

Baruch College

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016

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

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 the March 31, 2016 were approved without alteration.
3. Adoption of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved without objection.
4. Communications and Announcements
5. Report from President Mitchel B. Wallerstein

Austin Marx Gift

President Wallerstein reported that the School of Public and International Affairs has been re-named the Austin W. Marx School of Public and International Affairs, after donor and alum Austin Marx. Mr. Marx's gift of \$30 million is the largest single gift ever received by Baruch College. It is the second-largest contribution in the history of The City University of New York (CUNY). Baruch is now the only college in the CUNY system to have all of its schools named and endowed. MSPIA, is the acronym by which the Marx School will be known.

Facilities Update

17 Lex. The President gave an update on the renovation of the 17 Lexington building.

Plaza. The President reported on the progress of the construction of the permanent Plaza on 25th Street.

Student Center. The President provided an update regarding the future location of the Student Center, the United States Post Office Madison Square Station on 23rd street.

Rankings

President Wallerstein reported to the faculty about the following recent rankings:

Baruch College has received its highest marks to date from the newly released *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the nation's best colleges. Baruch College was ranked #5 among top public institutions and #20 overall, both for the Regional Universities in the North

category. These 2017 overall rankings are Baruch College's all-time highest. In 2016, Baruch came in at #32 among Regional Universities in the North and #6 among public institutions in that same category.

U.S. News's ranking of Baruch for Least Debt reflects the College's commitment to providing an accessible and affordable education. Baruch ranked #2 among Regional Universities in the North and placed #3 when looking across all regional universities in the country for Least Debt.

In its report, U.S. News noted that Baruch College has a 70 percent six year graduation rate, also an all-time high.

Among Regional Universities in the North, Baruch ranks:

- #2 Least Debt
- #2 Most Selective School
- #3 Freshman Retention
- #5 Top Public Schools
- #5 Campus Ethnic Diversity
- #6 Most International Students
- #20 Best Regional Universities

The Financial Engineering Program was ranked as the #1 Financial Engineering program in the country, tied with Carnegie-Mellon and UC-Berkeley.

Baruch College has been ranked #2 in the country in the 2016 "Safest Large Colleges and Universities in America". It was the first ranking to focus exclusively on campus safety, using data from the U.S. Department of Education, *U.S. News & World Report*, school websites, and public records.

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

President Wallerstein reported that the annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon is on November 10th. It is an annual event to honor all veterans in the Baruch community. If you are a military veteran and wish to attend the luncheon, please contact the office of the President.

Strategic Plan

President Wallerstein reported that our current College strategic plan covers the period from 2013-2018. Thus, the College will soon need to get work underway to begin focusing on the next plan, covering the period from 2018-2023, which will involve all elements of the campus community, and an update will be provided at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

Park Bench Philosophers

President Wallerstein announced that as of September, he has a monthly radio program with Daniel Dornbaum, the President of the Undergraduate Student Government. The program is called "Park Bench Philosophers," in honor of our namesake, Bernard Baruch, who was known by that sobriquet in his later years due to his penchant for engaging in discussions on park benches in Central Park in New York and Lafayette Park in Washington, DC. The show airs the first Thursday of the month at 3pm on WBMB radio, Baruch College radio, 94.3 on your dials. You can also listen on the internet.

6. Written Reports from College Officers

7. Written Reports from Student Organizations

8. Election

Professor Yochi Cohen-Charash presented the General Faculty Meeting nomination for the Secretary of the General Faculty.

Max Kramer from Modern Languages was elected.

10. New Business

There was no new business

9. Adjournment

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

Submitted by

Arie Harel

Associate Professor and Secretary of the General Faculty