BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

MINUTES OF FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 23, 1965

PRESENT: Dr. Morris Meister, presiding; Deans Tauber, Silverman, Thompson; Assistant Dean McGrath, Professors Atlas, Baum, Beringause, Caffrey, Casais, Clarke, Colwell, McLaughlin, Perlmutter, Polowczyk, Prestwidge, Pomeranz, Prince, Reynolds, Rosenstock, Sacher, Schaumberger, Stein, Tyson, White, Wong; the Misses Keatings and Scanlon, Mr. Erdsneker.

GUESTS: Assistant Dean Minkin; Professors Berger, Salzberg and Saueracker and Mr. Wachs.

Dr. Meister called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. He suggested that items I, II, and III of the Agenda be temporarily postponed, in order that he might present to the Council the Educational Testing Service (ETS) representatives, Dr. Davis, Dr. Linn and Mrs. Casserly. Dr. Meister expressed pride in B.C.C.'s role as a participant in the study the ETS was currently conducting at the college. He remarked upon the need of testing instruments able to predict the probable success of community and college career students.

Dr. Davis, speaking for the representatives of the ETS, expressed his gratitude to be working with BCC in this pioneer venture. Dr. Linn, Project Director, reviewed ETS plans for the future. He said that the study now being conducted at BCC was of an exploratory nature. Thus far, tests have been administered to some 900 students at the college. The members of ETS hope, from an evaluation of the results, to determine the effectiveness of an admission instrument as applied to various career curricula being given here. In the discussion that followed, it was brought out that it is particularly helpful, especially in certain career programs, that the student be able to think abstractly and in special ways. Abstract thinking, it was said, required an understanding of the basic principles of mathematics and science. It was questioned whether the ETS tests, as administered, were able to detect such abilities. Dean Tauber stated that such requirements had already been noted by the test constructors who intended to interview faculty so that these matters could be discussed.

Dr. Davis, in answer to a question with regard to recent articles in the press, said that the ETS is well aware of test deficiencies, per se. He agreed that tests had shortcomings, but, he said, well-constructed tests may still be the best instruments available for determining what students are qualified for which curriculum.

Dr. Davis was asked what ETS was doing to determine the creative originality of the student. Since ETS tests use multiple choice questions offering five possibilities, the question was raised whether the best method for determining a student's originality might not be an essay rather than multiple choice. It was observed that this was less than objective, and difficult to mark.
Dean Tauber announced that the ETS representatives would come to BCC during the week of January 24th to meet with departmental P & B representatives to discuss grading techniques and standards.

I. Corrections to Minutes of October 28, 1965 were as follows:

1. Among those present as members of the Council and not noted, were: Professors Pomeranz, Stein and Mr. Erdsneker.

2. Prof. Rosenfeld was a guest.

The minutes were adopted as corrected.

II. Dean Silverman announced that a subcommittee of the College P & B Committee, consisting of himself, Dean Thompson, Dr. Monticone, and Dr. Rosenstock, would review the "Guidelines". He said that comments and specific recommendations would be welcome.

III. Committee Reports

A. Committee on Nominations and Elections - Prof. Prince

Prof. Prince moved that a subcommittee of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the President's successor be formed, consisting of the top 3 of the 5 electees, since the BHE Committee wished a committee of this size, and that these members meet with the special committee of the Board of Higher Education to advise in choosing the President's successor. The motion was passed unanimously.

B. Committee on Curriculum - Dr. Monticone

"Handouts" were distributed outlining Curriculum Committee recommendations.

1. Dr. Monticone reported to the Council that the Curriculum Committee, on October 26th, approved the change of SB 10 Human Anatomy and Physiology from 3 lectures, 3 lab (3 credits), to 3 lectures, 3 lab (4 credits). He said that this change had the full approval of both the MLT and Nursing Department Chairmen.

(Dean Minkin said that SS 3, listed as a prerequisite for SB 10 on the handout, should be omitted, since it is no longer required.)

Vote in favor of raising the number of credits for SB 10 from 3 to 4 was: 29 pro, 0 opposed, with 5 abstentions.

2. Dr. Reynolds, Chairman of the Department of Speech and the Fine and Performing Arts, spoke briefly about the recently introduced and revised curriculum for the A.A.S. degree in Performing Arts - Music. Dr. Reynolds mentioned that he had proposed to the Curriculum Committee, on December 14th, that an additional 1/2 Health and Physical Education credit be added to his department's
curriculum in order to bring the number of credits given at BCC to 60. This would mean a total of 68 credits for the curriculum, including the 8 credits in private lessons given at the New York College of Music.

Dr. Salzberg, in presenting the details of the revised curriculum to the Council, asked that corrections be made in the mimeographed handout of the Performing Arts-Music curriculum, such that the total number of credits would read 68 rather than 67 1/2, on page headed "Pattern Statements" and on page 1, the additional 1/2 credit in question being the 1/2 Physical Education credit proposed by Dr. Reynolds.

Certain questions raised by members of the Council resulted in a clarification of the wording of the handout's "Pattern Statements", to wit, that BCC students taking New York College of Music courses would do so on a tuition-scholarship basis.

With reference to the community's need for the proposed Performing Arts-Music Curriculum, Dr. Reynolds apprised the Council of a survey conducted by the department during the past summer. Of 150 responses from informed people surveying the need for a proposed curriculum in the Performing Arts, which included questions dealing with Music, Art, Theatre and Dance, 95 were highly enthusiastic regarding both the need for such a curriculum, and the employability of its graduates.

Dean Silverman raised the question concerning administrative feasibility of providing space, budget, etc., for a new curriculum. Should such questions be considered by the Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Council or Faculty? Dr. Meister replied that the Curriculum Committee considered these aspects.

Dr. Meister, in an aside, said that he was reminded of the great responsibility of every educational institution toward the community. He said that there is a great need, on the part of the community, that potential talent within it be developed, and that it was the job of the college to provide adequate curricula to train this talent.

Vote on revised Performing Arts - Music curriculum: 34 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions.

3. Handouts for the proposed Data Processing Curriculum were distributed. Dr. Corbman, Coordinator of Business Curricula and Head of the Department of Business and Commerce, called the attention of the Council to the handouts. The intent of the new curriculum was to provide, he said, a career program of two options, Programming and Systems, and Machine Operation, suited to student aptitudes and interest, and to the needs of business.

The question was raised whether only one Math course through College Algebra (SMT 10) was sufficient for the Machine Operations option. Prof. Corbman and Dr. Schaumberger replied that it was. Further discussion occurred concerning whether a student could transfer from one curriculum to another without proper
math prerequisites. Dr. Corbman answered that, should the student seek transfer, any such deficiencies could be made up by taking the necessary courses.

An objection was raised concerning the omission of the requirement of high school chemistry for the Data Processing Curriculum. It was stated that high school chemistry was normally a prerequisite for SB-8. Dr. White had explained that chemistry was desirable but not really necessary for this particular SB-8 course since it was not identical to the course that was offered to the nursing students.

Prof. Prince raised the question concerning the need for physics in a data processing curriculum. Dr. Corbman stated that there was no evidence, based upon an examination of the needs in industry, curricula offerings at other community colleges, and the recommendation of the Office of Education, for the need for such a course. Mr. Martin Erdsnecker moved that an amendment be made allowing the election of one semester of science in the data processing curriculum rather than limiting the choice to SB 8 alone. The amendment was seconded and accepted by Dr. Corbman.

The omission of Introduction to Psychology, originally tentatively included as a required course in the Machine Operations option, was also questioned. Prof. Colwell moved that the Faculty Council reinstate it. A discussion ensued concerning the relative merits of psychology, speech, or any other general education course for machine operators. Prof. Colwell's motion was not seconded.

Dr. Corbman declared a point of order due to the lateness of the hour and moved to call the question. After a negative vote and further discussion, the curriculum was voted upon and approved by a large majority.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Keatinge
Secretary