

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
May 11, 2021

(6719) Call to order The eighth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2020-21 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Langsam (CISC) via Zoom.

(6720) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Pham (BUSN), Reed (CBSE), Schur & Yarrow (CLAS), Longtin (CASD), Lin (FINC), Harrick (LIBR), Childers (MLAN), Lurz & Shottenkirk (Philosophy), Weston (PSYC), Braine (SOCY), Vivier (THER); Delegates: Bowdoin, Davis & Girelli-Carasi (HSS) O'Connor-Petruso (EDUC) were absent (-17); were excused (-0): Administrators: Coombs, Lopes, & Scharron Del Rio were also absent and excused. All other members were present.

(6721) Minutes of March 16, 2021 & April 16, 2021 The minutes of March 16, 2021 and April 16, 2021 were approved unanimously.

(6722) Steering Committee Professor Langsam read the following minute on the occasion of the passing of Professor Margurite Iskendarian (LIBR):
I share with you some sad news: Prof. Marguerite Iskenderian, of the Library, died Saturday, April 24th. Marguerite had been the Music Cataloger at Brooklyn College since 1971. In this role, she was not only concerned about the quality of library catalog records, but she was also sensitive to the ability of library users to find exactly what they wanted or needed. She was a cellist and pianist who played in several community orchestras and with other chamber musicians. She was a bird-watcher, and an enthusiast of her adopted city of New York, world travel, and her Armenian heritage. She will be missed.
Faculty Council observed a moment of silence.

Professor Langsam read the following minute for the passing of Professor Gertrud Lenzer (SOC):
Gertrud Lenzer, professor of sociology at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center and the founder of the interdisciplinary field of children's studies at Brooklyn College, passed away Monday. She was 87.

Dr. Lenzer came to CUNY in 1972 as a professor in sociology. In 1991 at Brooklyn College, Dr. Lenzer, in conversation with other faculty, founded the interdisciplinary field of children's which focuses on the study of children and youth across the disciplines, as individuals and a social class, and through the framework of human rights. In 1992 Lenzer established the Sociology of Children and Youth section in the American Sociological Association. Other academic institutions established departments and degree programs based on Lenzer's vision. Today, the Children and Youth Studies Program at Brooklyn College has supports four full-time shared faculty, one full-time HEO-line staff member, and 25 adjunct faculty, five of whom are graduates of the program having returned after graduate study. The program enrolls hundreds of students each semester and is the home of over 500 majors, minors, and concentrators and the active Children's First Club.

Dr. Lenzer also established the Children's Studies Center and procured funding from the Carnegie Corporation, New York Community Trust/Mark Family Fund, Colgate Palmolive Company, and The Oak Foundation, as well as several CUNY Diversity Grants for various projects most notably a two-day national consultation on social justice for children 2011. Despite Dr. Lenzer's 2013 retirement from Brooklyn College, she procured more funding from the Carnegie Foundation for the Children's Studies 25th Anniversary Social Justice for Children Lecture Series. This series brought scholars and youth activists to campus to share knowledge of social justice research and advocacy. Gertrud has shaped the lives of countless students, faculty, and staff from Brooklyn College. Her life and efforts shaped a field, program, and college in profound ways.

Dr. Lenzer is survived by her son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and many friends and colleagues. To know Gertrud was to know a giant presence, a champion of children, and a social justice warrior, and her legacy lives on in the Children and Youth Studies Program and Center at Brooklyn College. Gertrud will be dearly missed.

Faculty Council observed a moment of silence.

Faculty Council observed a moment of quiet reflection about all those that have fallen victim to COVID and the changes that we have all experienced.

Processors Cohen (MUSC), Meagher (SEED) Nissenbaum (ENGL), and Williams (BIOL) were nominated for CCCRC. Professor Meagher was willing to serve but withdrew his name in order to allow for the other nominees to serve. The Secretary of Faculty Council cast one vote and the nominees were elected.

(6723)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Anderson provided updates about the fall semester; more details can be found in the Return to Campus letters. She addressed vaccination requirements, CRSSA funds, faculty hiring and the vacancy review board, the transition back to campus from remote work, the fall schedule, the designation of hybrid classes, and alternative scenario planning for different levels of social distancing. She reflected on the challenges of the past year and thanked essential workers, remote staff, and the faculty for their

work and commitment to students and their success. She then noted Brooklyn College's achievements and accomplishments, including progress on the Strategic Plan; the increase in retention rates between the first and second years, four-year graduation rates, and gateway math completion rates; the increase in winter and summer enrollments; the enhancement of mental health support for students; the offering of new training in remote teaching; the offering of additional anti-bullying training and the improvement of implicit bias training, new training on bias in remote teaching training, and new training in handling complaints about faculty. She stated that many of these efforts support the racial justice agenda at Brooklyn College as well as the development of a culture of respect and accountability. She made note of the new presidential advisory committee on staff, the new memo on expectations for statement on tenure and promotion, and the appointment of five faculty mentors. She noted the unprecedented cooperation among faculty, staff, and administrators throughout the year.

A conversation about the following issues followed: budget expectation, the continuation of the TA program, the "Parallel Lines" statement (see Appendix A), the rotation of staff into the office, safety on streets adjacent to Brooklyn College, the consultant.

(6724)
Committee on
Committees

Professor Levy (CASD) presented nominees to Faculty Council committees, who were elected with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions.

(6725) Liaison
with the
University
Faculty Senate

Although there had been no meeting of the University Faculty Senate, Professor Cohen stressed the importance of attendance.

(6726) Degree
List

Degree Lists 2021/11 & 12 were approved with a vote of 89 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

(6727) Reports
of Standing
Committees

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 413 with changes was presented.

Committee on Graduate Curriculum and Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 264 passed with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Graduate Admissions & Standards: The "Resolution to Revise and Update the Frontmatter of the Graduate Bulletin" passed with a vote of 87 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Academic Integrity: The resolution on in-person exam failed with a vote of 26 yeas, 38 nays, and 25 abstentions.

Committee on Campus Planning: The “Resolution to Support a Mandatory CUNY Vaccination Policy” passed with a vote of 74 yeas, 7 nays, and 4 abstentions.

Committee on Course and Standing: The “Resolution to Revise and Update the Undergraduate Bulletin” on the final 18 credits passed with a vote of 76 yeas, 7 abstentions, and 4 nays. The “Resolution to Revise and Update the Undergraduate Bulletin” on international transfer credits passed with a vote of 73 yeas, 1 nay, and 11 abstentions. The “Resolution to Revise and Update the Undergraduate Bulletin” on probation failed with a vote of 31 yeas, 28 nays, and 23 abstentions. The “Resolution to Revise and Update the Undergraduate Bulletin” passed with a vote of 76 yeas, 0 nays, and 3 abstentions. The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Committee on Honors, Citations & Awards: The “Resolution Expanding Eligibility for Dean’s Honor List” passed with a vote of 75 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Committee on Research: The “Resolution Calling for the Restaffing of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs” passed with a vote of 77 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention.

Committee on Interdisciplinary Programs: The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Committee on Review of Student Records: The annual report was submitted and accepted.

(6728) Old
Business

There was no old business.

(6729) New
Business

Professor Lynch (BUMA) presented Resolution to rescind to February 16, 2021 vote concerning the removal of Economics 7020 and 7021 from Business Management’s MS in Business Administration Option 5 failed with a vote of 52 yeas, 8 nays, and 17 abstentions.

(6730)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yedidiah Langsam
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary

Appendix A

Parallel Lines Statement for Faculty Council May 11, 2021:

On behalf of a growing number of faculty and staff at Brooklyn College, many of whom are not Faculty Council members, I have been asked to read this short “Parallel Line Statement” for the faculty council record and the administration’s consideration.

“We are increasingly dissatisfied with the College's academic leadership regarding its lack of transparency toward the College community in administrative decision-making and consistent disregard for faculty members' pedagogical concerns, staff expertise, and the complicated lives of our students.

As a result of these leadership deficits, faculty and staff have struggled in our essential mission: providing quality education to meet the disparate needs of our students in the virtual classroom, and to accommodate their changing needs for advisement and mentoring. Our recommendations and more formal statements of purpose are consistently sidestepped, faculty initiatives are parodied or outright ignored. As one of us noted at the Stated Meeting of the Faculty our concerns are “rejected in parallel lines” meaning that faculty and administration are communicating at cross purposes.

We, therefore, demand that the Offices of the President and Provost commit to a new era of transparency, respect, and service to students, staff, and faculty; reverse austerity measures; adopt the Recovery for Equity proposed at the Stated Meeting; and publicly endorse the New Deal for CUNY.”

