

Baruch College

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 26th, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm in the Newman Vertical Campus Building, Room 14- 250, by President Mitchel B. Wallerstein, presiding.

1. The following members of the Baruch College faculty and administration were in attendance: (sign-in sheets)
2. Approval of the minutes: Minutes of the meeting of March 30th, 2017 were approved without correction.
3. Approval of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved without objection.
4. Report from President Mitchel B. Wallerstein

Strategic Planning

President Wallerstein reported that a new Strategic Plan for the period 2018-2023 has been initiated. The President is chairing the committee and Provost Christy is serving as the Vice Chair. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee includes all the members of the Cabinet, six members of the faculty (Professors Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Al Croker, Kevin Frank, Alison Griffiths, Thomas Teufel, Sam Johnson), the presidents of the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Association, and a distinguished representative of the Baruch College Fund.

The consulting firm Keeling and Associates will assist with gathering and processing information, the preparation of preliminary drafts of the new plan, and the development of an implementation plan. Representatives of K&A have already been on campus to identify issues from a broad array of individuals and stakeholders.

Using focus groups, town hall meetings, forms, and one-on-one interviews, the committee seeks feedback from faculty, staff and students. To this end, K&A uses an “Idea Wall”—where passers-by in public spaces can add input. There’ll be also a web page for the same purpose. A first, well attended town hall meeting was held October 2nd; a second one will be held November 14th. Consultants will return November 13th/14th for further information gathering through a series of small- and large-group discussions and to invite conversation about potential areas of priority for the new Strategic Plan. As broad faculty input is crucial, several time slots for meetings with K&A have been set aside—see sign-up link sent out by Associate Provost Dennis Slavin.

Latest Rankings

College Net ranks four-year colleges and universities according to how effectively they enroll students from low-income backgrounds and graduate them to well-paying jobs. This year marks the third consecutive time that Baruch College ranks #1 nationwide in its Social Mobility Index (SMI).

The Chronicle of Higher Education, analyzing data from the Equality of Opportunity

Project's comprehensive study on college graduates outcomes, also released its list with the highest student-mobility rates, and again Baruch ranks #1 among four-year public institutions in the U.S.

Faculty Presence on Campus

There is a growing concern about the frequency of tenure-track faculty presence on campus: students complain that they have difficulty arranging to meet with faculty who are only on campus the days they teach. For the same reason, student clubs are unable to find faculty willing to serve as advisors. The esprit de corps and the sense of intellectual community at Baruch are also affected since people cannot interact given that they teach on different days of the week and are not on campus the other days. The President, the Provost, and the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate have discussed this matter and the President plans to discuss it with the department chairs in the next meeting of the Academic Council. The President believes that there should be a common expectation that every full-time tenure-track member of the Baruch faculty will be physically present on campus for the majority of each work week during the regular academic year.

17 Lex Renovation

President Wallerstein reported that Phase 1A of the renovation of 17 Lex is well underway. Work is being done underground to create a new vault that will contain the new electrical system for the building and make it possible to install high-speed elevators and central air conditioning. The next step will be the demolition of the lobby on the Lexington Ave. side to enable the construction of a wheelchair accessible entrance. During Phase 1A, all six of the existing elevators will be upgraded.

Hurricane Relief

The Undergraduate Student Government Philanthropy Committee in conjunction with the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Life is collecting essential items for hurricane relief donations. The committee, consisting of students, faculty, and staff, is working to plan fundraising events and spearhead support initiatives throughout the rest of the academic year. For participation in this committee, an e-mail should be sent to student.life@baruch.cuny.edu with the subject line "Disaster Relief Committee." The Committee requests that the Baruch Community donates diapers, baby food, batteries, first aid supplies, and feminine hygiene products to meet the needs of those devastated by hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, and other affected areas. Donations can be dropped off through the end of the semester either in the Office of Student Life, NVC 210, or the Office of the Dean of Students, NVC 3-175. More information is available on the web-site.

5. Announcements

Mary Gorman, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Academic Initiatives, encouraged faculty to monitor and report back on first year and transfer students who show unsteady attendance patterns or experience academic difficulties, the next deadline being November 6th.

Patricia Imbimbo, Associate Dean of Students, reminded faculty of the Baruch College Campus Intervention Team (CIT) for students who are struggling psychologically.

President Wallerstein stated that diversity has improved at Baruch College and that enrollment is high but that the College would like to become smaller while at the same time

it is concerned with revenue.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 1:06 pm.

Submitted by

Max Kramer

Assistant Professor and Secretary of the General Faculty