

Baruch College

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

March 29th, 2018

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 October 26th, 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 for 2018-2023, Update

President Wallerstein reported that the college expects to complete the development of a new Baruch strategic plan for the period of 2018-2023 by the end of this semester.

The consultants from Keeling and Associates have completed gathering and processing information and met with hundreds of members of the College community (faculty, staff, and students), receiving feedback during town hall meetings, in focus groups, and in various other ways.

In February, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee had a day-long retreat to begin developing the new strategic objectives. Prior to the retreat, a series of working groups were formed to focus on the creation of goals that were correlated with the ideas and overarching themes emerging during the information-gathering stage: teaching and learning, diversity and inclusion, student success and support, increased institutional effectiveness to support student success. The goals for the new plan are being developed on the basis of these themes.

There have been already several iterations of the draft plan and President Wallerstein is confident that the work on a penultimate draft will be completed by the end of April. In the next several weeks, a draft of the plan will be made available to the College community and there will be opportunities to provide additional comment and feedback. At the same time, an implementation plan will be started to ensure that the College has a roadmap to keep track of and measure its progress toward the goals of the new Strategic Plan over the next five years.

Middle States Self-Study Process

The completion of the new Strategic Plan during the spring semester will be concurrent with the development of the major Self-Study that is required for the decennial Middle States reaccreditation in 2020. The Self-Study process is co-chaired 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.

Working groups have been established to examine each of the seven Middle States Standards. The working groups are composed of members of the faculty, staff, and administration. Over the course of 2019, these working groups will craft the components of the Self-Study report, which will be submitted to Middle States in the fall of 2019 in preparation for the Middle States site visit in 2020.

The College just has received a preliminary site visit from the assigned Middle States liaison. The purpose of this visit was to review and discuss the accreditation process with the President, the Provost and the Middle States Steering Committee. These meetings went well and Baruch College seems to be off to a good start.

Baruch College Top Producer of Fulbright U.S. Students

President Wallerstein reported that Baruch College was recently included on a list of distinguished colleges and universities identified as Fulbright U.S. Student Top Producing Institutions. The list was made public by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Fulbright Fellowship Program is the United States government's flagship international educational program, which is designed to increase mutual understanding between people from the U.S. and other countries. This academic year marks the first time Baruch was recognized for the prestigious U.S. Student Program. In 2016, the College had already been honored for the U.S. Scholars Program with four Baruch faculty members winning Fulbright awards. Baruch is listed under Master's institutions on the U.S. Student list, where three Fulbright awards were given to Kristina Sarkissyan ('17), Maneesha Bhugwansing ('14), and Hasin Ishraque ('16). All in all, this is evidence of the caliber of Baruch's students and the teaching and scholarship of Baruch's faculty.

17 Lex Renovation - Concerns

A number of faculty members have expressed concern regarding the working conditions of 17 Lex. President Wallerstein stated that the safety of those who teach, work and learn in the building is paramount. While 17 Lex is under active construction it is a challenge to continue day-to-day operations. The College has been working hard to minimize the problems with dust, noise, and elevator delays, and to address health and safety concerns as soon as they are brought to attention. Recently President Wallerstein did a walkthrough of the building, accompanied by VP Katharine Cobb and AVP Lisa Edwards to gain a better understanding of the conditions on each floor. The renovation is managed by CUNY and supervised by the LiRo Group. Next week they will demolish the lobby for ADA compliance. Under the leadership of Lisa Edwards, Baruch's Campus Facilities unit is working to address concerns as they are identified, either handling them directly or by engaging CUNY and LiRo to request action. The President will continue to monitor the situation closely and the administration will address any future concerns during this multi-year construction project.

Commencement

The annual Commencement proceedings will take place this year on May 30th at 9:30 a.m. at The Barclays Center. The Commencement speaker will be Dr. Jane Chu, who is the eleventh Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. She has been awarding more than \$377 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and artists and launched the United States of Arts project. In 2015, Chairwoman Chu launched her signature leadership initiative, "Creativity Connects," which investigates the current state of the arts in the U.S. and how they connect with other industries. Jane Chu holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance

and music education, a master's degree in music and piano pedagogy, a Ph.D. in philanthropic studies, and an MBA. Her background intersects all three of Baruch's schools. Baruch will award Dr. Chu an honorary degree.

A second honorary degree will be presented to Austin W. Marx, who is a Baruch alumnus and a major donor to the College. Mr. Marx will be honored for his transformational gift to name and endow the Marx School of Public and International Affairs. In 2016, Marx made the largest single gift (\$30 million) ever received by Baruch College, which also ties for the second-largest contribution in the history of CUNY.

The \$30 million gift enables the Marx School to increase scholarships and study abroad programs; establish faculty chairs and provide support for additional faculty; forge new partnerships with public policy leaders, organizations and institutions, both domestically and abroad; and develop and expand programming that will include convening leading thinkers for critical discussions around the vital questions of the day.

The Commencement proceedings are a triumphal moment for many Baruch students and particular for those who are the first in their family to attend college. President Wallerstein encourages faculty to attend the ceremony in great numbers.

5. Questions:

Professor Randolph Trumbach from the Department of History asked the President about the College's procedures to be followed when a department undergoes its periodic evaluation by outside experts. Professor Trumbach had received a letter from the Provost in which the Provost seemed to discourage providing the visitors any information that might be discreditable. Professor Trumbach stated that this would not make the greatest use of the visit from outsiders. The President responded that these questions were in the purview of the Provost as the chief academic officer. The Provost then indicated that Professor Trumbach had sent in a Minority Report that he thought was inconsistent with the bylaws.

Professor Glenn Petersen, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, expressed concern regarding what he saw as a lack of transparency marking the initial stages of Baruch's Signature Program with the CIA and stated that the College could expect abuses, for instance in the form of students becoming "spooks." Prof. Petersen also cited the case of the NYDP's undercover surveillance of the Baruch Muslim Students Association. Prof. Petersen questioned the administration's readiness to protect its campus integrity, noting in the future Baruch faculty could be denied clearance to do research abroad because the College is perceived as collaborating with the CIA. President Wallerstein replied that some of what Prof. Petersen had stated was inaccurate he was not aware of any surveillance. The President explained that the NYPD had acted in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and that the agreement with the CIA would only allow the agency to interview students who might be willing to join the agency. The CIA has attended job fairs at the College several times and has identified three other universities to partner with. President Wallerstein, who was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counterproliferation, emphasized that it is necessary to have intelligence.

Professor Joshua Mills, Chair of the Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions, raised the issue of the College being unprepared to face a campus shooting and inquired about drills and so forth. President Wallerstein replied that Baruch had done a major inventory of the security measures, looked at the security of all buildings, and implemented

changes such as searching duffel bags. Katharine Cobb, Vice President for Administration and Finance, reported the College has done a drill in 17 Lex and that there are plans for additional drills; there are resources on the College's Public Safety website; the College conducts an evacuation every semester; there is an inventory of centrally lockable classrooms; internal locks were installed at 17 Lex; and there is a Crisis Intervention Team and other advisory committees. The College is also planning to invite a speaker from the FBI. Unauthorized people cannot access rooftops and Baruch College is a closed campus with card-swipe entry so it can identify anybody who comes on campus. In addition, there are metal detectors especially for outside events, and all faculty have to undergo an annual violence training with the Administration reporting back to departments about those who have not completed the training.

Professor David Jones, Chair of the Department of Political Science, inquired about the workload reduction agreement, how it would be implemented and financed, and whether it would affect release time for scholarship. President Wallerstein replied that the College's workload is 10 to 15 years behind schedule and that there are no new funds for this purpose. Tuition may, however, be raised and there could be additional funds in the fiscal year 2020. The fiscal year 2019 will be the first year without a reduction of the budget. The President's least preferred option is to use faculty release time because he wants to protect it.

6. Reports: None

7. Elections:

Professor Yochi Cohen-Charash from the Department of Psychology presented the General Faculty Meeting Committee nominations for the 2018-2019 term (see separate document). New nominations accepted from the floor:

Committee on Ceremonial Occasions:

- 1) Prof. Mary McGlynn, Department of English
- 2) Prof. Kenneth J. Guest, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee:

- 1) Prof. Rita Ormsby, William and Anita Newman Library
- 2) Prof. Joshua Mills, Department of Journalism and Writing Professions
- 3) Prof. Michael Seltzer, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs
- 4) Prof. Jack Krauskopf, Marxe School of Public and International Affairs
- 5) Prof. Elizabeth Minei, Department of Communication Studies

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 1:35 pm.

Submitted by

Max Kramer

Assistant Professor and Secretary of the General Faculty