

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL

November 8, 2016

- (6305) Call to order The third 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).
- (6306) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Crossman (Accting), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Shannon (ECAE), Balk (H&NS), Adams (SEED); School Delegate: Murrow (Educ.), Fox, Sowers, Steel & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Biais & Hardin (Nat. & Bev. Sci.), Hejtmanek (Program Dir.), were absent (-13); Okome (Humanities & Soc. Sci.), SenGupta (History) Massood (Vis. Media & Performing Arts) were excused (3); Administrators: Tramontano, Carey, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6307) Minutes of October 13, 2016 The minutes of October 13, 2016 were approved unanimously.
- (6308) Steering Committee Professor Langsam announced the election for two members for the Committee on Committees at the December meeting of Faculty Council. The terms of Professors Elizalde-Utnick (SPCL) and Shortell (Sociology) have expired. Nominees must be members of Faculty Council. Once the election takes place, the members of the committee will meet directly after Faculty Council and elect a chairperson.
- Professor Langsam reminded members that a call for nominations for an accomplished person to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree at the 2017 commencement exercises. Faculty need to submit material on the individual for the nomination to be considered. The deadline is Wednesday, November 30, 2016.
- (6309) Communications from the Administration President Anderson began with CUNY news. She announced that Dr. Vincent Boudreau was named the Interim President at City College by the CUNY Board of Trustees and that she looked forward to working with him. Chancellor Milliken has announced that he will be hiring a Vice Chancellor for University Advancement. This person will be the chief fund-raiser for CUNY. In general, when someone has left CUNY Central, the person has not been replaced, so the VC for University Advancement stands out as the first major new hire in a long time. This new position came out of a recommendation from a set of consultants who were hired more than a year ago. Leonard Tow will serve on that search committee. The management consultancy firm McKinsey & Company has been hired by CUNY to assess operations, such as procurement and human resources, that could potentially be centralized across the system. Over the next three months they will be looking at ways to cut \$75-100 million out of CUNY Central and the colleges to reinvest in the academic areas. Turning to college matters, the "We Stand Against Hate" message

that President Anderson sent out was a long time coming. She expressed her gratitude to the people who responded to her missive by volunteering to work together with a group to set up a series of events such as lectures or art installations that might facilitate our historical, political and social understanding of key geopolitical conflicts including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. President Anderson hoped to reach out to those volunteers in the next few weeks. She herself has some ideas of ways to enhance our understanding and elevate the discourse. The previous Friday, President Anderson was pleased to attend with Professor Louise Hainline (Psychology) a conference at the National Academy of Sciences on minority hiring in the STEM disciplines. It was a reminder that each hire that we have—and she wishes we were able to do more hiring—is an opportunity to try to tackle the long-term challenge at Brooklyn College of the lack of diversity of our faculty. President Anderson took this opportunity to affirmatively communicate that this is an important issue to her and all of us in this institution, and she will use every opportunity that she can to try to diversity the faculty. For those who are leaders in their departments, she asked them to take this message back to their faculty: each hire is an opportunity to assess a wide variety of candidates and increase diversity. Turning to budget matters, CUNY sent the final budget data from fiscal year (FY) 2016. The College was able to close its budget gap, mostly due to a warm winter and the low cost of fuel. We are now well into FY 2017. With some difficulty, President Anderson expects to be able to close this year's gap following the College's plan to use the City University Tuition Reimbursement Account (CUTRA) monies. On Monday, November 14 at 2:15pm in Tanger Auditorium, President Anderson would be giving a budget presentation for the college community. This will be a challenging budget year, and CUNY Central, for the first time, has explicitly told the college presidents to be extremely cautious in engaging in any hiring. FY 2018 looks very challenging as well. CUNY is \$68 million in the hole for the PSC-CUNY contract that was signed. This is the ongoing and annual cost of the contract, and it is not covered by our current allocation. CUNY's budget request to New York State includes a rational tuition policy, a revival of the CUNY Compact, consisting of a modest request for a tuition increase of \$250 a semester at the senior colleges. This is not an unmitigated good, which, even if it were approved, would yield approximately \$34 million a year and would not alone close the budget gap. Moreover, SUNY is not asking for a tuition increase this year but rather for its board of directors to have the authority to increase tuition independently of the state legislature and governor. If that happened, it would be surprising because it would be a major change in the relative balance of power between the board of SUNY and New York State. If it did, CUNY could ask for the same authority for its Board of Trustees, which would make it easier to impose tuition increases. These decisions affect our budget long-term. Another important area to look at over time, President Anderson explained, is the pool of potential students coming to CUNY. Though we draw students widely, an important metric to watch is the number of students entering and exiting New York City high schools. This number has been dropping for some time. For this reason, we need to focus on and improve retention because this is another way to increase and maintain enrollment. In fact, the College's recent increases in enrollment have been due to improvements in our retention numbers. President Anderson then explained that in response to the situation at City College

the chair of the Board of Trustees requested that the NYS Inspector General (IG) review the Research Foundation, the college foundation boards, and the affiliated 501(c)(3) non-profits across CUNY. Of the 24 campuses, they chose five to start with to look deeply into: Brooklyn, College of Staten Island, Hunter, Lehman and Queens. The IG is interested in looking at presidential compensation packages, a list of all clubs and professional associations for the president that the college pays for, and especially those accounts that the president has discretion over. At BC there are seven non-profit organizations associated with the College, the largest being the BC Foundation and Alumni Association. The IG is interested in all the audited financial statements, their 990 forms, any lobbyists that the College has paid for, who the executive officers are, articles of incorporation, the by-laws, amendments, policies, board resolutions from 2014-present, conflict of interest policies, administrative policies, the expenditures for the most recent fiscal year, and any discretionary accounts. This is a deep dive, involving interviews as well, and the IG is carefully reviewing all the material. It is not clear what is to come out of the IG's review. The colleges have been told that this review at five campuses is only the beginning. Despite the time this is taking, President Anderson stated that the College is glad to be engaged in this opportunity for internal assessment and review. The College has discovered a number of areas for improvement in terms of procedures, oversight and internal controls, mostly for gifts that predate the current staff. She will share the upshot of the review once the IG has completed her process at BC. It is likely that CUNY Central will rewrite the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the foundations and colleges, and require an annual report on all campus discretionary funding. The Provost asked her to mention that there were 44 courses in various states of completion advanced for consideration for general education. President Anderson reported that there is overwhelming support to move graduation from its current location on the BC quad to the larger Barclay Center. This would allow more family members to attend the ceremony, combine all three of our graduation ceremonies, and would be one-half to three-quarters as expensive. Baruch, Medgar Evers, and City Tech are currently using the complex. Other advantages of the Barclay Center: it is more disability-friendly, provides protection from the sun and rain, has air-conditioning and robust facilities, and is easily accessible by mass transit. There are downsides, but all three Student Government presidents and 82% of the student body expressed a preference for the Barclay Center. President Anderson then answered various questions about the IG investigation and its possible implications. Faculty were encouraged to read carefully the actual letter from the Board of Trustees to the IG asking for the investigation. As to the possible consequences for fundraising, President Anderson remarked that Brooklyn College has some of the most active and generous alumni of all the campuses at CUNY, so it was important to continue to communicate and positively engage them, particularly with such a challenging budget environment. She spoke to the question of whether the investigation would lead to greater centralization or decentralization at CUNY or some combination of the two depending on the process or operation. (President Anderson then, regrettably, had to leave the meeting.)

- Committees serve as chair on the Committee on Research, and Professor Bassell (Business Management) volunteered from the floor to serve on Course and Standing. This left only one committee vacancy: the chair of Honors, Citations and Awards. The slate was approved unanimously.
- (6311) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate Professor Queneau (Business Management) reported on the University Faculty Senate (UFS) meeting of October 25, 2016. The two guests were Robert Ptachik (Senior University Dean for the Executive Office & Enrollment) and Clare Norton (University Dean of Admissions) who spoke about trends in enrollment. From Fall 2014 to Fall 2015 there was a slight overall decrease in enrollment from 275,132 to 273,862. For Fall 2015 there were about 244,784 undergraduates enrolled and 29,078 graduates. The longer-term trend from 2008-2014 shows a clear distinction between undergraduate and graduate enrollment: at the undergraduate level, there was an increase of a 32,000 students, led by increases in freshmen, transfers, readmits and retention; at the graduate level a decrease of 1500 students, mostly due to a decline in enrollment in teacher education programs, improvement in the economy, and more intense competition from online programs. For the period Fall 2015 – Fall 2016, CUNY projects a 1% enrollment decline. At the senior college level, enrollments are expected to be flat while enrollments are expected to decline by 2.5-3% at the community college level. The growth in new graduate students is expected to be between 4% and 5%. CUNY expects more competition from private colleges, SUNY and online programs. CUNY needs to grow its online programs, develop new degree programs, attract more adult students, students from outside New York City, and international students. Growth is one way to deal with some of CUNY's problems, and one interesting issue raised was that CUNY may have a quality perception problem among parents and potential students. UFS Chair Katherine Conway (BMCC) gave an update on the university's budget request. CUNY is asking for a \$250 tuition increase for the senior colleges and \$100 tuition increase for the community colleges per year. Currently, 54% of CUNY's funding comes from New York State (including TAP), 22% from tuition (16% from undergraduate and 6% from graduate), 11% from New York City, 8% from Pell Grants, and 5% from scholarships. The proposed budget should be similar in structure with the following slight changes: 53% from NYS and 13% from NYC.
- (6312) Degree Lists Professor Bowdoin (Library) reported that the Committee on Review of Student Records had reviewed the lists, and they were in order. Degree Lists 2017/5 were approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (6313) Report of Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented Curriculum Document 383. There was heated discussion on the proposed new course FINC 5102. A motion to remove FINC5102 from the document and send it back to the committee was made and seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 62 yeas, 18 nays, and 10 abstentions. The course was sent removed from the document. Curriculum document 383 was approved by a vote of 86 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. Professor Cohen announced that Monday, October 14 was the deadline for submission of curricular items for the December meeting of Faculty Council.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Evans (Library) presented Curriculum Document 236. Professor Langsam raised the issue that the proposed new course EESC 7842G had not asked for clearance from the Department of Computer and Information Science. Professor Cherrier (Earth & Environmental Sciences) agreed to withdraw the proposed class. A motion to remove EESC 7842G from the document was made and seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 79 yeas, 6 nays, and 3 abstentions. A last-minute addition to the document was handed out before the meeting reflecting a required change to a previously-passed Section IV New Course MUSC 7190X Jazz Pedagogy that mentioned a program that hadn't yet been approved. The Curriculum Document 236 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Course and Standing: Professor Wasser (TV&R) presented their annual report. Professor Langsam thanked the committee for their excellent, well-written report that highlighted some serious issues and encouraged everyone to read it carefully. Professor Wasser drew attention to the negative trend of increasing e-permits discussed on page 2. Professor Langsam expressed the gratitude of the faculty for all the work that Course and Standing does.

(6314) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Sharona A. Levy
Secretary