

DRAFT MINUTES

BARUCH COLLEGE GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

October 21, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m.

1. The following members of the Baruch faculty and staff were in attendance: (sign-in sheets).
2. The minutes of the April 22, 2003 General Faculty meeting were approved without amendment.
3. The agenda was adopted with no objections.
4. Communications and Announcements
 - Oral Report from President Waldron:
 - Notes with appreciation the gracious welcome that she has received at Baruch since she was appointed a little under three months ago. First impressions of Baruch are quite positive, a college with many advantages that other college presidents would be envious of. Our mission is compelling – for over 100 years serving our urban clientele and enabling them to transform their lives. Our students are smart, diverse, ambitious and polite. Our faculty is smart, ambitious, diverse and very committed to the mission of the college. Baruch is developing a national reputation, among our accrediting bodies and external ranking agencies. And we are blessed with alumni who care and are generous.
 - Intends to build on these strengths and there is still much to do, especially in developing a strategic plan and establishing common goals. Some units of the college have plans and goals others do not. Some college-wide decisions are made by ad hoc groups without a clear mandate or reporting structure.
 - First priority will be to reorganize decision-making on campus so that those with the appropriate expertise and authority are making decisions and are being held accountable for implementation of them. At the top of this structure is the President's Cabinet, consisting of the three deans, the vice presidents and the president of the Faculty Senate. The cabinet is now meeting bi-weekly to advise on pressing issues, and has established five standing committees:
 - *Finance Committee* will recommend policies to align resources, and replaces an ad hoc budget committee.
 - *Human Resources Committee* will recommend improvements to staff development, formal review procedures, and recognition programs.

- *Student Affairs Committee* will relate to student services and satisfaction.
- *Facilities Committee* will develop both short-term priorities and a long-term Master Facilities Plan; more input is needed here.
- Finally, the *Productivity Committee* will advise on investments in technology, etc.

Faculty will be well represented on all five committees and will be co-chaired by a faculty and staff person. A larger strategic planning process will begin in the Spring and will be coordinated with our Middle States mid-term report and the AACSB re-accreditation process.

- Several critical areas need to be addressed:
 - Improve the student experience across the spectrum, surveys indicate they are expecting more than we are providing. Some concerns focus on enrollment and registration, others on the classroom experience. Need to focus on learning outcomes in a more comprehensive way.
 - Student enrollments climbed rapidly in the last week before classes began, creating numerous last-minute problems to accommodate. We must not repeat this and will not grow enrollments any higher than they are today.
- Turning to Finance and Budgets: the college used to raise about \$1 million per year but, in the last eight years, we have raised \$160 million, with \$54 million announced in the last few weeks. Much of this, however, will come over many years and we actually have only about \$2 million right now. Over time, these funds will do much to help our students and influence public policy in New York and the nation. On the budget issue, 80th Street only made decisions yesterday and these will be reported to the Faculty Senate in November. The good news is that we received a permanent \$1 million positive readjustment to our budget and a one-time \$500,000 adjustment. The bad news is that we have budgeted more than our revenues will support. We will have to adjust and not over-spend as we did last year. All department chairs and other responsible for spending will have to re-examine spending plans. There is no crisis but we must manage wisely.
- Concludes by noting the spirit of optimism and energy on campus and shares your enthusiasm; noting how privileged to be your president and looking forward to working with you. Calls for questions and/or comments:
 - Prof. Glen Peterson (SOC) welcome the president as “a breath of fresh air”. Goes on to note that the Provost’s report notes the rise in SAT scores (highest in CUNY and most private schools) but is concerned this raises questions about our traditional mission and

outreach to minorities. Raising SAT scores is not an unmitigated good and the issue needs to be addressed.

- President Waldron responded by noting the SAT scores are the same for the the last two years and that the college must do more to reach out to community colleges and to maintain our diversity.
- Oral Report from Provost Dannenbring:
 - Provost notes the distributed written report to be included in the record.
 - Responds to Prof. Peterson's concerns by noting his office is working with him and providing data. Also notes a new Merrill-Lynch grant to work with high-school students.
 - Notes that there were 102 faculty applications for CUNY-PSC grants and hopes that we have the high rate of acceptance as last year (70).
- Oral Report from David Gallagher, V.P. for College Advancement:
 - Notes the written report provided for the record.
 - Notes the dedication of the VC will be June 22nd and another ceremony will be announced for the Larry and Eris Field Building.
 - We are on target for achieving the goals for this year.
- Oral Report from Dean of Students, Sam Johnson:
 - Notes the written report provided for the record.
 - Thanks faculty for their contributions on all the issues associated with academic integrity, where we are making great strides.
 - Notes the rising stress among students at this time of year, building towards finals, and how faculty should be aware of symptoms among their students and refer them to student services when identified.
- Oral Report from Robert Specter, V.P. for Administration & Finance:
 - Notes the written report provided for the record.
 - Introduces Toby Weiner as the new director of planning and budgeting.
- In the absence of Dean Stan Altman of SPA (at a NASPAA conference), the President refers to the submitted written report and refers any questions to Associate Dean David Birdsell.
- Oral Report from Dean Myrna Chase of WSAS:
 - Notes the written report provided for the record; a gloomy report after two tough years but things seem to be getting better. Communications among the schools are much better. Notes the Service Learning initiative and the enormous spirit among our young people right now. Cites progress on making the college a lot less impersonal.
- Oral Report from Dean John Elliot of ZSB:

- Notes the written report provided for the record.
- Notes the growth of enrollment and hopes for a collaborative role with the Service Learning initiative. Site visit of AACSB has been rescheduled to March, affirming that ZSB will be in good shape.

There being no old or new business, a motion to adjourn was moved and carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Waldron at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Andrew Parker
Secretary.