

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
December 14, 2023

Minutes of November 14, 2023

- (6925) Call to order The third meeting of Faculty Council for the 2023-24 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Shortell (SOCY).
- (6926) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Lynch (BUSN), Haydar (CBSE)Thibodeau (CLAS), Peterburgsky (FINC),Axen (HNSC), Hardin (PSYC): Delegates: Tinkelman (ACCT), Horlyck-Romanovsky & Jiang (NBS), Byam & Hejtmanek (PROG DIR) were absent (-11); Day (AFST), Klein (ECON), Blitzler (EDUC), Banerjee (HUMA) were excused (4): Administrators – Connell, Eaton, McGinnis, O'Reilly were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6927) Minutes of October 17, 2023 The minutes of October 17, 2023 will be considered at the following meeting.
- (6928) Steering Committee The following were announced: a change in the order of the agenda at Faculty Council; the Committee on Committees election in December; the implementation of the new learning management system, Brightspace; the deadline for honorary degree nominations (November 22, 2023); and the student/faculty mixer on November 21, 2023 from 12:30-2:00 in SUBO.
- (6929) Committee on Committees The slate was approved with a vote of 86 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (6930) Degree List Degree List 2024/4 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

(6931) Reports
of Standing
Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree
Requirements: Curriculum Document 428 with changes
was approved with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 0
abstentions.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree
Requirements: Curriculum Document 278 passed with a
vote of 92 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Course & Standing: The “Resolution on
Grade Replacement for Grades of D+ or Lower” passed
with a vote of 81 yeas, 11 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6932)
Governance
theme:
belonging

Professor Nadell (ENGL) reported on the efforts of the
English Department to develop concrete strategies to
foster belonging, including course scheduling, faculty
availability, letter-writing assignments, student and faculty
events and spaces. She also spoke about supporting
students as they connect their majors to their sense of the
purpose and relevance of the English majors to their lives
through work with the Magner Center, alumni surveys and
spotlights, and the internship program.

A conversation about fostering belonging followed.
Professor Brodsky (JUST) asked that a student be allowed
to speak on the issue of belonging. The student discussed
the lack of feelings of belonging among many Jewish
students; the occurrence of hostile acts, hate speech, and
antisemitism directed at Jewish students; the silence of
faculty in the face of hostile acts and hate speech and the
support of faculty for students organizations that support
Hamas; faculty offering one-sided views of the situation in
the Middle East, when it is outside their expertise; and the
lack of safe spaces for Jewish students and protests taking
place in front of Hillel. Responses to the student included
the following claims: that ad hominem attacks do not mean
that students are unsafe; that restricting ad hominem
attacks could lead to an abridgement of free speech; that
conflicting messages may be delivered in an inappropriate
manner, but there is validity to in-depth analysis on both
sides; that discussion is essential, even if there is no
agreement; that ad hominem attacks that rely on
antisemitic tropes can cause feelings of lack of safety; and
that a lack of safety has and will cause Jewish students to
avoid campus. Faculty offered the following strategies to
encourage belonging: letter writing from advanced students
in the major to those at the beginning of the major; group
work that involves students from diverse backgrounds; the

importance of community norms of respect for discussion; the important work of staff on belonging; the inclusion of student voices in curricular development and decisions; student collaboration across departments; building connections among alumni, graduate, and undergraduate students. A point of order was raised about the harm caused by allotting only a short amount of time for a difficult conversation.

(6933)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Anderson stated the following in response to claims made at the October Faculty Council meeting: the Administration did not move the Students for Justice in Palestine rally off campus as the decision was made by SJP; the October 11 message did not unjustly associate SJP with violence, given that the national SJP had already declared the Hamas attack an “historic win for the Palestinian resistance” and given the celebration and support for Hamas expressed by a spokesperson at the SJP rally on October 12; President Anderson did not conspire with Councilwoman Vernikov; the President did not fail to denounce Councilwoman Vernikov publicly as she had condemned Councilwoman Vernikov’s actions at the last Faculty Council meeting, and, once again, unequivocally denounced her actions; President Anderson is not biased against Muslim students and strongly supports and advocates for them. She stated that everyone has a right to political engagement and activism, and everyone has a right to disagree and be loud, even if it makes people uncomfortable, but no one has a right to spread misinformation or intimidate their staff and faculty colleagues. She stated that she would not resign.

President Anderson stated that she is eager to work on key challenges of enhancing enrollment and fiscal strength and called on the Brooklyn College community to work together and avoid divisiveness. She spoke about the drop in the one-year retention rate during and since COVID. The Director of Advisement Newton delivered a presentation about supporting retention and student persistence using EAB Navigate.

A discussion ensued, during which the following were addressed: the capabilities of EAB Navigate and their impact on student advising, section 8.5 of the CUNY by-laws, which give the determination of an attendance policy to the faculty.

(6934) Liaison
with the
University
Faculty Senate

Professor Cohen (MUSC) provided an update about the most recent University Faculty Senate meeting, at which following were discussed: the number of new faculty hires, CUNY month, funding for facilities, low-enrolled programs, the diversity of faculty at the upper levels and hiring practices, DEI polices and goals, the campus climate, faculty retention counteroffers, and academic freedom.

(6935) Old
Business

There was no old business.

(6923) New
Business

Professor Simon (ARTD) announced the due date for Faculty Day proposals is December 4, 2023. Professor Aja (PRLS) announced plans to change the name of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies to the Department of Puerto Rican and Latinx Studies Department. Professor Tesman (THEA) announced the opening of El Huracan. Professor Hadler (ARTD) announced open studios on November 18 & 21, 2023. Professor Robinson (TREM) announced two live stream episodes for Latinas Out Loud on December 5, 2023.

(6924)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Shortell
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary