

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
September 14, 2021

- (6731) Call to order The first meeting of Faculty Council for the 2021-22 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Langsam (CISC) via Zoom.
- (6732) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Lynch & Pham (BUSN), Remy (HIST), Hardin (PSYC); Delegates: Wild (HSS) were absent (-5); Regalado (HSS) & Wills (Prog Dir) were excused (-2); Administrators: Coombs, Lopes, Galitz, Tolia, Hu & Scharron Del Rio were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6733) Minutes of May 11, 2021 The minutes of May 11, 2021 will be presented at the next meeting.
- (6734) Steering Committee Professor Axen (HNSC) was nominated for the position of alternate for the board of the BC Auxilliary Enterprise Corporation. The Secretary of Faculty Council cast one vote for the nominee.
- (6735) Communications from the Administration President Anderson welcomed Faculty Council members. She discussed the new political leadership and new political landscape of both New York City and New York State and their potential financial impact on CUNY and Brooklyn College. She reflected on the importance of calm and compassionate leadership of Faculty Council's members in relation to the emotional well-being of faculty and other community members, during this uncertain and stressful time. She mentioned the disagreement among faculty about campus re-entry; some would like to continue with remote instruction and others prefer that Brooklyn College open its campus. She stated that Brooklyn College is as open as possible safely. She spoke about the CUNY's student vaccination policy, the number of students vaccinated, vaccination opportunities, and the campus mask mandate. She discussed the challenging enrollment figures for the fall semesters and stated that

enrollment will be a key focus this semester. She discussed CUNY Central's directives about planning the spring schedule (70% of classes should be in person and 30% should be online or hybrid) and the implications for student vaccinations and academic experiences. She announced the following: the strong progress on Strategic Plan goals, related to retention, graduation, and passing rates; the appointment of Donovan Allen as the new Director of Facilities; and last year's fundraising results, as well as fundraising progress this year.

Provost Lopes announced that fifteen full-time faculty searches and twenty-seven substitute faculty searches were launched over the summer, a number that includes a racial equity cluster. She reported that the Research and Sponsored Programs Office will have a pre-award staff member and a post-award staff member by the end of the month and that a search was underway for a compliance director.

A conversation about the following issues followed: the CUNY Central 70/30 for the spring 2022 semester, student interest in online courses, surveillance testing, college finances, and student vaccinations.

(6736)
Committee on
Committees

Professor Levy (CASD) presented the slate of nominees to Faculty Council committees with an addition from the floor. All were elected with a single vote, cast by the Secretary. Prof. Preston (MATH) agreed to serve on the Brooklyn College Re-Entry Review Board.

(6737) Liaison
with the
University
Faculty Senate

Professor Cohen (MUSC) reported on the University Faculty Senate Meeting of May 11, 2021, at which re-opening plans, the coordination of the plans, and the budget were discussed. He also reported that Professor Akome (POLS) as elected to the executive committee.

(6738) Degree
List

Professor Langsam reported that Degree Lists 2021/13, which was approved by the Faculty Council Steering Committee over the summer. Degree Lists 2022/1 & 2 were approved by acclimation.

(6739) Reports
of Standing
Committees

Committee on Academic Integrity: The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Committee on General Education: The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Committee on Master Planning, Educational Policy, and Budget.
The annual report was submitted and accepted. The new
Brooklyn College Manual for Preparing New Academic Programs
was presented and accepted.

Committee on Student Advisement: The annual report was
submitted and accepted.

(6740) Old
Business

There was no old business.

(6741) New
Business

There was no new business.

(6742)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 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.”

