

Baruch College

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 25th, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 12:47 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 29th, 2018 were approved without correction.
3. Approval of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved without objection.
4. Report from President Mitchel B. Wallerstein:

Barclay's Center

Baruch College is working to secure the Barclay's Center during the last week of May for graduation ceremonies. The Honorary Degree Committee is meeting next week to generate recommendations for honorary recipients and the College is looking for a well-regarded, well-known commencement speaker. Recommendations should be e-mailed to the Chief of Staff, Kenya Lee.

17 Lex Renovation

The heat has been fully restored to the building. The elevator situation is monitored constantly and Campus Operations is working to minimize disruptions; it has coordinated a communications plan to alert occupants of 17 Lex of any changes in the elevator service. Much of the demolition has now been completed.

Clivner-Field Plaza

The construction of the plaza is now actively under construction and on schedule.

Aaronson Student Center

Baruch College is transforming part of the historic U.S. Post Office on 23rd Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, with the goal of opening the center in 2020. Students will enter the Aaronson Center on the south side of 24th Street and across from the main Newman Vertical Campus (NVC) entrance.

Chancellor's Search Update

It has been a year since James B. Milliken announced he would step down as CUNY Chancellor. President Wallerstein hopes that the search for a replacement will be completed before the end of this academic year, which would facilitate our own search for a new president.

Middle States Community Conversations

The College is engaged in a multiyear, community-wide, collaborative process, called Baruch College Self-Study 2020, in support of Baruch's upcoming review and

reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). Four Community Conversations were scheduled during this semester to provide information and solicit questions and feedback. Two sessions have already been held. The Nov. 8th discussion will concern Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement (Standard VI) as well as Governance, Leadership, and Administration (Standard VII). The Nov. 27th discussion will concern Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience (Standard III), Support of the Student Experience (Standard IV), and the Educational Effectiveness Assessment (Standard V). These initiatives were spearheaded by Rachel Fester, Assistant Provost for Assessment, Accreditation and Institutional Effectiveness; Dennis Slavin, Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning; and Professor Cheryl Smith of the English Department. In the recent past, two CUNY colleges (City College and York) failed to get accreditation renewed. Baruch's own report is due spring 2019.

Lactation Room

The faculty/staff lactation room is now completed. It is conveniently located in Room #112 on the first floor of the Information and Technology Building, near restrooms and vending machines. Members of the faculty and staff are granted access to the lactation room, immediately upon return from Family Medical Leave and/or Paid Parental Leave. Access must be authorized by the Office of Human Resources. The completion of this new facility, despite severe space constraints, is a credit to AVP Lisa Edwards and her team and fulfills a long-sought request of faculty and staff. For questions or concerns, contact the Office of Human Resources or the Office of the Executive Legal Counsel/Labor Designee.

5. Questions: None
6. Written Reports: see attachment
7. Elections:

Last spring, we held our committee elections. For several committees the College did not have enough nominations from that call and from the floor, and for other committees, faculty have left Baruch or decided they do not want to serve, which has resulted in one committee being understaffed. Professor Yochi Cohen-Charash, from the Department of Psychology, presented the General Faculty Meeting Committee with an election to fill these positions.

Committee on Financial Aid:

- 1) Prof. Rita Ormsby, William and Anita Newman Library
- 2) Prof. Karl Lang, Paul H. Chook Department of Information Systems and Statistics

8. New Business

Professor Joshua Mills, Chair of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions, raised the issue of perceived opacity and obfuscation at CUNY and at Baruch. Many faculty members wonder, for example, where the current budget crisis originated and want to be more actively engaged in how the college budget is spent or what revenues are used for. Robert Freeman, executive director of the New York State Committee on Open Government (a unit of the New York State Department of State), offered a workshop on freedom of information (FoI) for interested faculty and student journalists, and stated that faculty are entitled to know this information. Faculty will compile a list of what items they want to know.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 1:15 pm.

Submitted by

Max Kramer

Assistant Professor and Secretary of the General Faculty