

BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
FACULTY COUNCIL  
March 11, 2025

- (7029) Call to order           The sixth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2024-2025 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Robinson (TREM).
- (7030) Roll call           The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: He (BIOL), Reed (CBSE), Yarrow (CLAS), Shannon (EDUC), Lopez (FIER), Warren (HIST), Ness (POL); Delegates: Jannone (Prog Dir), Albarillo (HUMA) were absent (-9); Cumberbatch (AFST), Langsam (CISC), Sandeman & Suarez (PHYS), McCabe (SPCL), Blitzer (EDUC) & Rodman (VMPA) were excused (7); Administrators – Galitz, O’Reilly, Freeland were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (7031) Minutes of February 11, 2025           The minutes of February 11, 2025 were approved with a vote of 71 yeas, 1 yea, and 0 abstentions.
- (7032) Steering Committee           Professor Robinson (TREM) announced that nominations for the University Faculty Senate will take place online in March and the election will take place online in April.

- (7033) Communications from the Administration  
 President Anderson announced that Brooklyn College was taken off the list of campuses of high concern at CUNY. She also announced that Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Gilbert will host an open forum on facilities and food services. She provided an update about enrollment and urged departments to offer high demand courses during the summer. She also asked that faculty members use EAB Navigate to communicate with students, as well as participate in recruitment events. She then provided an update on her lobbying efforts and spoke about the work of the Immigrant Student Success Office (ISSO). A conversation followed, at which the following issues were discussed: the impact of the current political climate on students, grants, and the campus as a whole, and messaging to students and to the larger public about the impact of the current climate.
- (7034) Committee on Committees  
 Professor Levy announced that all faculty members should have received an email about participating in Faculty Council committees.
- (7035) Degree List  
 Degree Lists 2025/9 was approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
- (7036) Standing Committees  
 Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 287 was approved with a vote of 86 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention.  
 Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 437 with changes was approved with a vote of 85 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (7037) Report from UFS  
 Professor Cohen (MUSC) provided an update about the most recent meetings of the University Faculty Senate (in previous packet)
- (7038) Old Business  
 There was no old business.

(7039) New  
Business

The Resolution in Defense of Academic Freedom and Faculty Hiring Autonomy at CUNY was discussed and passed with a vote of 74 yeas, 8 nays, and 3 abstentions.

(7040)  
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **4:35 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Robinson  
Chair

Martha Nadell  
Secretary

## Appendix A

### Minute on the Life of Elizabeth A.R. Brown

Elizabeth A.R. Brown (known as "Peggy," February 16, 1932-August 8, 2024), emerita Professor of History at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center (1963-1992), was a ground-breaking medieval historian, active for over six decades. Brown got her BA from Swarthmore in 1954 and her PhD from Harvard in 1961 and was, among other things, a recipient of grants from the ACLS and NEH, a former president of the Medieval Academy of America, a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America, a correspondant étranger of the Société de l'histoire de France and the Société nationale des antiquaires de France, a former director of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, a recipient of an honorary doctorate from the

Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies of the University of Toronto, a subject of three conferences and two festschrifts in her honor, and the author of over 130 articles, 6 books, and several edited collections. She was known for her work on, among other things, Philip the Fair of France, taxation, French medieval history, and her 1974 article in the *American Historical Review* dismantling our notion of feudalism.

In an article on interdisciplinary studies and the Brooklyn College undergraduate, published in the CUNY Graduate Center journal *Centerpoint* in 1975, Peggy wrote the following: “There seems to be a natural desire to know all there is to know, and particularly ‘why’ and ‘how.’”

Anyone who was taught by or interacted with Peggy over the course of her life—or was cornered by her at a conference coffee hour—recognizes this drive to know ‘why’ and ‘how’ as the motor that kept her going. Email correspondence from her was relentlessly peppered with questions (How did he gain his authority? How long did his authority persevere? How to fit it into the problems in Flanders in 1300? Why the Canticles? Why "monasticism" and not "being a medieval monk"? What didn't I ask that I should have?). She was always absolutely fascinated and excited to push and probe and talk it all out. Peggy encouraged us as scholars and teachers—and keeps encouraging us through her scholarship-- to ask ‘why’ and ‘how,’ even when we think the matter is settled and the case is closed.

Shortly after Peggy died in August, I got an email from one of my former Brooklyn College M.A. students who had read Peggy’s article against 'feudalism' with me in a graduate seminar. He said: “I’m teaching at a new school and I have a lot more academic flexibility, so I want to try and tackle ‘the big one’: feudalism. To my pleasant surprise our textbook explicitly says that we shouldn’t use feudalism, and references Brown’s work on the topic. Of course it then goes on to use terms like vassal and fief which go against the work they previously referenced...So I got a bunch of textbooks and my students looked at how each textbook used the term ‘feudalism’ and how it changed over time, and then they wrote a textbook passage explaining ‘feudalism’ or coming up with a new term to characterize medieval society.”

Peggy asked ‘why’—I shared her questions and her questioning with my BC students—now they are sharing the questions and questioning with their students. May we all aspire to enthusiastically, inexhaustibly question ‘why’ and ‘how’ with the fervor that Peggy did-- stretching our imaginations, and our field’s expectations, and our students’ minds in the process.

#### Minute on the Life and Passing of Carey Harrison

It is with great sorrow that the English department announces the sudden and unexpected death of Professor Carey Harrison on January 22, 2025. He was to begin his Travia Leave three days later.

Carey was born in London on February 19, 1944, to the screen actress Lilli Palmer (from Poznan, Poland, and who began her film career in Germany in the 1930s before moving to England), and Rex Harrison, stage and screen actor, whose, arguably, most famous and memorable roles were Professor Henry Higgins in both the stage and screen versions of “My Fair Lady” (playing opposite Julie Andrews on stage and Audrey Hepburn on screen) and for

which he won an Academy Award for Best Actor, and Dr. Doolittle in the movie about a veterinarian who could “talk to the animals.” Carey was raised in New York and Los Angeles before his parents moved back to the U.K., where he attended Harrow School in London and Jesus College, Cambridge University. Active in dramatic societies while at Cambridge, he became close friends with the comedians who would go on to create the comedy troupe Monty Python’s Flying Circus.

Carey was a voracious student of life, politics, history, philosophy, and literature. Not only did he plunder the world’s riches but he also increased its stores. His writing career spanned genres—journalism, playwriting (many of his plays for BBC Radio and Television), novels, even essays on linguistics, book reviews. His last play for the BBC World Service, “A Cook’s Tour of Communism,” was broadcast in 2008. The most lauded among his sixteen novels is *Richard’s Feet*, the first of a tetralogy. The subsequent novels were published by Dr. Cicero, a publishing firm he established in Brooklyn in the 2010s. His interests were unbounded, ranging from Hitler and Nazism to Communism, to Spinoza, to Freud and Jung. He celebrated the latter two’s competing theories of mind and psychoanalysis in his 2009 play, “Scenes from a Misunderstanding,” mounted at the Jewish Theater Festival in Manhattan.

In the 1960s and ’70s, he had a career as a political activist, joining the London Recruits, a group of young Britains chosen by the African National Congress (ANC) to smuggle ANC and South African Communist Party literature into South Africa, after their printing presses had been destroyed and the ANC decimated by the Rivonia Trial (October 1963 to 12 June 1964). At that trial, a group of eight anti-Apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela, was sentenced for committing sabotage. It was this trial that changed the course of history in Apartheid South Africa, ending with the release of Mandela from Robben Island on February 11, 1990, and his inauguration as president on May 10, 1994. Learning of Carey’s death, the ANC sent this reflection on his passing, emended here for brevity’s sake:

### **Condolences on the passing of Comrade Carey Harrison**

The African National Congress Veterans League is saddened to note the death of Carey Harrison, aged 80, one of the glorious band of internationalists who assisted our liberation movement during the fierce years of struggle at great personal risk.

Our liberation movement raises our banner to salute Carey Harrison - London Recruit and internationalist, lifelong socialist, novelist and playwright, retired professor of English, Brooklyn College, New York - for his courageous contribution to our struggle for freedom.

Hamba Kahle comrade Carey, your contribution will never be forgotten.

Politics for Carey determined the subjects and character of his creative work as well as they did his participation in heroic, direct action. Like Mel Brooks with “The Producers,” Carey had in his earlier years approached the Holocaust from a theatrical distance, beginning with the award-winning “I Never Killed My German” in 1979 and, later, “Hitler in Therapy.” Irony disappeared late in his life when he spent his academic leave year of 2016-2017 in Berlin as a fellow at the Berliner Academie der Wissenschaften, founded in 1700 by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the creator of calculus. While there, Carey sought out the descendants of the Jewish side of his family. Distance and urbane, dark satire were no more. In their place there was suddenly a startling and deeply personal connection to the Holocaust.

He also established, as a member of its board, an association with the Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany—its remit an examination of current moral and political controversies from positions that often contradict popular opinion. The Forum's focus, like that of the polymathic Leibniz, is on interdisciplinary scholarship, also the pith of Carey Harrison's creative and academic life. His work with the Forum had been ongoing; in his retirement and sometime in the near future, in addition to serving on its board, he was slated to deliver to its members and a wider audience a lecture on Shakespeare.

At Brooklyn College, beginning with his hiring in 1996, his own polymathic career found expression in the great variety of the courses he taught. His schedule, term by term, included American, British, or Irish literature, Renaissance poetry and Shakespeare, the theater of the Restoration, the eighteenth-century novel and poetry of the Enlightenment, both Irish and contemporary British theater, Modernism, the contemporary novel, or creative writing (both fiction and playwriting). His fan base was colossal. There was never a student whose request for an independent tutorial he turned down. Although he had moved to East Sussex, U.K., he paid little mind to the five-hour difference in time zones, offering to teach a Zoom seminar on Shakespeare, all thirty-eight plays—so Carey!—to a group of his ex-BC students.

Carey was married three times (he once quipped he was either half the man his father was—Rex Harrison married six—or twice the man, depending on one's point of view.) He is survived by his wife of thirty-three years, the artist Claire Lambe (MFA in Fine Arts, Brooklyn College), his children Rosie Laurence, Sam Harrison, Faith Harrison (BA, Brooklyn College), Chiara Harrison Lambe, two step-children from his second marriage, his stepdaughter Zoe Lambe, and several grandchildren (his half-brother, the actor and singer Noel Harrison, predeceased him in 2013).

He is sorely missed by them, by his old and new friends, and by all of us in the English department, who knew and appreciated his collegiality, his wide-ranging and profound knowledge, his unparalleled generosity.