THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Appointment of Ben Lerner
as Distinguished Professor at Brooklyn College

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York appoint Ben Lerner as Distinguished Professor of English at Brooklyn College effective August 25, 2016, with compensation of $28,594 per annum in addition to his regular academic salary, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: Professor Lerner is a brilliant novelist, one of the most important poets of his time, and a superb literary critic who comments on art, aesthetics and culture. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2015 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2013-14. As a result of his most recent novel, 10:04 (2014), in 2015 Lerner was a finalist for the Gordon Burn Prize, The Folio Prize in Fiction and the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Prize. His first novel, Leaving the Atocha Station (2011) won the 2012 The Believer Book Award and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award for first fiction and the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Prize. He has published three books of poetry, including Angle of Yaw (2006), which was a National Book Award Finalist, and his critical reviews have been published in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Harper’s, the London Review of Books, Art in America and Artoform, among many others. As one of his reviewers noted, “I frankly can’t think of anyone writing today whose work so successfully combines intellectual rigor (thought in relation to the history of thought) with popular appeal (the ability and desire to engage a broad and diverse audience).”

Since 2014, Professor Lerner has served as Professor of English at Brooklyn College, where he joined the faculty in 2010 as an Associate Professor. Prior to his time at CUNY, he taught at the University of Pittsburgh and the California College of the Arts. In 2015, he was Visiting Professor of English at Princeton University. Lerner earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing and a B.A. in Political Science at Brown University.

Brooklyn College and The City University of New York will be well-served by Professor Lerner’s appointment as Distinguished Professor.