the annual report of the Committee on Campus Planning and thanked the committee for its work.

Professor Porter (Sociology) presented the annual report of the Committee on Graduate Admissions and Standards. Professor Langsam commended the committee for all its hard work over the year, recognizing its importance and the great deal of time involved. He asked the chairpersons of the various committee members to make note of this in documenting college service. He gratefully accepted the report.

Professor Carp (History) presented the report of the Committee on the Library. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for its work.

(6294) Adjournment      The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam  
Chair

Sharona A. Levy  
Secretary