

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
October 20, 2020

- (6650) Call to order The second meeting of Faculty Council for the 2020-2021 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Langsam (CISC) via Zoom.
- (6651) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Staniczenko (Biology), Danto (FILM), Dunbar & Cai (KINS), Childers (MLAN), Weston (PSYC), March (Theatre); Delegates: O'Connor-Petruso (EDUC), Bowdoin & Smith (HSS), Rudowsky & Thurm (NBS), & Nissenbaum & Wills (Prog Dir) were absent (-14); Administrators: Lopes & Scharron Del Rio were also absent and excused. All other members were present
- (6652) Minutes of September 15, 2020 The minutes of September 15, 2020 were approved unanimously.
- (6653) Steering Committee Professor Langsam led a moment in memory of Professor Emerita Helen Lachs Ginsburg (Economics):
- Helen made important contributions to the achievement of the fundamental right to living-wage work for all. She epitomized the scholar-activist: writing and speaking nationwide on behalf of the second attempt by Congress, in the 1970s, to enact full employment and holding onto the dream after the result of that advocacy, the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, failed to achieve either of those goals. Helen's scholarship, particularly her study of the successful, sustained full employment policy in Sweden and analysis of efforts to achieve full employment in the United States, was an important influence on the thinking of those of us who worked with her for many years on behalf of Jobs for All. Helen did much to sustain thinking and study of full employment as a co-chair, for 21 years, of the Columbia University Seminar on Full Employment, Social Welfare, and Equity. She co-authored the 1994 book, *Jobs for All: A Plan for the Revitalization of America*, that launched this organization and presented a comprehensive program to ensure suitable jobs at good wages for

everyone who wants to work—“based on the philosophy that work and production, exchange and distribution should be redesigned in ways that are conducive to the full development of the innate potential of all people and to the sustainability of the ecosystem.” We extend our condolences to her husband of many years, Nathan Ginsburg, and to her brother, sister-in-law, and niece, Sherman, Lorraine, and Aileen Lachs.

Nominations for a slate of candidates from which the President will select two for the Brooklyn College Association Board took place. The following were nominated: Professors Arnold (POLS), Banerjee (HIST), Bassell (BUMA), Hashmi (TREM), Hernandez Anzola (FGSW), Klein (ECON), Rahman (ANTH), Tesman (THEA), and Troyansky (HIST).

Professor Langsam announced that President Anderson selected Professors Miele (SEED) & Schiller (ANTH) to represent the faculty on the BC Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation Committee for the 2020–2022 term.

Professor Langsam announced the results of the University Faculty Senate election:
Representing the Full-time faculty: Professors Cohen (MUSC), Okome (POLS), Saxena (BIOL) & Chang (MLAN)
Alternate senators: Professors Schvarzstein (BIOL), Bassell & Paul (ACCT)

At the request of many members of Faculty Council, the Steering Committee expressed its concern and dismay about the lack of an active Stated Meeting of the Faculty this semester. He then shared the By-Laws of the Faculty of Brooklyn College. He read Article II, Section I, which states, “The Faculty shall meet at least once per semester on the call of the President or upon written petition to the President, signed by at least 10% of the voting members of the faculty or upon the request of the Standing Committee on Review of the Faculty.” He reminded members that important business takes place at the meeting, including the review of Faculty Council minutes and resolutions brought to The Faculty. He pointed out that the Steering Committee of Faculty Council does not have the authority to call the Stated Meeting.

(6654)
Committee on
Committees

Professor Levy (CASD) presented nominations for Faculty Council committees. The Secretary of Faculty Council cast one vote, and the nominees were elected.

(6655) Liaison with the University Faculty Senate	Professor Cohen (MUSC) spoke about the most recent meeting of the University Faculty Senate, which included a discussion of the uncertainty about the budget from CUNY and possible budget cuts, reports about enrollment data, as well as concerns about class sizes with the switch to distance learning. In addition, there was concern about the possibility of a push by CUNY Central to make distance learning permanent for some programs.
(6656) Degree Lists	Degree Lists 2021/3 was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 4 abstentions.
(6657) Committee on General Education	<p data-bbox="449 630 1310 730">Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 407 was approved with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions.</p> <p data-bbox="449 762 1310 928">Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: A motion made to strike page 12 from Curriculum Document 258 passed with a vote of 42 yeas, 37 nays, and 14 abstentions. Curriculum Document 258 then passed with a vote of 81 yeas, 6 nays, and 5 abstentions.</p> <p data-bbox="449 961 1310 1127">Committee on Campus Planning: The annual report was presented and accepted. A discussion about the vacancy for the position of the Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Engineering and the safety of opening the Brooklyn College campus followed.</p> <p data-bbox="449 1161 1310 1224">Committee on Graduate Admissions & Standards: The annual report was presented and accepted.</p> <p data-bbox="449 1266 1310 1396">Committee on Research: The annual report was presented and accepted. The resolution for the creation of a research resource database passed with a vote of 90 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.</p>
(6658) Old Business	There was no old business.
(6659) New Business	<p data-bbox="449 1539 1310 1602">Because the Stated Meeting of the Faculty, Professor Davis delivered the remarks from the PSC (see Appendix A).</p> <p data-bbox="449 1644 1310 1707">A member of Faculty Council reflected on the course that was removed from the Graduate Curriculum Document.</p> <p data-bbox="449 1749 1310 1934">A question was posed to President Anderson about the cancellation of the Stated Meeting of the Faculty and the unrecorded meeting with the administration planned following Faculty Council. President Anderson apologized for the late notice about the cancellation of Stated Meeting, and asserted that her office consulted with the Secretary of the Faculty before</p>

cancelling it. She stated that she would work to overcome the logistical challenges of an online Stated Meeting in the spring and indicated that the administration planned to discuss with the faculty sensitive issues that are in flux offline following Faculty Council.

(6660)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidyah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Appendix A

The union and the Brooklyn College chapter are focused on preserving jobs and keeping people safe and healthy. The impact of the pandemic has obviously been enormous, and it's hard to know when things will change or what awaits us. The impact of the recession has also been enormous, and although it has hit unevenly across different job titles at the College, no one has escaped unscathed and no one is truly safe as long as the precarious funding of CUNY remains unaddressed. The job of a labor union is to safeguard the contract and to provide us some collective agency amidst all the uncertainty. We may not know what lies ahead, but it depends in part on what we do now, how we exert ourselves to shape the outcomes. We need to vote and encourage our students to vote, and we also need to advocate with the university administration and name the racist dimension of our austerity conditions.

We all see plainly the educational injustice as well as the racial injustice. The Board of Trustees still has not approved a budget for this academic year and is engaged instead in monthly allocations to the campuses. But these allocations are 20 percent lower than last year's monthly average, so the college's budget is being cut in effect if not in name. Everyone involved is seeking plausible deniability. The college's hands are tied, we're told, by CUNY; CUNY's hands are tied, we're told, by the State; and the State's hands are tied, in turn, by a collapsing economy and partisan gridlock in Washington. The Chancellor is awaiting clarity about additional Federal stimulus funds for New York, which is like waiting clarity at the bottom of a mud puddle. How do we break this intransigence? Three ways.

One is we organize against increased class size. Increased class size, particularly in an online environment, is effectively a work speedup; we're doing more for less and despite our resourcefulness, which is considerable, we're risking academic quality for students. By organizing against increased class size, we also resist the layoffs of adjunct faculty. And by organizing against increased class size, we prepare for other struggles ahead, whether it be threats to delay our salary increases or retrenchment and furloughs. Two, we should insist that college and university leaders advocate publicly for increased funding, not acquiesce to the inevitability of cuts. Yes things are tough all over, and yes other colleges are also being hit hard and even laying off employees. But austerity in New York is a manufactured condition, there's nothing inevitable about it. Just ask the state's 118 billionaires. Their net worth has ballooned, while the families served by Brooklyn College struggle to pay rent and put food on the table. During the retrenchment of the 1970s, some CUNY administrators objected and even resigned rather than implement the cuts the state demanded. Today we should insist that administrators break the code of silence on this matter. One way to hold our administration accountable is to sign the [new petition created by the BC Anti-Racist Coalition](#). The petition demands that an external consultant be brought in to facilitate the difficult but necessary process of working toward equity and inclusion. Third and finally, we have to care for one another. That begins by ensuring that no one is brought into an unsafe workplace, and I want to thank the faculty and staff who have joined Carrie Sadovnik's Campus Reentry Review Board – Kelly Spivey in Film, Ryan Murelli in Chemistry, and Larry Bosket in the Admissions office; their vigilance is helping to keep us all safe and healthy. Caring for one another extends as well into supporting our transition to remote teaching, and I want to thank all the Department Chairs for forbearance and leadership, our colleagues in ITS and the Library, and especially the Center for Teaching and Learning, led by Maddy Fox and Donna Granville.

By continuing to care for one another in these ways, by demanding that our administrators speak out publicly against the racist undermining of our institution, and by

organizing around unconscionable class size pressures, we can practice solidarity and come through 2020 stronger and better prepared for challenges ahead. On behalf of the chapter executive committee, we look forward to working with you.