BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF FACULTY COUNCIL-5/6/64

Present: President Morris Meister, Chairman; Professors Caffrey, Colwell, Corbman, Griffin, Hirsch, Hirshfeld, Joseph, Just, Loughlin, May, McCulloch, McGrath, Minkin, Monticone, Pitman, Reynolds, Rosenstock, Silverman, Stein, Stillerman, Tauber, Thompson, White, Mr. Berman, Mr. Casais, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Griffin, Miss Pomereanz, Mr. Stambler, Miss Stringham.

Absent: Professors Atlas, Buckley, D'Andrea, Doroshkin, Mandelbaum, McLaughlin, Prestwidge.

Guest: Mrs. Babnis

Agenda: Reconsideration of the matter of the time of election of chairmen of departments.

1. Letter from the President to members of the Faculty Council, dated May 4, 1964:

"To: Members of the Faculty Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have today received a written request asking me to convene a special meeting of the Faculty Council before May 7, 1964, in order to reconsider the vote of the Council on April 23, 1964, dealing with the time of election of chairmen of departments and of departmental P&B committees.

Under Article II, Section 7 of the Bronx Community College Bylaws, I feel obligated to grant this request for a special meeting.

........ The earliest time that I can convene the meeting of the Faculty Council is on Wednesday, May 6, at 3 P.M., in the auditorium. I trust that you can arrange to be present.

Sincerely yours,

Morris Meister
President"

2. Dr. Meister presented the background for election of department chairmen, indicating he had sought the advice and counsel of the College P&B Committee, the Committee on Faculty Welfare, the Committee on Elections and the Faculty Council before proceeding in order to make certain that he was acting in accord with faculty sentiment. However, the final decision will be the President's.

The first week in May is the time for elections according to the Bylaws of the senior colleges as well as those proposed for the Community Colleges. When President Gallagher was consulted, he said there was no deviation from this schedule in the four-year colleges. It has been found necessary to provide
adequate time for the change-over process in departments in which new chairmen are elected. The Bylaws are as binding on the President as on the Faculty.

Since the faculty members who petitioned the special meeting did not give the reasons for the request, Dr. Meister indicated that he hoped there would be a free and full discussion at this time where the reasons would be expressed openly and objectively. He promised that he would take the conclusions under advisement and would make his decision by the end of the day. Each chairman will receive the decision in writing for transmission to the members of his department.

3. Professor Just stated that he had much to do with calling this special meeting because he had originally proposed that elections be held during a two-week period and was voted down although no one had spoken against the proposal. He felt that had he revealed his reason for the proposal there might have been more votes in favor of his motion. He explained that his reason had been that two members of his department were expected to be on leave during the first week in May and would therefore be unable to vote. As it developed, only one person is now involved.

He stated also that since this is an initial election, the interpretation of the Bylaws might be more flexible.

4. It was pointed out that, according to parliamentary procedure, a motion to reconsider was not in order at this time. The purpose of reconsideration of a motion is not for further discussion but in order that new evidence may be introduced. It was further pointed out that a majority vote must move for reconsideration.

Dr. Meister urged that technicalities of parliamentary procedure be disregarded at this time so that free discussion be permitted in the best interests of the college.

5. The additional discussion centered around the feasibility, advantages and disadvantages of an extended voting period; the significance of calling a special meeting to clarify a vote rather than to provide new evidence; the clarification of the idea that the President had requested Committee and Council reaction in a consultative capacity but that the final decision on action and procedure would be his.

6. Motion: Individual departments be permitted to extend the time of voting into the second week of May - For 14, Against 16

7. Later in the day, the President sent the following memo to Heads of Department:

"After full and careful consideration of the additional discussion which was held in the Faculty Council on the time for electing Chairmen, it is my view that the interests of the college will be best served by proceeding with the elections this week as planned, in all departments, and that the results of these elections will be in my hands by 4 P.M. on Friday, May 8, as indicated in my communication to the Faculty, dated April 24, 1964."

Respectfully submitted,
Vera F. Minkin
Secretary