

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL

May 9, 2017

- (6357) Call to order      The eighth 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 Gargan (Library) in place of Professor Langsam (CIS).
- (6358) Roll call      The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Zelcer (Accting), Studamire (Biology), Rubal-Lopez (CBSE), Ciszowska (Chemistry), Yarrow (Classics), DeBey (ECAE), Elsky (English), Jiang (HNS), SenGupta (History), Alonso (Modern Lang), Shottenkirk (Philosophy), Ness (Poli Sci.), Perez-Rosario (PRLS), Adams (SEED), Fry (TV/Radio), Townsend (Theatre); School Delegate: Murrow & Zolkower (Educ.), Childers, Minter, Troyansky & Vitale (Humanities & Soc Sci.), Davenport & Hardin (Nat. & Bev. Sci.), Hejtmanek (Prog Dir) were absent (-25); Hadler (Art), Langsam (CIS) & Wills (Humanities) were excused (-3); Administrators: Sillen, Carey, Greenwald, Whatley, Gilbert, Fitzgerald, Hewitt, Gold & Ali were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6359) Minutes of April 4, 2017      The minutes of April 4, 2017 will be presented at the September 2017 meeting.
- (6360) Steering Committee      Professor Gargan thanked everyone for their service in Faculty Council this year and everyone who served on a Faculty Council committee. Without your service, the College would not be able to accomplish all its required business.
- Professor Gargan read out the following for a moment of silence for Professor Hyman (Hy) Sardy (Economics):

*It is with deep regret that we inform you of the passing of our former colleague Professor Hyman "Hy" Sardy. He was born and grew up in Brooklyn, graduating from Brooklyn College in 1958 with a degree in economics. He earned a Ph.D. in econometrics from the New School for Social Research in 1963. He began teaching in the Economics Department in 1958 and served as a member of the Brooklyn College faculty and in several administrative capacities, including special adviser to President Hess, over a span of 56 years until his retirement in 2014. A distinguished scholar, Hy's contributions include Ascent to Affluence: A History of American Economic Development, a "unique text that integrates the theories of economic growth with a detailed historical analysis of the entire American economic experience." He also published numerous books and journal articles in his fields of statistics and research methods. He was cherished for his humility and collegiality, and many Brooklyn College faculty are grateful to Hy for his wise advice and mentorship. His work with his colleagues has left its mark on two generations of our faculty and students.*

Professor Ball (Art) then read the following for a moment of silence for Professor Vito Acconci (Art):

*Vito Acconci, Distinguished Lecturer and internationally-renowned artist, died on April 28, leaving his wife, Maria, and a host of adoring students and colleagues at Brooklyn College. A committed teacher, brilliant thinker and maverick artist, he will be greatly missed. Acconci grew to prominence in the late sixties and early seventies with a host of ground-breaking performances and videos, many of which were on display in his 2016 retrospective at MOMA PS1. He began as a poet, earning an MFA from the graduate writing program at the University of Iowa in 1964. His poetic experiments addressed the materiality of the words themselves and transformed into a performative arena when he placed letters on the floor and interacted with them. During his years at Brooklyn College he ran an architecture and design firm in DUMBO called Acconci Studios. And his innovative work there earned him the 2012 Designer of the Year award at Miami Art Basel. He was a courageous fighter for his entire life for the most controversial and cutting-edge art of his day.*

*We are planning a memorial for him in September.*

Professor Meagher (Secondary Ed) suggested that in the future that Faculty Council display photos of any faculty members that we are remembering during the moment of silence.

(6361) Communications  
from the Administration

President Anderson began by reporting on the status of the strategic plan. Teams were formed to draft objectives with corresponding actions for each of the five strategic goals. The work of the five teams was put together in one coherent document. This will be presented online in early June and seek online feedback. Over the summer the President hopes be able to turn the objectives into a set of benchmarks and outcomes and present a first draft at the beginning of the fall semester. President Anderson has been made co-chair of the CUNY presidents committee on affirmative action and faculty diversity and is meeting with the Brooklyn College affirmative action task force that has been meeting on this issue. She has also been informed that the issue will be discussed at the chairs retreat on May 19. President Anderson gave a presentation on the fiscal situation at Brooklyn College for FY17 and FY18, the CUNY budget, and the Excelsior Scholarship. While the details are unclear, the general picture for Brooklyn College is that baseline for the budget going forward, after two years of unrestored cuts, is under-resourced, especially in facilities, and they estimate the base will be cut another \$1.5 million due to uncovered mandatory cost increases. Working with Master Planning, they will develop additional gap-closing measures as need be. The goal will be to preserve the excellence of the academic program and to avoid additional cuts in staffing. President Anderson explained what details are currently known about the Excelsior Scholarship and the need and challenge to provide students who wish to take 30 credits a year the opportunity to do so. It is estimated that as many as 10,000 students at CUNY may be eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship this fall. The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) will issue regulations and answer questions on their website by May 25. In response to questions, the Provost explained that the four-year graduation rate for Brooklyn College students is

currently in the 20s and the six-year graduation rate is about 54%. The number of students who take approximately 30 credits a year is also in the 20s. President Anderson then turned to new faculty lines. They are now deciding on the number of lines for next year, working with the Master Planning committee and adopting a new process that provides for additional transparency and faculty input. At CAP the members discussed the factors that go in to assessing which departments get new lines. Factors that were mentioned were: student FTEs, the ratio of students to full-time faculty, the number of majors in relation to full-time faculty, the cost per FTE, the affirmative action plan developed by the department, data from the field that indicates the jobs available and the ability to provide a curriculum that would deliver a program that would get students those jobs, the actual teaching power of the faculty in the department, retirements, availability of qualified adjuncts in the area, mandates from state and accreditation programs, vision for the department and its evolution, goals for Brooklyn College's strategic plan, CUNY requirements for five faculty for a department, the ability to deliver grants to fund research, and the value that the area of study brings to the College. There was a robust discussion of whether there should be absolute factors that trump all other factors for departmental hiring. There was great pushback against this position. President Anderson then answered questions from the faculty about her remarks and related matters.

Provost Tramontano reported that last year there were approximately 30 substitute lines in each semester. Once there was more information about the budget, the number and location of substitute lines for Fall 2017 will be clearer. The Governor put \$4 million into CUNY's budget to support new and ongoing development of open educational resources (OER) to help students deal with the prohibitive cost of textbooks. CUNY will award each college money to support OER in the institutions highest-demand courses, defined as a general education or gateway course with at least five sections offered a year. There are about 15-25 courses at Brooklyn College that fall under this category. Ideally these should be courses that could help students across the system. The Provost then discussed the deliberations of the Faculty Council curriculum committees in relation to the College calendar and the financial pressure that ensues. While he has tried to be as flexible and friendly as possible about deadlines for getting courses approved for inclusion in the fall bulletin, this will no longer be possible going forward. To get something into the Fall 2018 bulletin, it will have to pass Brooklyn College's local governance in Fall 2017 so that it can go through CUNY governance in time for the January meeting of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

(6362) Committee on Committees

Professor Shortell (Sociology) presented the list of nominations to the Faculty Council committee assignments for 2017-18 with some minor changes. There remained committee vacancies, with a significant number of committee chair positions still open. Certain groups of faculty are disproportionately not serving: full professors need to serve at higher levels than previously in order to take some of that burden off junior and associate-level faculty. Members of Faculty Council were encouraged to reach out personally to senior faculty who have not been serving recently. The slate was approved unanimously.

Professor Shortell presented the following resolution amending the charge of the Academic Integrity Committee:

**Whereas**, the Graduate Bulletin (p.35) was amended regarding Clinical or Field Experiences: Any candidate found to be in violation of any of the conduct guidelines detailed in the Brooklyn College Student Handbook and/or the candidate's discipline-specific code of ethics/conduct may not be recommended for student teaching/clinical placements/fieldwork experiences; and,

**Whereas**, the process of adjudication of violations of this conduct has not been formally established; therefore,

**Be it Resolved**, that the charge of the committee on Academic Integrity be changed to: The Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) shall consist of five members of the faculty. To assure continuity, at least two members should serve for two consecutive years. The AIC will oversee the implementation, interpretation, maintenance, and revision of academic integrity policy at Brooklyn College. This includes: (A) conducting hearings when students choose to contest faculty allegations of academic dishonesty, and any violation of the code of conduct in clinical or field experiences; (B) reviewing existing policies and procedures and preparing and submitting appropriate recommendations and legislation to Faculty Council and other governance bodies, and (C) educating students and faculty about the College's expectations, policies, and procedures on Academic Integrity. The committee will consult relevant documentation (e.g., the Faculty Action Report for Incidents of Academic Dishonesty) collected by the campus Academic Integrity Officer in the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. The Academic Integrity Officer may attend meetings in an advisory capacity. Files on decisions from this committee will be maintained by the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. An attorney from the college's legal affairs office may also be present to act as legal advisor to the committee. The AIC shall submit to the Faculty Council at its regular April meeting an annual report of its activities.

The resolution passed with a vote of 74 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.

(6363) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate

There was no report because the University Faculty Senate had not met since the last Faculty Council meeting.

(6364) 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 2017/12 & 13 was approved with a vote of 74 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6365) Report of Standing Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Cohen (Music) presented the following resolution for Undergraduate Curriculum Revision from the English Department:

**Whereas**, the English department often co-lists special topics courses with other departments and programs;

**Whereas**, the English department has changed many of its courses from 3 hours; 3 credits to 4 hours; 4 credits beginning in the Fall of 2017, including their special topics courses CMLT 3629 and ENGL 3192;

**Whereas**, most of the collaborating departments only have 3 hours; 3 credits special topics courses;

***Whereas,** the English department has requested that the change in credits for CMLT 3629 and ENGL 3192 approved by Faculty Council as part of CUCDR 387 on April 4, 2017 be withdrawn;*

***Resolved,** that the A-V course changes for the special topics courses CMLT 3629 and ENGL 3192 be withdrawn from CUCDR 387.*

Professor Tremper (English) thanked the committee for all their work in shepherding the complicated changes to the English department's curriculum.

The resolution passed with a vote of 71 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Professor Cohen next presented the following resolution for Undergraduate Curriculum Document Revision on General Education Pre-Requisites:

***Whereas,** Faculty Council at its April 2017 meeting adopted the university's Pathways categories and learning objectives; and,*

***Whereas,** the implementation of the new requirements for the college option component of the Pathways curriculum was delayed until fall 2018; therefore,*

***Be It Resolved,** that the changes to the pre-requisites for the college option courses take effect in fall 2018 and until then revert to "Junior-level standing."*

The resolution passed with a vote of 73 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.

Professor Cohen presented Curriculum Document 389. Curriculum Document 389 was approved with a vote of 70 yeas, 0 nay, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Professor Evans (Library) presented Curriculum Document 241. There were a few typographic error and editing corrections made on the floor. Curriculum Document 241 was approved with a vote of 69 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Committee on Academic Integrity: Professor Johnson (Political Science) presented the annual report of the committee. Professor Johnson appealed for someone to take on the important and rewarding position of chair of the committee. Professor Gargan thanked her for her remarks and the members of the committee for all their work.

Committee on Admissions: Professor Longtin (SCAS) presented the annual report of the committee. Professor Gargan thanked the committee members for their service.

Committee on Honors, Citations & Awards: Professor Schvarzstein (Biology) presented their annual report. Professor Schvarzstein pointed out that the committee has consistently asked for an increase in its membership to lighten the work. Professor Gargan thanked her and her committee members for their hard work.

Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget: Professor Bank

Muñoz (Sociology) presented their report. Professor Gargan extended Faculty Council's thanks to her and the committee.

Committee on Review of Programs: Professor Grubbs (Music) presented the annual report of the committee and thanked the nine directors of interdisciplinary programs who responded to the committee's survey in a timely manner. It was a pleasure to learn about innovative programs. Professor MacIntyre (Music) commended the committee for their report and highly recommended that all administrators read the report. Professor Gargan thanked the committee for its work.

(6366) Adjournment

Professor Gargan wished everyone a wonderful summer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Gargan (substituting for Yedidyah Langsam)  
Chair

Sharona A. Levy  
Secretary