

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FACULTY COUNCIL

May 3, 1968

(2126)
Roll Call

A special meeting of Faculty Council, called by President Syrett, was held on Friday, May 3, at 11 A.M., in room 222 Whitehead Hall. Dean Peck presided.

All members of the Council were present except Dean Goodhartz, and Professors Brostoff, Heffernan, C. Lawrence and Withner, who were absent and excused. Professor Fava, newly appointed acting chairman of the Department of Sociology took the seat of Professor Charles Lawrence, who is on sick leave.

(2127)
Collective
Bargaining

Before entering upon the business for which the special meeting was called, the Chairman permitted Professor Schukler to announce that his committee on collective bargaining was inviting the expression of the negative position on the issue. Professor Zeller informed the Council that elections would be held on May 14, 15 and 16.

(2128)
Communication
from the
President

Dean Peck read a statement from President Syrett, calling attention to the needs of minority groups in the community. The President urged that action be taken on the admission of a larger percentage of students from these groups, that special courses be established in their cultures and that an attempt be made to recruit more non-white faculty and staff members. He recommended specifically that the Council approve the document to be presented at this meeting by the President's Committee on Educational Opportunity.

(2129)
Committee on
Educational
Opportunity

Professor Jarrett, for the Committee on Educational Opportunity, presented the attached document entitled "A Proposal to Increase Negro and Puerto Rican Enrollment at Brooklyn College."

Professor Frankel suggested that other disadvantaged students be included. Professor Jarrett saw no objection to that. Professor Ehrich wished to include the American Indian among the disadvantaged. Dean Breglio pointed out that experience with the SEEK program shows that such a program would not be limited to Negroes and Puerto Ricans, though the realities would bring it about that 95% of the students would be from these groups. Professor Melisoff urged strongly that the Board of Higher Education be compelled to rewrite its bylaws to meet the needs of the times and that funds be made available for the desired program by the suspension of the Ph.D. programs, on which funds are now wasted. Professor Meyers declared that the enrollment of Negroes and Puerto Ricans should not merely be doubled or tripled, as recommended, but should reflect the percentages of these groups in the community. Professor Singer objected to this, though agreeing that something must be done for these groups at a

more appropriate, lower level than that of the College. Professor Rivlin replied that the document merely aims to start the ball rolling so that all may enter Brooklyn College on the usual basis. The College would not do the job of the elementary and high schools but attempt to remedy it. Professor Kenworthy recommended that we increase the number of students from all poverty areas. Professors Kurrelmeyer, Taylor, Hickok and Sayres supported the document. Professor Ascher, though in favor of it, opposed the elimination of the A-F grading system, which would help evaluate the success of the program. Professor Mantinband and Dean Koch informed Council that A-F grades are always recorded.

The committee accepted the following amendment, proposed by Professor Schmukler, of the first sentence of the document: "This document is being presented for approval in principle by Faculty Council to reflect the prevailing points of view among Brooklyn College faculty and students, and in harmony with the tradition of Brooklyn College."

In response to Professor Finston's suggestion that the program be expanded, Professor Jarrett stated that this was the first stage of a four-part program his committee was working on. Professor Block, supporting those who wished to include all disadvantaged groups, urged that the report be rewritten in the light of suggestions made or to be made. Professor Bargman expressed the view that approval of the document would be a service to ourselves as well as to the disadvantaged, since it would lead us to revamp our curricular thinking. Professor Marcus opposed changing the document, because of discrimination against Negroes and Puerto Ricans and not against poor whites. Dean Spengler called attention to the fact that the School of General Studies had been doing for decades what the document proposed.

The document was approved with Professor Schmukler's amendment.

(2130)
Committee on
Afro-American
Studies

Professor Hickok, for the Committee on Committees, which had been asked by the President to initiate action on the curriculum, presented the attached document containing a charge to a proposed Ad Hoc Faculty-Student Committee on Afro-American Studies, and moved its adoption.

Professor Shimer objected to the sidestepping of the standing Committee on Curriculum and Admission Requirements. Professor Hickok responded that the new committee would merely make general recommendations. In response to Professor Ehrich's suggestion that the charge include consultation with the Curriculum Committee, Professor Hickok stated that that was covered in the charge. Professor Gabriel assured Council that the ad hoc committee would explore and then go to the Curriculum Committee. Professor Ascher's amendment to have proposals of the ad hoc committee submitted to the Curriculum Committee for action was defeated.

Professor Secord's motion to delete "not later than May 16" was defeated by a vote of 30 to 34.

The charge was approved.

Professor Hickok moved the election of the following nominees as faculty members of the new committee: Professors Matthew (Chairman), Murray, Trent and Watkins. The motion was seconded. Professors Rivlin, Eisenstadt and Marcus, nominated from the floor, declined. After a motion to close nominations was passed, the four nominees were elected.

(2131)
Recruitment
of
non-whites

In response to the request made by the President in his statement, Professor Meyers moved that the Faculty Council recommend to departments that increased numbers of non-white faculty and staff members be recruited. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Dean George A. Peck
Presiding

Respectfully submitted,

John J. Spagnoli
Secretary