

## New York City College Council

### October 2 Meeting

#### Atrium Amphitheater

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 by chair of College Council, Peter Catapano. The minutes for the May 8, 2012 meeting and for the 2012-2013 organizational meeting, held on May 29, were approved unanimously. Peter Catapano went on to introduce the other C. C. officers for the year, vice-chair Maria Pagano, secretary Costas Panayotakis and parliamentarian Marco Castillo. After stressing the importance of the work that standing committees are doing, he went on to introduce their chairs for the year. Dennis Bakewicz and John Graham are co-chairs of the Budget Committee, Andrew Douglas is the chair of Curriculum, Neil Katz is the chair of Legislative, Sandie Han is the chair of the Committee on Students and Amit Mehrotra is the chair of the Technology committee. The Buildings and Grounds committee and the Personnel committee had not as yet elected a chair. Peter Catapano also mentioned the October 1 hearing on Pathways that was being organized by the Curriculum committee and informed the body that a recording of the hearing would be posted on the College Council website. He also let the body know that an election for the faculty disciplinary committee would be held soon. Members of that committee don't have to be College Council members.

**Curriculum Committee Report.** After Peter Catapano's report, the meeting proceeded with the Curriculum report by A. Douglas. The fall deadline for major proposals is October 5 and the spring deadline for major proposals is January 31. Minor proposals can be submitted any time before March 11. This information is posted on the Curriculum committee website. The recording of the Pathways hearing was to be posted later that week. The new form for new course proposals is posted on the curriculum committee website. A. Douglas demonstrated the Curriculum committee website and the information it provides, including current and past proposals. The library forms that are part of the proposals have to be submitted to librarians two weeks before the proposal is submitted.

**Technology Report:** After A. Douglas' presentation, A. Mehrotra delivered the Technology committee's report. The committee is discussing the ways technology at City Tech can be used to promote teaching, learning and scholarship. He announced that a 'state of technology' survey of students and faculty would be administered next spring. The college is working on increasing bandwidth. CUNY 1<sup>st</sup> will be launched in the spring.

**UFS chair.** After A. Mehrotra, chair of University Faculty Senate, Terry Martell, who had been invited by the Executive Committee, gave College Council an update on Pathways. He noted that, even though he, as chair of UFS, is a trustee, he unfortunately was forced by Pathways to join the PSC in a lawsuit against the Board of Trustees. Two suits were filed. The first is a contract suit and has to do with a 1999 agreement between the university and the PSC. The claim underlying this suit is that Pathways is a violation of that agreement. The lawsuit is before the judge and before the end of the semester we will probably know something about it. The second lawsuit makes an open meetings violation claim, namely

that individual colleges that sent Pathways proposals without going through governance violated the open meetings law. Martell thanked PSC president Barbara Bowen and the PSC for taking up this issue even though they didn't have to. Without them these lawsuits wouldn't have been possible.

He also noted that the conversation about Pathways is changing. Pathways was originally presented as a way of reducing the cost to the university of the problems with the CUNY transfer system. Then it was argued that Pathways would make the transfer process more efficient. Martell noted that, although there are issues with transfer, the conversation is changing again, and now it is morphing into an issue of student choice. He argued that the unevenness of high schools in NYC make a structured curriculum necessary for many CUNY students.

Moving to the events in Queensborough Community College, he suggested that they were not unique. A lot of pressure is exerted on faculty at many CUNY campuses. He argued that there is a risk that faculty will disengage because they will feel that they are mere employees. The AAUP sent a letter to the chancellor with respect to the QCC incident. Martell sent it to governance leaders and asked P. Catapano to forward it to the City Tech mail list. The chancellor sent a response where he recognizes, among other things, the right of faculty to vote on matters of curriculum "according to their professional judgment and free of threats and intimidation." Martell went on to urge that members of College Council, whenever called upon to make Pathways-related decisions, exercise their judgment regarding what's best for their students.

There was a question from the floor as to whether the university ever presented hard evidence about the extent of the problem with transfers. Martell answered that CUNY's case for Pathways keeps changing precisely because of the absence of such evidence. He concluded that it is impossible to have a strong university without an engaged faculty that is not simply going through the motions. Pathways is undermining this necessary aspect of a strong university.

**President Hotzler's report.** There are a number of new department chairs: Carmel Dato in Nursing, Laina Karthikeyan in Biological Sciences, Thomas Wilkin in Technology and Teacher Education, Evans Lespinasse in Radiation Technology and Medical Imaging. Esdras Tulier replaced Michelle Harris at the office of Faculty and Staff Relations. Pamela Brown returned as Associate Provost, replacing Sonja Jackson. Karl Botchway is continuing as Acting Dean in the School of Arts and Science and Kevin Hom is Acting Dean in the School of Technology and Design. President Hotzler also acknowledged the presence in the meeting of SGA president William Ghee and vice president Kevin Valencia.

Enrollment has increased a bit to 16,100. There are more returning students, more transfer students, but slightly fewer freshmen. The budget is fairly stable and the college will continue to invest in faculty, staff and instructional equipment. Twenty-eight new tenure-track faculty joined us in August and we have now about 425 full-time faculty. The college has added academic advisors, strengthened the registrar's office and is preparing for CUNY 1<sup>st</sup>. The capital budget is strong and will be used for new dental chairs, the Welcome Center, the cafeteria and other spaces. Elevators will be refurbished and on line later in the year. Klitgord will be demolished early in 2013 and the new academic complex that will

replace it will be complete by spring 2016. There is progress in Voorhees and work there should be wrapped up this year.

A Middle States progress report is due this year. Middle States asked us to work on General Education and Assessment and we have been doing so. The Provost will be putting together a committee that will assist in this process. Personnel and Budget have moved to CUNY 1<sup>st</sup> format– now the same is being done on the student side, including Registrar, Bursar and financial aid. Several colleges have already started implementing CUNY 1st with some difficulty. Our college will begin this spring. One of the difficulties of the system thus far has been financial aid, which affects enrollment. We hope to learn from the experiences of colleges that implemented CUNY 1st before us. Department Chairs and one faculty per department will receive training to help implementation. Pathways is progressing through appropriate committees and discussions. The college is also focused on attaining parity with other senior colleges regarding workload.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.15.

Respectfully submitted,

Costas Panayotakis

2012-2013 College Council Secretary