

DRAFT MINUTES

BARUCH COLLEGE GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

September 22, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.

1. The following members of the Baruch faculty and staff were in attendance: (sign-in sheets).
2. The Minutes of the April 14, 2004 General Faculty meeting were approved with the following correction from the Secretary: to remove an unintended partial sentence on page 2, the first hollow bullet under a discussion of the Strategic Plan should end with the sentence, "Many faculty contributing to these efforts were thanked."
3. The agenda was adopted with no objections.
4. Communications and Announcements

- **Oral Report from President Waldron
Strategic Plan:**

A two-day retreat over the Summer advanced the process, which is now receiving final reports from committees. These reports are available on the Blackboard under "Strategic Plan". The First Draft is being prepared by the Strategic Planning Council and various forums around the College are being organized to receive further input. An important goal is to have the plan adopted by the time of the capital campaign in Spring '06.

17 Lexington:

The building was officially renamed the Eris and Larry Field Building last week. The Field's gave \$10 million in unrestricted funds to the College. The building is desperately in need of renovation and the Facilities Committee will undertake the initial planning phase this year. The second year will involve bids and construction contracts, so that we are unlikely to see improvements for approximately three years. All work must tie in with the College Master Plan and we need to do it right because it is such a major asset of the College. While the site is historic, as the location of the Free Academy, the present building is not. Frank Gehry, a friend of the Fields, has visited and made suggestions.

- **Report from College Officers**

Written reports were provided by the Provost and the several schools and are incorporated as part of these minutes. There were no questions to the officers.

- **Old Business**

- **Committee on Student Evaluations:**

- Prof. Ashok Vora, on behalf of the Faculty Senate, presented the proposed evaluation instrument (Exhibit A) and moved its adoption. A friendly amendment was proposed by Prof. Aries: *“Student comments (page 3 of Exhibit A) shall be detached from the first two pages of the form and placed in a single envelope of a different color from that in which the questionnaire will be placed. The questionnaires will be sent in the usual way to the Testing Office. The envelope with student comments will be sealed by the student who administers the evaluations and then signed over the flap by the instructor, or the instructor’s student designee, to insure that the instructor knows if the seal has been broken by anyone other than the instructor. The envelope with the students’ comments will be held by the instructor’s department or school and released to the instructor upon receipt of the instructor’s final grades.”* This amendment was accepted by Prof. Vora.

- Discussion on the motion followed with comments including:

- Concerns of encouraging a culture of anonymous comments in faculty files.
 - An amendment providing an option of voluntary student signatures was proposed and generated discussion. Comments included:
 - Setting up an opportunity for “browning” the professor
 - Opportunities for fraud.
 - Anonymity is quite usual in social science research.
 - Main part is anonymous, this part should be also.

- This proposed amendment was put to a vote and rejected. Discussion continued on the main motion, issues raised included:

- Concerns for the chain of control of the envelope and comments.
 - Comments page could be more specific, with suggestions, e.g. “Best about course...; Least liked about course...; Other...”
 - Took 30 years to revise the present system, shouldn’t be the same again, needs a process for review and amendment.
 - Can all learn from student feedback but the issue is the integrity of the process.

- The motion was moved and carried. The instrument will be used this Fall Semester.

- **New Business**

- o Prof. Meir Lubetski announced the following committee nominations as replacements :
 - College Joint Committee on Research - ZSB nominates Donal Byard (Accountancy) to replace Turan Bali; and SPA nominates Neil Bennett to replace Carrol Seron.
 - Committee on Undergraduate Honors – nominees are David Hoffman and Thomas Main.

- These nominations were all approved.

- o Provost Dannenbring announced the new appointment of Zolicia Abotsi, as Grants Assistant for post-award administration.

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 2:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Prof. Andrew Parker
Secretary.