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BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

COLLEGE SENATE
Minutes of the Meeting of November 30, 1978
4 p.m., Schwendler Auditorium

PRESENT: Faculty and Staff

J. Asch, R. Bass, F. Buianouckas, C. Daley, L. Davis, N. Eagle,
S. Ehrenpreis, H. Fuld, A. Fuller, J. Furst, A. Galub, G. Gean,
J. Gorham, R. Gorman, R. Gosselin, A. Gotta, J. Graham,
A. Hirshfield, C. Infante, A. Jackson, E. Just, M. Kalin, V. Katz,
J. Kolliner, A. Levey, G. Lieblich, D. Lowenthal, A. May, J. Mitchem,
E. Palmer, A. Peretz, L. Pinto, J. Prince, C. Polowczyk, A. Pomerantz,
R. Quinn, J. Rempson, A. Resto, G. Riley, J. Ryan, L. Silverman,
W. Sokolsky, J. Spielberger, M. Spivak, H. Stein, M. Steuerman,
B. Witlieb

Students

A. El Hossri, J. Ellis, J. Feliciano, E. Garcia, E. Griffith, M. Ramos,
O. Richardson, E. Sabater, E. Simmons, R. Todman, A. Trinidad

Guests

V. Wilson

ABSENT

Faculty and Staff

C. Auser, F. Autovino, D. Cancienne, W. Duncan, T. Finnegan, N. Gilroy,
L. Harrell, H. Hermo, G. Hobbs, S. Miranda, T. Quiros, S. Reisin,
H. Skinner, A. Simon, H. Tyson

Students

S. Bean, E. Encarnacion, C. Gonzales, J. Granchie, D. Hall, C. Hernandez,
G. Herbert, K. Hobson, N. Hoepelman, E. Jean, G. Kendricks, M. Kerrigan,
H. Knowles, J. McCourt, J. McEvady, M. Miller, S. Schreyer, J. Ward,
F. Washington, A. Williams

Excused

J. D'Andrea, D. Davidson, M. Todorovich, L. Weinstein

I. PRESIDENT ROSCOE C. BROWN, JR. - BCC BUDGET REPORT

The President addressed the Senate regarding the serious financial problems confronting the College and approaches for alleviating them. The following were the highlights of the President's presentation.

Declining Enrollment

Since 1976-77, the College has experienced a steady decline in enrollment of several thousand students (approximately 3,300). This year's budget was predicated on a projected enrollment of 6,981 FTE's for the fall term, and 6,500 FTE's for the spring term. This term's enrollment of 6,188 FTE's is approximately 800 below target.

Since the State funding formula provides a basic per capita allowance of \$750 plus supplements for technical and disadvantaged students (which amounts to \$1,150 per student), the budgetary effects are significant.

The enrollment decline experienced at Bronx Community College is consistent with the overall trend of decreasing enrollments at all community colleges whose total enrollment is down approximately 3,000 students. This decline has resulted in a decrease of State aid to community colleges of \$8 million (experienced as a net loss of \$4 million because of a change in State aid formula).

The projected enrollment for next year indicates another 4,100 decline in student enrollment for the CUNY community colleges as a whole. The projected enrollment for Bronx Community College for fall, 1979 is only 5,500 FTE's.

Audit Disallowance

The City University community colleges received notice of a \$13.4 million audit disallowance for 1973-74 declared by the State due to inability to document student enrollment and faculty/student ratios for that year. Consequently, the City is responsible for a \$13.4 million refund to the State. These funds will come from the New York City budget.

Beginning 1977-78, the City is requiring the establishment of an audit disallowance fund from the community colleges' budgets. As a result, the community college budgets for 1978-79 are being reduced by approximately \$1.25 million to establish an audit disallowance fund.

Reductions in 1978-79 Budget

The CUNY community college budgets for this academic year are being reduced by \$4 million because of the enrollment decline and \$1.25 million for the audit disallowance fund. Bronx Community College's share of the reductions for audit disallowance and decreases due to lower enrollment is approximately \$535,000.

This mandated budgetary reduction will involve reducing the OTPS (Other Than Personnel Services) by \$165,000; reducing the adjunct budget by \$50,000 and putting a cap on adjunct sections for the spring, 1979 term; reducing the college assistant budget by \$22,000; and not filling vacancies that currently exist in the instructional and non-instructional areas.

1979-1980 Budget

The projected 1979-80 budget for all community colleges provides for a decrease of \$13.2 million, or 11%. Bronx Community College's share of this reduction is approximately \$1.4 million, and the President must submit a plan as to how it will be accomplished. Approximately \$850,000 of this would come from reduction of the adjunct faculty budget, further decreases in the OTPS budget, and not filling vacancies in the instructional and non-instructional categories. The balance must come from non-reappointments of some non-tenured faculty and possible retrenchment or reassignment of tenured faculty.

The Council of Community College Presidents has determined that retrenchment is not a desirable alternative and that each President must attempt to manage with the resources at his disposal. In keeping with this policy, the faculty at Bronx Community College who are in departments that are overstaffed (some 20 to 40 faculty in various departments) will be given some retraining to teach in the areas of remedial reading, mathematics, business mathematics, and some of the sciences.

Joint Community College Efforts to Cope with Budget Crisis

Several joint efforts to cope with the budget reductions have been undertaken as follows:

- Concerted effort is being made by the community colleges to convince the City that the required \$5 million audit disallowance fund should be cut to about \$1 million, and that the City's percentage of funding community colleges should be increased.
- Attempts are being initiated to develop a process whereby State aid to community colleges will be established by a percentage formula and not be based on FTE's, thereby fluctuating with changes in enrollment.
- Study of the feasibility of sharing certain central functions to reduce OTPS costs is being undertaken.
- A resolution is being developed which is intended to support student retention by preventing the "pirating" of community college students by the senior colleges.
- The reappointment of non-tenured personnel is being held in abeyance until projected enrollments materialize, when some selected reappointments might be made.

Bronx Community College's Efforts to Cope with Budget Crisis

Active Recruitment Program

The demographic trend of a decreasing high school graduate population exacerbated by increasing competition from private institutions has increased the necessity for an aggressive, effective recruitment program. Every faculty member has a responsibility to support the recruitment endeavor to get more students on campus and to foster an image of Bronx Community College as an institution which provides educational opportunities for all segments of the potential student population.

Program Development

New programs should be developed, where feasible, to broaden our appeal in attracting students.

Increased Student Retention

Increased efforts should be made to retain those freshmen students who are allocated to us. The problem of losing increasing numbers of students through suspension must also be confronted since we do get a population with academic problems that makes it difficult for large numbers of our students to survive (i.e., in the recent Freshman Assessment Test only 42% of BCC's incoming freshmen passed reading and 18% passed mathematics).

In summary, the President stated that the College is experiencing serious financial difficulties brought about essentially by an enrollment problem on the one hand, and a recruitment and retention problem on the other hand. In addition, audit disallowances created in part by inefficient recordkeeping practices have contributed to the problem as have the pressures of the Financial Control Board on the City to cut expenses. He stressed that all faculty have a responsibility to the College to cooperate by maintaining accurate attendance records, by participating in recruitment efforts, and by developing and advocating new programs.

The President concluded his presentation on a positive note, indicating that in spite of the bad news, the State does regard this institution as one worth investing in, as evidenced by approval of a plan to construct a \$12 million energy plant on campus.

A question and answer session followed during which the President responded to inquiries from student and faculty representatives.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Governance Structure and Functions (Dr. F. Buianouckas)

The Committee is still hearing presentations from faculty and students. President Brown and Professor Prince are scheduled to make presentations on Wednesday, December 6, the last day of hearings. The Committee will report to the Senate on December 21 regarding suggestions for changes in the governance plan.

B. Community Projects (Prof. L. Pinto)

At its last meeting the Committee approved events for the month of December. At its December meeting the Committee will work on the first Bronx Annual Arts Festival which will be held on our campus.

C. Budget and Grants Committee (Dr. J. Prince)

At its last meeting the Committee heard a brief report from Dean Reisin on grants indicating that the College is "running ahead" in average monthly grant awards and in continuing education grants. Tanya Cobbs has been appointed Acting Grants Officer for the College. At its next meeting the Committee will address itself to the usage of adjunct funds this coming spring term and to the retraining of faculty.

- D. Advisory Committee on Deans and Directors (Dr. J. Prince)
Professor Prince has been elected chairperson of this Committee that has begun its annual review process of deans and directors for the purpose of reporting to the President. Input is being requested from all department chairpersons, student government, and other segments of the college community. Any comments submitted to Professor Prince should be in writing and signed. Confidentiality will be respected.
- E. Student Activities (Dean M. Steurman)
The Committee has been discussing the constitution for Student Government and the Media Review Board. Future meetings are scheduled on December 8 and December 15 in the Gould Student Center, Room 309 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.
- F. Curriculum Committee (Prof. G. Riley)
Professor Riley reported that the Committee will meet every Tuesday until all business is completed and noted that a report of the Curriculum Committee dated November 30, 1978 containing a description of a new course offering requiring Senate approval had been circulated.
- G. CUNY Senate (Prof. R. Gosselin)
On December 1, 1978 the University Faculty Senate will testify before Assemblyman Miller's Committee on Higher Education.

Professor Gosselin extended thanks to Dr. Eagle for the demographic profile of students he prepared for the CUNY Senate and also noted the work the PSC had done in preparing its report on federal funding of private higher education.

In an effort to develop a closer relationship between the University Senate and its membership, the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been visiting senior and community colleges, most recently to NYCC for a discussion of governance and budget matters with faculty representatives as well as President Schwerin.

The names of four faculty members of BCC have been submitted for membership on the CUNY task forces previously reported on, and if they are selected, BCC will be well represented.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. The minutes of the Senate Meeting of November 2, 1978 were approved with the following revision: J. Feliciano, J. Rempson, and A. Simon should be added to the list of members present.

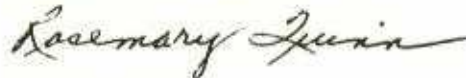
B. Professor Riley made the following motion:

MOTION: To accept the report of the Curriculum Committee dated November 30, 1978 (Attachment A) and to approve the new course, Advanced Spanish Composition and Creative Writing, proposed by the Modern Language Department.

ACTION: Motion carried.

IV. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 1979 at 4 p.m. Since a full agenda is anticipated, Dr. Prince requested that members arrive promptly.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosemary Quinn
Secretary