RESOLVED, that the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema be established as an academic department effective August 25, 2017, subject to financial ability.

EXPLANATION: Brooklyn College has a well established Department of Film that for many years offered only undergraduate degrees. In response to the ever increasing local employment opportunities, then Mayor Bloomberg encouraged CUNY to establish graduate programs in cinema to provide an affordable alternative to the private graduate programs in the region. With the assistance of monies from the city as well as the successful private fundraising done by then President Karen Gould, including a very generous $5.5 million gift from Barry R. Feirstein, Brooklyn College established several graduate programs in cinema, which as per the CUNY Board Resolution of June 24, 2013, came to be collectively known as The Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, within the Department of Film.

Pursuant to academic and institutional planning, and following consultation of the President and the Provost with the dean and the faculty involved as well as with the College’s governance bodies, Brooklyn College proposes to divide the Department of Film into two departments, a reconstituted Department of Film and the new department, the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, to be effective August 25, 2017.

The new department will better reflect the diverse academic disciplines in which the current film faculty are credentialed. It is anticipated that the proposed reorganization will enhance scholarship, research, and faculty development and collaboration, as well as improving curricular development and increasing educational opportunities for students and that the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema will house one of the highest enrolled major programs in Brooklyn College which can be managed more effectively as a separate department with a particularly defined mission.