

Baruch College General Faculty Meeting

November 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 12:50pm in the Newman Vertical Campus Building Room 14-220 by President Mitchel Wallerstein.

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

II. Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2011 were approved without alteration.

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

IV. Report from the President.

- a. Announced that Gabriel Eszterhas is moving out of state and resigning as V.P. of Finance (he was applauded for his service).
- b. The CUNY budget was cut again but we have been able to absorb it without making radical cuts.
- c. We received approval for increases in tuition and fees for some graduate programs.
 - i. Timing of these increases was delayed briefly by a lawsuit.
 - ii. Graduate fees all go back to the programs in which they are enrolled.
 1. They are “modest fees, appropriately scaled.”
- d. We are the only CUNY college that breaks parity, where our revenue budget exceeds our budget allocation.
- e. All units are in as good or better position financially than they were a year ago.
- f. No mid-year budget cuts are expected.
- g. Enrollment is at an all time high at 18.2K, more than targeted. We target 17.5k next year.
- h. Mean SAT fell slightly to 1209 from 1220.
 - i. Still the highest in CUNY by far.
- i. We received gifts for Jewish studies and a Jewish study center.
- j. We have a fundraising goal of \$150 million.

- i. We have reached \$120 million and are confident to achieve our goal by end of 2012.
 - ii. Joel Cohen is the new chair of the Baruch College Fund board.
 - 1. He is an accomplished lawyer and consultant.
 - k. Escalators are a perennial point of discussion.
 - i. Found welding flaws that needed to be fixed.
 - ii. We are starting in the basement and working upwards, hopefully completing by 1st quarter of 2012.
 - l. Scaffolding outside will remain for the winter, but we intend on building a permanent canopy.
 - m. We are negotiating a new deal for the Annex building.
 - i. We hope to eventually own the building and make it a student center.
 - n. We are still trying to identify a building to purchase as a residence hall.
 - i. Students need a residential experience.
 - ii. International students need a residence hall.
 - iii. We need a community environment for students.
 - o. We have unanimous approval from the local community to close 25th street, but we are still working with D.O.T. for approval.
 - p. The university is moving to uniform “pathways” general education requirements
 - i. Various programs are working on alternative proposals to protect the integrity of their programs.
2. Questions.
- a. QUESTION: A faculty member raised the issue that this semester 68% of students were transfer students and 38% entered as Freshmen.
 - i. Our SAT scores are skewed, because only incoming Freshmen are included in reporting—transfer student SAT average is 969.
 - ii. We are developing a gross disparity and polarization of students because of different levels of ability.
 - b. RESPONSE: We serve a leading role in transfers, and many would not have been admissible as Freshmen, but proved themselves in the first two years. It is a longstanding policy to report Freshman SAT scores in statistics. We will be dropping the number of transfers in the future.

- c. QUESTION: What is the status of a new policy on Adult Education coming around?
 - d. RESPONSE from Provost McCarthy: A new policy may affect our ability to collect and keep tuition on all non-credit programs. This may have a disastrous impact on many of our programs, as the margin we can keep under the new policy would be insufficient to provide the programs.
3. Elections.
- a. Undergraduate Honors Committee: Frank W. Heiland (SPA) was unanimously elected for one year to complete the term of Martha Stark (SPA).
 - b. University Faculty Senate nominations were accepted and closed
 - i. Terry Martell (Eco/Finance).
 - ii. Janna O'Keefe Bazzoni (Comm)
 - iii. Katherine Pence (Hist)
 - iv. Jay Weiser (Law)
 - v. Matt Edwards – alternate (Law)
 - c. Susan Locke, chair of Undergraduate Honors Committee spoke:
 - i. They have lost members of the committee
 - ii. They need to improve the process of the committee, and of letting people know they are on the committee.

Submitted by



Professor Charles Gengler
Secretary