

Baruch College General Faculty Meeting  
March 12, 2009  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:55pm in the Newman Vertical Campus Building Room 14-220 by President Kathleen Waldron.

I. The following members of the Baruch College faculty and administration were in attendance: (sign in sheets)

II. Election of Secretary Pro Tem: Chuck Gengler was nominated and elected as Secretary (there were no other nominees).

III. Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2008 were approved without alteration.

III. Approval of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved without objection

IV. Report from the President, Kathleen Waldron.

1. The President thanked faculty for their tremendous cooperation in these difficult economic times, and thanked them for the sacrifices they have made. The philanthropy funding contribution to the college has been reduced by \$2 million, and the assets in the fund have dropped from \$142 million in June, 2008 to \$117 million today.

2. Enrollments and applications for the school are very strong, but the school does not plan on increasing funding by increasing enrollment. The Chancellor and President have both vowed not to increase enrollment just to increase funding at the expense of quality. The plan is to keep enrollment around 16, 000 students. The yield rate and transfer rate from private schools are increasing.

3. Biggest enrollment related challenge is seating. We are funded and are proceeding with a project to rehabilitate the Lawrence and Eris Field Building at 17 Lexington Avenue—approximately a \$100 million project. This will put some classrooms out of commission. The college will need to explore avenues for enhanced utilization of current facilities. Besides trying to fit more students in each classroom, which is infeasible in many cases where they are already full, the college is considering other options such as weekend classes to increase usage of classrooms.

4. Even with the Field building, we need to acquire more facilities, and we may at any time move on good opportunities to acquire more space to take advantage of current economic opportunities.

5. The school will be conferring two honorary degrees this year to Dr. Sidney Harman and to Mr. Milton Cooper.

V. Report from James McCarthy, Provost.

Provost McCarthy discussed efficient faculty utilization. He was pleased that administrative reassignment time for faculty was down 14%.

VI. Nominations were put forth and approved for faculty senators:

Dahlia Remler (SPA)  
Lisa Ellis (LIB)  
Cliff Wymbs (MKT & Int'l Business)  
Arie Harel (S/CIS) (Alternate)

VII. New Business.

Terri Berkowitz urged letters to the Chancellor from faculty to oppose a proposed change in the way PSC CUNY grants are allocated. The Chancellors office proposes that grant money be divided to local colleges and decisions be made for grants at a local level. This started a brief but spirited discussion.

Supporters of the proposed program felt we can more efficiently allocate funds at a local level, and that we already have well functioning systems in place to distribute funds within the school.

Opponents cited the difficulty in assembling external reviews of proposals for all of the different fields applying.

Some questions raised were:

- 1) Will Baruch get its fair share of the funds?
- 2) How can we keep local level politics out of decision processes?

The amount of money for PSC CUNY grants annually is expected to be \$250, 000 to \$400,000.

Faculty requested that we need to get more specifics about amounts before accepting the program, and one faculty member suggested we avoid another "wealth transfer" from Baruch to other colleges within CUNY.

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 2:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Charles Gengler  
Secretary