

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
March 10, 2026

- (7117) Call to order The sixth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2025-2026 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Robinson (TREM).
- (7118) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Viju (BUSN), Murelli (CHEM), Shannon (ECAE), Lopez (FGSC), Danto (FILM), Panek (MLL), Nakarmi (PHYS), Ness (POLS); Delegates: Elmadani (EDUC), Albarillo (HUMA), Jain & Kobrak (NBS), Fox (Prog Dir) were absent (-13); Fischer (ACCT), Sandeman (PHYS), Amoo, Ninan & Tinkelman (BUSN), Avivi-Reich & Regalado (HUMA), Cherrier, Kingan & Muth (NBS) were excused (10); Administrators – Massood, Lynch, Ludovic, McFadden, O'Reilly & Coombs were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (7119) Minutes The amended minutes of November, 11, 2026 were approved with a vote 73 yeas, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions. The amended minutes of December 9, 2026 were approved with a vote of 79 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions. The February 10, 2026 minutes were approved with a vote of 77 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
- (7120) Steering Committee Professor Remy (HIST) read a tribute in memory of Professor of History, Emeritus, Jerry Sternstein. Professor Robinson announced that that University Faculty Senate elections would take place online between March 23 and March 28, 2026. There were no nominations for the Brooklyn College Association Board. Professor Robinson presented slides about the process for extending time and the guidelines for debate and discussion.
- (7121) Committee on Committees There were no nominations to Faculty Council committees.
- (7122) Degree Lists Degree List 2026/9 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention.
- (7123) Standing Committees Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 446 was approved with a vote of 83 yeas, 1 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 293 passed with a vote of 85 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- Ad Hoc General Education Committee: Professor Childers (GLLL) led a discussion about the models for the college options, during which the following was addressed: the presence of methods courses in the college option, pre-requisites, co-taught courses, maintaining the current model, the learning outcomes for the college option, whether the college option should hew to the model of the former upper tier core, the level of college option courses (introductory, advanced), the possibility of framing the “How do we know what we know?” as “How do we know what we know in the information age?” or “Understanding [a major or discipline] for non-majors,” and current college option and its implications for transfer students.

Committee on College Integrity & Academic Freedom: Professor Schiller (ANTH) spoke about the work of the committee, including a survey about experiences related to academic freedom and a panel discussion in conjunction with the AAUP.

(7124) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate Professor Cohen reported on the February 24, 2026 meeting of the University Faculty Senate, at which Vice Chancellor for Career Engagement and Industry Partnerships Lauren Anderson spoke. Topics discussed included CUNY Beyond, the importance of paid internships, career-connected learning. The meeting also addressed the College of Staten Island's pre-recorded commencement speech and the revision of the Title VI training video.

(7125) Communications from the Administration President Anderson discussed ICE's detention of a student at Columbia University and affirmed her core commitment to protect students and her to stand against efforts to drive immigrant students out of the Brooklyn College campus, community, and country. She spoke about the Office of Public Safety's protocols, Brooklyn College's adherence to FERPA rules, emergency planning, Brooklyn College's processes in case of detention, and low likelihood of a something happening at Brooklyn College, similar to what happening at Columbia (due to the gated campus).

Executive Legal Counsel and Labor Designee Helms spokes about Department of Justice's inquiry into CUNY scholarships and affirmed that the compliance audit would include required information, which is anonymized and detached from personal identifiers.

A discussion about the following ensued: whether the names of and criteria for scholarships were included in the information provided to the DOJ, whether there is discussion with the CUNY Chancellor about non-compliance, and whether the college has a legal obligation to notify students about the inquiry. The motion to extend the end time of Faculty Council to 5:15 pm failed with a vote of 40 yeas, 42 nays, and 1 abstention. The discussion continued, during which the following issues were raised: the grievance process for the non-reappointed adjuncts, a request for the President to advocate for a settlement, clarity about what a settlement would entail, and the willingness of Brooklyn College's legal counsel to entertain a proposal for a settlement.

(7126) Old Business There was no old business.

(7127) New Business There was no new business.

(7128) Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MJ Robinson
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Jerome L. Sternstein (1933-2025)

Jerome L. Sternstein, Professor Emeritus of American History at Brooklyn College, passed away on November 29 2025 at his home in Massachusetts at the age of 92.

Jerry grew up in Brighton Beach and joined the Army. Following his service, he attended Brooklyn College on the GI bill and majored in history.

Jerry received a scholarship to Brown to pursue his Ph.D. in American History. In 1964 he and his wife moved to Iowa where Jerry taught American History at the University of Iowa while completing his doctoral research. His dissertation, "Nelson Aldrich: The Early Years" received the prestigious Allen Nevins Prize of the Society of American Historians for the best dissertation in 1968. This honor led to a one-year fellowship at Harvard and an appointment to the faculty of Columbia, where he taught until 1974, when he became a professor at Brooklyn College.

During his years at BC, he co-edited the *Encyclopedia of American Biography* with John A. Garraty and authored numerous articles about the Gilded Age including an important study on the acquisition of Pearl Harbor. He served on Faculty Council and represented the faculty on the grievance committee of the Union. He also created and taught a course on the history of gastronomy - an area that reflected his deep and abiding passion for food and wine. The course was hugely popular, the only glitch being that a few students mistakenly thought they were going to be learning about celestial rather than culinary pursuits.

Jerry was an extraordinary cook and owned over 600 cookbooks. With his encyclopedic memory, he was able to immediately pinpoint which volume held the recipe he needed. He recreated his mother's borscht and matzo brei recipes, both of which are featured in Lyn Stallworth's and Rod Kennedy's *The Brooklyn Cookbook*. Jerry's competitive spirit ignited when he discovered a pumpkin pie contest at Foodworks, a new gourmet market that had just opened in Manhattan's Flatiron District in late 1997. Dozens of New Yorkers threw their hats-and pies-into the ring, but it was Jerry's legendary Bourbon Pumpkin creation that took first prize. His victory was featured on ABC Eyewitness News, giving him his much-enjoyed fifteen minutes of fame.

Jerry's passion for food eventually blossomed into a late-in-life love of vegetable gardening and flowering plants, passions he embraced after his retirement from Brooklyn College in 1998, when he moved full-time to [Hawley, MA](#).

Jerry was particularly close to his late eldest sister, the abstract painter Shirley Jaffe, and could not have been prouder of her success, attending retrospectives of her work in Paris and Basel.

I'll quote briefly from an obituary written by a member of Jerry's family: "Jerry was a man who embraced life to its fullest, with a great sense of humor, a brilliant intellect

and an astonishing memory for all things and everything he read. He was generous, warm, and genuinely interested in meeting new people and engaging with old friends. Jerry was a raconteur par excellence and the life of every party."

He is survived by his wife, the landscape painter Trina Sears Sternstein, two daughters, four grandchildren and two sons in law.

-Steven P. Remy
Professor and Chair, History Department
March 2026