

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
December 10, 2024

- (7007) Call to order The fourth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2024-2025 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Shortell (SOCY).
- (7008) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Hadler (ARTD), He (BIOL), Cox (CISC), Danto (FILM), Warren (HIST), Maumus (PHIL), Suarez (PHYS), Mena (PRLS); Delegates: Blitzer (EDUC), Albarillo (HUMA), Arnow (NBS), Jannone (Prog Dir) were absent (-12); Yonggang (MDLL), Taylor (MUSC), Grasso (PSYC), Grubbs (VMPA) were excused (4); Administrators - Galitz, O'Reilly, Napoli, Tolia, Scharron-del Rio & Lynch were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (7009) Minutes of November 12, 2024. The minutes of November 12, 2024 were approved unanimously.
- (7009) Steering Committee Professor Shortell called attention to the latest iteration to the changes to the CUNY by-laws, which was included in the monthly packet.
- A minute was read to mark the passing of Professor Aaron Streiter (ENGL) followed by a moment of silence. A remembrance was read of Romello Mills (NYC Men Teach), followed by a minute of reflection (Appendix A).
- Professors Aja (PRLS) and Haine (FEIR) were elected to the Committee on Committees.
- Professor Robinson (TREM) was elected Chair of the Steering Committee of Faculty Council. Professor Nadell was elected Secretary of the Steering Committee of Faculty Council. Professors Cumberbatch (AFST) and Florence (SEED) were

elected at-large members of the Steering Committee of Faculty Council.

- (7010) Committee on Committees The latest slate for Faculty Council Committee passed with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (7011) Degree List Degree Lists 2025/5 & 6 were approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (7012) Standing Committees
- Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy, & Budget: The Resolution supporting the establishment of a Master of Science in Finance degree program in the Finance Department at CUNY Brooklyn College passed with a vote of 77 yeas, 5 nays, and 9 abstentions. The annual report was submitted and accepted.
- Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: The vote to send ARTD 3195 back to committee for reconsideration passed with a vote of 74 yeas, 8 nays, and 7 abstentions. Curriculum Document 436 with changes was approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 2 nays, and 2 abstentions.
- Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: The annual report was submitted and accepted. Curriculum Document 284 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions. Curriculum Document 285 with changes was approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 3 nays, and 4 abstentions.
- Committee on General Education: The annual report was submitted and accepted. There was a discussion of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the college option for general education. Topics included a possible residency requirement, the realignment of the Languages Other Than English (LOTE), requirements for transfer students with and without associate degrees, the credit load, the Brooklyn College Experience (BCE), and credit for prior learning,
- Committee on Academic Freedom & College Integrity: An update was provided about the work of the committee, including the charge of the committee, its recent meetings, the memo on Guidance on Academic Freedom, Classroom Conduct, and Employee Obligations Under CUNY's Policy on Sex-Based Misconduct, and the townhall on Title VI.
- President Anderson provided an update about fundraising for professional development for graduate students. She then spoke

(7013)
Communications
from the
Administration

about strategies to protect and resources for vulnerable students,
and the convening of a committee on responses to new education
mandates.

There was no old business.

(7104) Old
Business

The USG Joint Proposition 004: Resolution in Support of
Undocumented and Vulnerable Students was introduced. The
resolution to endorse the resolution was approved unanimously.
An announcement was made about a possible townhall meeting
and the next UndocuAlly training.

(7015) New
Business

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

(7016)
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Shortell
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Appendix A

Remembrance of Aaron Streiter

We mourn the death on October 25th of longtime faculty member Aaron Streiter.

Aaron retired from Brooklyn College after more than half a century of devoted service in the classroom. Beginning at Brooklyn College's the New School for Liberal Arts in downtown Brooklyn in 1972, he joined the English Department on campus in 1980.

He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School, where he was introduced to engineering, the major he elected to study at City College. However, in his third year, Aaron followed his heart and declared himself an English major. His first academic post was at Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

In his college years, Aaron adored the push and pull of discourse in his classes, participating fully and gaining respect from both teachers and peers. A letter of recommendation written by Edgard Johnson, then a Distinguished Professor of English at City College, described Aaron's mind as combining "a responsiveness to literary artistry and an eloquent capacity for voicing penetrating judgments with clarity and grace." After City College, Aaron received an M.A. from Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. from Brown University.

There was nothing he would not teach: from Shakespeare and the poets of the Renaissance to the Bible to the Victorian novel and beyond. Until the end of his career, he also adored teaching composition, which he preferred to call rhetoric and about which he was especially passionate.

Showing a remarkable dedication to his students, Aaron braved the pandemic-induced universe of online pedagogy at an advanced age. He was a poet, publishing a collection, *From the Darkness*. His erudition as a Biblical scholar was evident in *On the Five Books of Moses* and *Reason and Mystery in the Pentateuch*. His last book, *Literature as Witness* (2019), was a work of literary criticism that, as much as his work on sacred texts, revealed his rigorous moral and intellectual integrity.

He brought these qualities into the classroom, where he expected the best from each of his students, many of whom adored him and valued his mentorship.

With his colleagues he could be a cantankerous force, but those of us who got to know the man well saw the sweet nature beneath. He will be missed.

Remembrance of Romello Mills

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Romello Mills on Thanksgiving Day, 12/28. Romello was an esteemed alumnus of the NYC Men Teach program and a deeply cherished member of the Brooklyn College community.

As an undergraduate, Romello exemplified leadership and dedication. He was an active and influential participant in campus life, contributing to the Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI) and seizing transformative opportunities through the Magner Career Center. In 2016, he

became part of the inaugural Brooklyn College cohort of NYC Men Teach, embodying the program's core values of service, equity, and educational excellence.

Romello's passion and commitment to the program led to his selection as the first Brooklyn College NYC Men Teach Student Ambassador, a role in which he truly excelled. He represented the program with distinction, serving on various councils and forums. His many notable contributions include:

- Advocacy, Equity, and Policy Fellow at EdTrust, participating in the Equity and Higher Education Lunch and Learn Series in Washington, D.C.
- Served as a panelist alongside Deputy Mayor Phillip Thompson at the NYC Men Teach Showcase.
- Presented at local educational conferences.
- Attended the annual Black Men in Education Convening Conference in Philadelphia as a passionate advocate for education.
- Nominated to participate in the RISE for Boys and Men of Color Symposium held at the University of Southern California under the leadership of renowned educational leader Dr. Shun Harper, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to advancing equity and representation in education.

After graduating from Brooklyn College's School of Education, Romello continued to make a profound impact. He worked in NYC Public Schools and later went into education administration. He served as Senior Recruitment & Programs Coordinator in the Office of Teacher Recruitment & Quality, Division of Human Resources, at the NYC Public Schools. Most recently, Romello shared his knowledge and passion for education as a college adjunct instructor.

Romello's dedication to advocacy, education, and equity inspired everyone he encountered, and his legacy will continue to resonate deeply within the Brooklyn College, NYC Men Teach community and beyond.

We ask you to join us in remembering and celebrating Romello Mills his life, his achievements, and his remarkable contributions. We will share details about memorial services as they become available.

Our thoughts are with Romello's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.