

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
October 17, 2023

Minutes of October 17, 2023

(6913) Call to order The second meeting of Faculty Council for the 2023-24 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Shortell (SOCY).

(6914) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Lord (ACCT), Thibodeau (CLAS), Lauterbach & Shannon (ECAE), Peterburgsky (FINC), Maumus (PHIL), Hardin (PSYC): Delegates: Elizalde-Utnick (EDUC), Raphael, Santamaria & Wild (HUMA), Cooley, Horlyck-Romanovsky & Suarez (NBS), Arlig & Byam (PROG DIR) were absent (-16); Day (AFST) Murelli (CHEM), Kozbelt (PSYC), Blitzer (EDUC), Banerjee (HUMA), Devaney (VMPA) were excused (6): Administrators – Bedford, Cumming, Connell, Eaton, Hu, McGinnis, O'Reilly & Scharron de Rio were also absent and excused. All other members were present.

(6915) Minutes of September 12, 2023 The minutes of September 12, 2023 were approved unanimously.

(6916) Steering Committee Professors Bloomfield (SPCL) and Haine (FEIR) were elected to the Committee on Committees.

Professor Shortell (SOCY) opened a general discussion related to the Faculty Council governance theme for the 2023-2024 academic year, which is belonging. He asked for volunteers for the COACHE working group and urged members to look at the results of Brooklyn College's COACHE survey, which indicated lower satisfaction than at peer institutions and suggests the need for creative solutions, given the current financial situation. He announced that Black Solidarity Day will take place on the first Monday in November and asked that other events not be scheduled on that day. He mentioned the importance

of student clubs in creating a feeling of community among students. He also spoke about the global events, which are reverberating on campus, and about the shared commitment of all members of Brooklyn College to build and sustain community, belonging, and safety.

Following these remarks, Professor Aja (PRLS) asked that a group of students be allowed to speak on the issue of belonging, at which time a student read a letter, representing multiple student clubs, which addressed the following: the October 12, 2023 student rally in support of the Palestinian people at which New York City Councilwoman Vernikov was present and armed with a gun, President Anderson's statements about the situation in the Middle East and safety on campus, free speech, the history of Muslim students at Brooklyn College, and cuts to campus services and their impact on the diverse student body, concluding with a call for President Anderson's resignation. A discussion about the following ensued: the coalition of students and their demands, the decision-making process about the location of the demonstration, the association of CUNY students with terrorism, the lack of safety felt by Muslim students at the protest, students' rights, the lack of safety felt by Jewish students, the experience of Jewish students being mocked and jeered at a vigil during which they were reciting a mourning prayer, our shared commitment to cultivating diversity, community, and belonging in a meaningful and respectful way, and the importance of empathy.

(6917)
Communications
from the
Administration

President Anderson welcomed the students and stated that she appreciated constructive criticism. She then refuted the students' claims about her communication with Councilwoman Vernikov and about the College's role in determining the location of the rally. Senior Vice President for Student Affairs Jackson described the planning process for the rally and the decision made by Students for Justice in Palestine to move its rally off campus. President Anderson then spoke about the importance of safety and her openness to meeting with students.

President Anderson then asked for volunteers for two delegates and one alternate for the Calendra Italian American Institute. She stressed the importance of being strategic in recruiting and retaining students, given the national context of declining confidence and enrollment in higher education; she emphasized the importance of

faculty use of EAB Navigate and of cultivating relationships with multiple community colleges, including Kingsborough Community College, the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and LaGuardia Community College. Interim AVP for Enrollment and Recruitment Combs described ways that faculty can participate in recruitment efforts (see attached). President Anderson then described the composition and activities of the Strategic Planning Committee, which will provide opportunities for faculty to contribute ideas about recruitment and retention.

President Anderson announced the following: the appointment of Director of Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Support Leroy as the Interim AVP for Marketing and Communications; the CUNY Board of Trustees' consideration of the Institute for Gender, Law, and Transformative Peace; the head of Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Randy Peers's interest in supporting Brooklyn College students with internships; Director of Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Support and Interim AVP for Marketing and Communications Leroy's accompaniment of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce to Capitol Hill to advocate for Brooklyn College; and the meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Staff met with the Brooklyn College Cabinet. President Anderson stated that some students have reported to her and Student Affairs about feeling alienated and unsafe when faculty members give extended remarks about their political perspectives, when they are not related to the content of their courses. President Anderson then reassured all about the priority of ensuring safety of the Brooklyn College campus for all.

A discussion ensued, at which the following were addressed: how to proceed with the loss of trust of some student groups in the President; a call for the President to publicly condemn Councilwoman Vernikov for having a firearm at the student protest on October 12 (the President then unequivocally denounced the councilmember's actions); the large number and variety of reactions to President Anderson's statements; President Anderson's statement of October 11 and CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodriguez's statement of October 9, in which he condemned protests in support of or celebrating Hamas and the possibility of risk to students due to that statement; the importance of safety for all students, including Jewish students, Muslim students, and undocumented students; and the plan going forward to address the campus climate.

(6918)
Committee on
Committees

Professor Levy (CASD) announced the plan to delist the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee as a standing committee of Faculty Council.

(6919) Liaison
with the
University
Faculty Senate

Professor Cohen (MUSC) provided an update about the most recent University Faculty Senate meeting, at which Provost Hensel was a guest. The following were discussed: CUNY Online, the new learning management system, Brightspace, and next steps for transfer.

(6920) Degree
List

Degree List 2024/3 was approved with a vote of 75 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.

(6921) Reports
of Standing
Committees

Committee on Master Planning, Budget, and Educational Policy: The motion to postpone the resolution, "Establish an Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience Leading to the Bachelor of Science Degree at Brooklyn College," passed with a vote of 40 yeas, 32 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 427 with changes was approved with a vote of 65 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Committee on Course & Standing: The "Resolution on Introducing a Grade Replacement Grade of D+ or Lower at Brooklyn College" failed with a vote of 47 yeas, 13 nays, and 7 abstentions. The "Resolution on Updating the Brooklyn College Grade Appeals Form" passed with a vote of 63 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. The annual report was submitted and accepted.

(6922) Old
Business

Committee on Research: The annual report was submitted and accepted.

Student Government representative Ebbin spoke about bringing forth a resolution not allowing classes during common hours, except when required due to academic and space considerations.

(6923) New
Business

The Resolution Concerning Support for Black Solidarity Day passed with a vote of 56 yeas, 3 nays, and 2 abstentions.

Professor Hashmi (TREM) thanked Professor Shortell for his leadership during the meeting of Faculty Council.

Professor Aja (PRLS) called attention to the influx of Latin American immigrants, who are both English and Spanish language learners, and the need to support the School of Education, as they train new teachers to support these students.

(6924)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Shortell
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary