

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
FACULTY COUNCIL
March 12, 2024

Minutes of December 12, 2023

- (6937) Call to order The fourth meeting of Faculty Council for the 2023-24 academic year was called to order at 3:30 pm by Professor Shortell (SOCY).
- (6938) Roll call The roll call was taken at the door. Department Chairs and Representatives: Lord (ACCT), Thibodeau (CLAS), Lopez (FGSC), Peterburgsky (FINC), Khan (FILM), Remy & Warren (HIST), Theoharis (POLS): Delegates: Raphael & Wild (HUMA), Horlyck-Romanovsky & Schvarzstein (NBS) were absent (-12); Day (AFST), Axen (HNSC), Hardin (PSYC) Blitzer (EDUC), Banerjee & Santamaria (HUMA) & Jiang & Muth (NBS) were excused (8): Administrators – Connell, Cumming, Eaton, Jensen-Moulton, McGinnis were also absent and excused. All other members were present.
- (6939) Minutes of October 17, 2023 The minutes of October 17, 2023 & November 14, 2023 were approved unanimously. Professor Robinson (TREM) raised concerns about the publication of the minutes.
- (6940) Steering Committee Professor Shortell announced the COACHE working group has identified interest groups to discuss the COACHE survey. He reported that the Student Government requested an increase in accessibility to department offices and faculty and suggested that faculty use EAB Navigate regularly. Professors Bloomfield (SEED) and Klein (ECON) were elected to the Committee on Committees. Professor Elizalde-Utnick (SPCL), Ness (POLS) , and Menser (PHIL) were nominated to the Advisory Committee on Campus Safety. The “Resolution Concerning the Removal of Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee as a Standing Committee” passed with a vote of 82 yeas, 2 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (6941) Committee on Committees Professor Levy (CASD) thanked Faculty Council members for their service.

- (6942) Degree List Degree List 2024/5 & 6 was approved with a vote of 82 yeas, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
- (6943) Reports of Standing Committees
- Committee on Master Planning, Budget, & Educational Policy: The “Resolution on the BS in Neuroscience” passed with a vote of 82 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention.
- Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 429 with changes was approved with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- Committee on Graduate Curriculum & Degree Requirements: Curriculum Document 279 with changes passed with a vote of 84 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.
- (6944) Governance theme: belonging
- Professor Antonello (ANTH) reported on the efforts of the Anthropology Department to foster belonging, including having group projects in the classroom, offering students extra credit to attend office hours and including a message stressing the importance of office hours on course syllabi, having students serve on department committees, hosting a student/faculty seminar, and parties, sponsoring student clubs, Anthropology Day, afternoon teas, and open houses at the archeology labs. Other activities include professional and career development, graduate education, alumni connections, advising through EAB Navigate, docs, and social media, presentations at conferences, and having a student lounge. A conversation ensued about the following: the importance of being deliberate about establishing community, and funds for student clubs from Student Government.
- (6945) Communications from the Administration
- President Anderson spoke about the following: current enrollment numbers compared to last year at this time, the large number of current applications and admitted students for fall 2024, “conversion” events to encourage admitted students to enroll (“yield”), and the importance of retention. President Anderson encouraged faculty to participate in conversion events and to reach out to current students to encourage them to enroll. She stated that the feedback about the school structure was largely in favor of maintaining the current structure and strengthening school-

based identities and provided an update about the timeline for administrative searches and background for the proposal to move some of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences departments to the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences. She then spoke about the new savings mandate and the fiscal health of Brooklyn College. She described the lack of New York State funding for mandatory cost increases, the impact of COVID, the decline in enrollment, the recommendations of the Fiscal Review Advisory Committee, CUNY Central's new requirements for cost saving, the importance of increasing enrollment and revenue, and finding efficiencies. President Anderson assured Faculty Council that she will fight for full funding for CUNY, Brooklyn College, and a new PSC-CUNY labor contract in upcoming lobbying. She urged all to work together to enhance and uplift the educational mission of Brooklyn College, as well as its enrollment, revenue, facilities, student services, and faculty and staff hiring.

Provost Bedford spoke about the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which will conduct listening sessions across the campus (beginning in January) and which will work with extant Faculty Council committees and take into consideration the issues raised in the letters from departments to the President. She identified the following strategic priorities: promoting academic excellence and access, improving campus infrastructure, ensuring financial health, enhancing communication and collaboration, and fostering belonging. The committee welcomes suggestions submitted via email (bcsp23@brooklyn.cuny.edu). Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration Gilbert spoke about support for funding for deferred maintenance from CUNY Central, plans for and progress on repairs across campus (including Wifi), as well as for food vendors for the cafeteria.

A discussion ensued, during which the following were addressed: the recent letters from departments to President Anderson and her response to them, the importance of and plans for communication and collaboration between the administration and the faculty and across schools, the history of the NBS proposal, the vision of Brooklyn College, President Anderson's advocacy for Brooklyn College, the impact of lobbying for CUNY, the New Deal for CUNY, the importance of understanding the

different strategies for different stakeholders in their advocacy efforts, and the invitation to collaborate and move forward.

(6946) Old
Business

There was no old business.

(6947) New
Business

Professor Alexakos (SEED) spoke about allowing “double dipping” for degree requirements and proposed that conversion days be treated in an equivalent manner to religious holidays. He raised concerns about the scheduling of finals.

(6948)
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Shortell
Chair

Martha Nadell
Secretary