

Baruch Faculty
Senate Plenary
September 1st, 2022
Minutes

A total of 78 members of the faculty senate, general faculty, staff, and students logged into the Zoom meeting.

Professor Terry Martell, Chair, Baruch College Faculty Senate, convenes the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

- I. Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda is approved by assent and without additions.
- II. Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of the May 5th, 2022 meeting is approved by assent.
- III. BFS Reports**
 - a. Chair's Report: Professor Terry Martell**

Professor Martell welcomes everyone to the new 2022-23 academic semester. The college is positioned well going into this academic year and he thanks everyone for the hard work through the summer. Professor Martell goes onto list four things that are indicators of our good standing: (1) The New York State budget for CUNY, (2) Enrollment at Baruch, (3) New Faculty Lecture lines and Professorial lines, and (4) the Baruch College Strategic Plan.

The New York State budget for CUNY

CUNY received a budget increase of 54 million dollars which includes expenditures for new hires coupled with residual funding for colleges and universities received from impact of covid.

Enrollment at Baruch

Our enrollment numbers are one of the best across CUNY and VP Gorman will brief the senate later in the meeting today on what those numbers are.

New Faculty Lecture lines and Professorial lines

Professor Martell presents a table showing allocations of Lecture lines and Professorial lines across the CUNY system. Worthy of note is that 43 lecture lines have been assigned to Baruch college over two phases. We are currently in phase two. Baruch College received a higher number of lecture lines as compared to other CUNY colleges. This reflects in part our resolution passed at our May meeting documenting the radically lower numbers of faculty per 1000 student at Baruch compared with the rest of CUNY and the increased burden placed on our faculty to service our students adequately. These new lines will serve to narrow the "faculty-gap" experienced at our college. Eleven new professorial lines have also been awarded to Baruch (these are in addition to any retirements experienced across the college). This makes in total fifty-four new faculty to be hired this upcoming year.

Baruch College Strategic Plan

Professor Andreas Grein is serving on the *Strategic Planning Committee* and will serve in part as the representative from the Faculty Senate. Professor Grein identifies a number of upcoming events that faculty can participate in over the next month or so the most important being the *Appreciative Inquiry Summit* on September 22-23rd. Information about these events will be distributed shortly.

Professor Martell also notes that there are two openings on the BFS Executive Committee. Please contact Professor Martell or the BFS secretary Professor Richard Wilkins should you wish to serve on the executive committee (please note that you have to be a serving BFS senator to serve on the executive committee).

Question and Answer

Professor Kulatilleke asks if the summit is in-person or via zoom. The Provost notes that it will take place in-person.

b. Report of the Vice Chair Carla Bellamy for College-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Professor Bellamy displays a draft of items that students should expect from a syllabus. Drafted by the *College-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee* the senate body is asked to suggest any changes and move to approve the draft as a recommendation for all faculty teaching at the college. The Provost suggests that “office hours” be changed to “drop in hours.” Professor Gordon notes that in his department it is recommended that a syllabus be a separate document about content and a course policy statement should also be drafted that identifies the larger administration and procedures adopted for the class. Professor Eisenman suggests that any reference to learning disabilities and their accommodation should not be included under policies for the class, but be given its own separate category and perhaps labeled “student resources.” Professor D’Souza also suggest that response times—no more than 48hrs—to emailed inquiries on the part of students should also be listed. Professor Bellamy also notes that in addition to accommodating learning disabilities that students should also be informed of where they can go if they are experiencing distress and requiring of mental health services. The Dean of Students Art King suggests that the *Division of Student Affairs* should be referenced as a place that students can turn to in this regard. The final draft will be sent to the senate body for approval at the October plenary.

IV. Reports from College Officers

a. Report of President Wu

President Wu begins by welcoming everyone back to the Fall semester. He reports on just returning from the Plaza outside of Baruch which was bustling and packed with students for *Welcome Week*. President Wu notes that the Plaza will be hosting community events on September 15. The *Appreciative Inquiry Summit* that will kick off the strategic planning process and will take place on September 22-23. He also welcomes 58 new members of faculty to the

campus which, in part, is a product of the intense lobbying and the senate resolution calling for a faculty/student ratio equal to our peers. The vibrancy of our programs and the growth in enrollment reaffirms our commitments to academic excellence and student outcomes. However, it should be noted that we should not be growing for the sake of growing but there exist boundaries to this growth. These include the need to retain tuition revenues at the college as a necessary investment in our students and the need to expand our physical footprint as a means for accommodating our students. Currently, the tuition revenue stays largely with CUNY Central. There was a modification in the budget model last year which saw Baruch retaining an additional 1.5 million in tuition dollars and it is hoped that this will become policy going forward. We continue to look to expand our physical space and this includes a new dorm on Lexington Avenue and contrasts to existing dorm rooms which are situated some 15 mins away by subway. 17 Lex continues to be renovated and will provide us with very much needed classroom space. In the meantime, our growth must continue through our online programs. Our new online MBA program has been approved and will serve as a model for the expansion of our other graduate programs. Our strategic planning process has been kicked off and of particular note is the need to make faculty research and scholarship a strategic goal of its own. This new development is in large part the result of the *Presidential Cabinet Retreat* which occurred over the summer. We saw the need to differentiate the goals of staff and faculty and with this in mind we will strive to create new forms of excellence on the part of both our staff and our faculty.

Question and Answer

Professor Petersen notes that at the start of this Fall semester many classes had to be switched to an online modality as we could not physically accommodate the large numbers of students. Could it be that CUNY is actually sending students our way given our higher marginal return on the tuition dollars? President Wu notes that the space issue is in “catch-up” mode. Baruch admits its students through a set of measures that are independent of and sometimes different from its peer institutions at CUNY. While it is true that some senior colleges are experiencing a decline in enrollment the 10-year outlook will show that CUNY is doing quite well as a whole and expanding. Returning to Baruch it should be noted that it has proved challenging to engage in the 17 Lex project without the attendant swing-space to accommodate those students that would normally occupy that space. It is also worthy of note that Baruch has 50% less space compared to our peer institutions. It is certainly the plan that we have every reason to expect additional physical space going forward but in the short-term it is vital that we take advantage of our online modalities. Professor Petersen also asks about the Plaza space and whether or not we have funds left over to do some ornamental plantings and a news kiosk perhaps at the entrance. President Wu notes that the funds have not all been all spent however the issue is more about jurisdiction than it is funds—we own only the sidewalk and more than 70% of the space is owned by the city. There are regulations in place that limit our ability to populate the space with plantings and the like. One such regulation is that the Plaza in an emergency needs a throughway—you cannot block it. Professor Koufaris notes that the classrooms in 17 Lex are not ready for an effective teaching environment: air conditioners are not working and there are too many classrooms do not have a projector. Professor Bellamy also notes that the existing air conditioners are very noisy and interfere greatly with the interactions necessary for effective classroom instruction and debate. Later in the meeting VP Downing promises to address these issues and in particular will service the classrooms with projectors.

b. Report from Provost Essig

Provost Essig begins by welcoming Dr Sherry Ryan the newly appointed Dean of the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs. Jenny Provo Quarles is also welcomed as the inaugural Vice President of Digital Learning. Provost Essig reports on meeting with Baruch Faculty Senate Executive Committee this past Tuesday and on the agenda was (1) the need for a college-wide academic assessment committee, (2) efforts to grow and amplify the research enterprise of the college including NCFDD to support individual writing efforts and the M&Q contract to secure large research and institution grants. The Provost will be meeting with faculty groups early in October for organizational analysis and prospecting and will present to this body at its October meeting. The Provost reminds the faculty senate that seed grant proposals are due today (September 1st) and that a faculty research symposium is scheduled for March 24 – a fun showcase of faculty work and opportunity to share your work with colleagues.

The Provost reports on recently attending a CUNY provost retreat where three topics were discussed:

- (1) *Budget process* (based on history) and currently under review by a task group on which our own President Wu sits to address the senior college allocation model, which seems to disadvantage Baruch. The provost asked about the \$40M innovation fund – that is not coming to individual campuses through an RFP process but rather being used to support innovation called out in the forthcoming CUNY Strategic Plan.
- (2) *The CUNY Strategic plan*. Of the many issues discussed one major focus is on smooth undergraduate transfer – a process that will be led by cross system faculty disciplinary councils. Also was the role that public impact research can play in advancing CUNY's relationship to the community at large. Another issue was building a robust CUNY Online that serves the campuses. Another likely focus is on updating systems and processes (like procurement, HR, etc).
- (3) *CUNY Office of Academic Administration*. The interest here is on transparency and serving the various campuses across the CUNY system.

The Provost notes that one place Baruch is clearly not disadvantaged is in faculty hiring. We scored big in both the FT Lecturer initiative (total of 42 FT lecturers to teach pathways and gateway courses that had been taught by adjuncts) and 12 assistant professor hires in a competitive process to focus on three strategic priority areas: entrepreneurship and innovation; data science; and climate studies.

The Strategic planning process is underway – an update from Kenya Lee and the Provost is forthcoming. Many senate members have signed up for the *Appreciative Inquiry Summit* September 22-23, there will be both consultant-led and committee-led listening sessions with stakeholder groups and an open comment form is always available on the website.

Question and Answer

Professor David Jones notes that job searches can no longer ask for letters of recommendation until after being interviewed. Professor Jones asks if this will be standard practice going forward and whether or not any faculty input had been asked for when making this change. Provost Essig

notes that it is common practice to request letters only of finalists and that going forward it helped attract diverse candidates. The provost also notes that the California State system has done away with letters all together and were seeking references via a phone call only. Professor Petersen asks about the migration of CVs from digital measures to interfolio and when that process will be complete. The Provost responds that once we are past the training period and the migration we will look at the interfolio and make sure it is working. Professor Michael Seltzer notes that the Melon foundation awarded Baruch with a 10 million dollar grant with the first 1.5 million having been spent on research and teaching support. What will happen to the other 8.5 million? The Provost will inquire and get back to the senate on this point.

c. Report from VP Gorman, Enrollment Management

The preliminary numbers of students enrolled at the college is 19800. We are just 0.7% behind where we were from last year. The University as a whole is down about 8%. However, we are ahead of where we were at the beginning of the pandemic. We have 2549 freshman and 1616 transfer students. We are trending down on graduate program students. The SEEK program is up significantly with 310 students. Much of the turbulence and variability in the numbers was due in part because of the challenge for some students to be vaccination compliant.

d. Report from VP Arthur Downing, Information Services

VP Downing's report included updates on the following items:

Email migration:

The @baruch.cuny.edu has been made Baruch College the main email address. A tool was licensed to help with the migration. This also involved upgrading the outlook client.

New wifi for 17 Lex

This should be operational by the end of the month

Projectors

New projectors and some additional equipment will be deployed to 17 Lex.

Zoom and Highflex

We can use zoom in classroom and doesn't need a highflex classroom to do so.

Question and Answer

Professor Heinrich asks about problems emailing form Blackboard and migrating the address book in outlook. Questions related to individual problems with email difficulties should be addressed to Mike Richichi who will attempt to resolve them.

V. Old Business
None

VI. New Business

Professor D'Souza announces a number of upcoming *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* events for Fall 2022. These include DEI Fridays, Inclusive Teaching Events, and Sharing With Your

Networks. Please consult with Professor Anna D'Souza's follow-up email of September 12th for additional information and registration details.

VII. Adjournment at 2:30pm