

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
March 10, 2020

- (6618) Call to order The sixth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm in the Woody Tanger Auditorium by Professor Langsam (CISC).
- (6619) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Paul (ACCT), Fraser (AFST), Pham (BUS), Schur (CLAS), Wang (ECON), Haine (FGSW), Lurz (PHIL), Miyano (PHYS), Hass (PSYC), Miele (SEED), Tesman (Theater); Delegates: Troyansky (HS&S), Gibney (NBS), Christman (VMPA), Entin & Nissenbaum (Prog Dir) were absent (-16); Simon (ART), Cox (CISC), Klein (ECON), Fischer, Grayson & Liu (BUS), Murrow (EDUC), Girelli-Carasi (H&SS), Levitan, Miles, Rudowsky & Thurm (NBS), Massood (VMPA) were excused (-13); Administrators: Galitz & Queneau were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6620) Minutes of December 12, 2019 & February 11, 2020 The minutes of December 10, 2019 and February 11, 2020 were approved unanimously.
- (6621) Steering Committee Professor Langsam (CISC) announced that nominations for the University Faculty Senate were held online from March 2 to March 6, 2020. Elections will take place from March 23 to March 27, 2020.
- Professor Langsam announced that faculty nominations for a slate of up to eight candidates for the Brooklyn College Association Board will take place at the March 31, 2020 meeting of Faculty Council.
- (6622) Communications from the Administration President Anderson discussed the COVID-19 situation. She described the Brooklyn College response team, which is led by Director of Environmental Health and Safety Sadovnik and includes five committees: accurate information & prevention, ITS & remote access preparation, triage, monitoring & tracking, academic continuity, and facility closure & re-opening. The

executive committee of the response team convenes every morning.

President Anderson stated that New York State Governor Cuomo has issued a state of emergency, which CUNY Central understands to be about the legal authority of the state and the flow of emergency funding.

President Anderson stated that if any member of the Brooklyn College community is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19, Brooklyn College would close for the necessary amount of time to clean. Closing for a longer time will be determined by CUNY Central. Nonetheless, preparations are underway. President Anderson stated that faculty are allowed to move classes online in consultation with the chair.

President Anderson assured Faculty Council that the risk on campus remains low, and the situation is in flux.

Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Gilbert stated that the current focus is on cleanliness and maintenance of bathrooms for hand washing. He reminded Faculty Council about BCFixit, which allows for rapid response to health and safety issues. SVP Gilbert stated that his office is working with Academic Affairs on technology preparedness in case of a partial or full shutdown. He reminded FC members that CUNY Central has posted information about the situation at <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>.

A discussion about a number of issues followed: the move to online instruction, acceptable platforms, deadlines, best practices, student access to technology, adjunct email, access to campus in the event of closure, observations, the Promotion & Tenure meeting on April 2, research lab access, seat capacity in classrooms, resources available through the Center for Teaching and Learning, issues for online instruction in lab and studio courses, financial aid, summer courses, virtual office hours, issues relating to staff sick days, threshold for moving to online instruction, the schedule for spring break, PPE equipment and training for custodial staff, and common interests of the Brooklyn College community for health, safety, and continuity.

(6623)
Committee on
Committees

Professor Levy reminded Faculty Council about the deadline to submit the form with requests for committee assignments.

(6624) Liaison
with the
University
Faculty Senate

Professor Cohen (Music) reported on the following discussions of the most recent University Faculty Senate meeting: budget and enrollment issues and the six-year review of Pathways.

(6625) Degree Lists Degree Lists 2020/9 passed with a vote of 77 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6626) Report of Standing Committees
Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: A motion was proposed from the floor of Faculty Council to remove the Department of Accounting changes from the A-III section of Curriculum Document 405 and return it to committee. The motion passed with a vote of 64 yeas, 10 nays, and 2 abstentions. Curriculum Document 405 with changes passed with a vote of 67 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 256 with changes passed with a vote of 61 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Master Planning, Education Policy & Budget: Professor Hashmi (TVRA) presented the annual report, which was accepted. A motion for Faculty Council to endorse the final paragraph of the annual report passed with a vote of 65 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention (see Appendix A). The committee presented the "Resolution on Timely and Complete Provision of Requested Data to the Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget." The whereases were read into the record (see Appendix B). The motion passed with a vote of 61 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.

(6615) Old Business There was no old business.

(6616) New Business There was no new business.

(6617) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Appendix A

Our full analysis is in the attached report (Appendix I), but we want to stress that the requests made by every single department demonstrated great need for additional faculty. We read narrative after narrative describing the closure of successful graduate programs, the inability to adequately advise or mentor students because of large section sizes and an undue reliance on adjunct instructors. We cannot continue to celebrate the quality of our education and the commitment of our educators when the number of faculty and other educational staff – all of whom are using their full ingenuity and are going well beyond their workload to ensure student success – is shrinking to untenable levels. The future and mission of Brooklyn College are gravely undermined and threatened by these austerity measures.

Appendix B

Whereas, the Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy and Budget is charged with “consider[ing] the budgetary policy of the college, particularly in effect of budgetary decisions on the academic program;”

Whereas, the Committee is responsible for exercising “an advisory role in the formation of the fiscal policy of the college;”

Whereas, the Committee is explicitly entitled to “access to all relevant documentations” needed to fulfill the responsibilities described above;

Whereas, the Committee makes very similar requests for data and documentation every year and has provided a timeline for when we need this information in order to recognize the realities of understaffing;

Whereas, despite the Provost’s attempts to improve the process, the Committee still finds it challenging and unnecessarily time consuming to get data and documentation pertinent to our charge in the form needed and in a timely manner;

Whereas, this delay actively hinders the Committee’s ability to carry out its charge;

