

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
September 9, 2025

- (7061) Call to order The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2025-2026 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Robinson (TREM).
- (7062) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Chen (CIS), Jiang (HNS); Delegates: Richards (Prog Dir) were absent (-3); Chiu & Raghupathi (BUSN), Reed (CBSE) were excused (3); Administrators – Bassell, O’Reilly, Lynch & Scharron del Rio were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (7063) Minutes of May 13, 2025 The minutes of May 13, 2025 were approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (7064) Steering Committee Professor Robinson announced that Professor Moore (PHIL) would serve as parliamentarian for Faculty Council in the spring semester of 2026. She presented the Mutual Academic Defense Compact report on the state of higher education.
- (7065) Committee on Committees The latest slate with changed passed with a vote of 79 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
- (7066) Degree Lists Degree Lists 2025/13 and 2026/1 & 2 were approved with a vote of 91 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (7067) Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 441 was approved with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions.
- Committee on Admissions: The 2023-2024 annual report was accepted.
- Committee on Campus Planning: The 2024-2025 annual report was accepted.

Committee on the Computer Utilization & Educational Technology:
The 2024-2025 annual report was accepted.

Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy & Budget: The
2021-2022 annual report was accepted.

(7069) Liaison with
the University
Faculty Senate

The report was delivered in the packet.

(7069) Old
Business

The General Education College Option Revision Initiative was discussed. Topics covered included intercultural competency, career readiness, place-based learning, equity, sustainability, pedagogical approaches, and the timetable for the committee. A discussion ensued, during which the following were addressed: credit for prior learning and transfer students' scheduling and financial aid needs.

(7070) New
Business

There was no new business.

(7071)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Anderson spoke about the challenges facing higher education, including financial and personnel cuts at the federal level; political attacks, large fines, and accreditation threats; and the unusually high college graduation unemployment rate. She continued with a discussion of legal threats to students and the diversity mission of the college, including proposed changes to F & J visas; the April 2025 executive order; ICE raids in New York City; challenges to the DACA program; the federal government's lawsuit against New York City as a sanctuary city; and visa delays and travel bans. She provided an update about DEI issues, including the Dear Colleague letter and the Bondi memo, which includes the banning of DEI "proxies." President Anderson then provided an enrollment update and spoke about current and future enrollment challenges across the higher education ecosystem, including changes in admission among elite and community colleges, the number of students graduating from high school. She stated the importance of attracting non-traditional students by thoughtfully redesigning programs.

Provost Bedford announced the appointment of Professor Suarez (PHYS) as the Associate Dean of the School of Natural and

Behavioral Sciences. She then discussed the priorities of Academic Affairs, including the following: Middle States re-accreditation; academic advising and the implementation of the Accelerate, Complete, Engage program (ACE) at Brooklyn College; AI literacy, career-connected learning; and programming about academic freedom and restorative justice. She turned to the non-reappointment of three other adjuncts, the termination of a fourth adjunct, and the investigation of six full-time faculty and staff. She expressed her respect for students, staff, and faculty; affirmed the college's commitment to free speech, academic freedom, and the right to protest; and discussed contractually mandated confidentiality and procedures for grievances; and CUNY's policies and the Henderson Rules. A discussion ensued, at which the following were addressed: the importance of kindness and communication, personnel regulations in the PSC-CUNY contract, the events and contexts of May 8, 2025, strategies for future student protests, CUNY's policies vis-à-vis encampments, de-escalation, the possibility of a forum to foster community reconciliation, the increased presence of security at Faculty Council and outside the Provost's office, and restorative justice. A motion to extend time to Faculty Council failed with a vote of 47 yeas, 34 nays, and 5 abstentions. The discussion continued, and the following issues were raised: definitions of protected speech and conduct, the impact of the events of May 8th and subsequent personnel actions, and the history of the meaning of "unprofessional conduct."

(7072)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Robinson
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Amendment

Per the Resolution offered Professor Tremper and passed at the November meeting, these minutes include the following statement, under Communications from the Administration: "The faculty who spoke at this meeting were uniform in their criticism of the administration's non-reappointment of four adjunct faculty members and investigation of six full-time faculty for their alleged conduct on May 8 and/or other days."

