

Faculty Senate Minutes #308

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

3:20 PM

Room 630 T

Present (25): Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Bettina Carbonell, Troy Coleman, Roddrick Colvin, Edward Davenport, Virginia Diaz, Janice Dunham, Jennifer Dysart, DeeDee Falkenbach, Konstantinos Georgatos, P. J. Gibson, Amy Green, Karen Kaplowitz, Jane Katz, Tom Litwack, James Malone, Evan Mandery, John Matteson, Dagoberto Orrantia, Valli Rajah, Francis Sheehan, Liliana Soto-Fernandez, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Agnes Wieschenberg

Absent (12): Orlanda Brugnola, Dara Byrne, Robert DeLucia, Kirk Dombrowski, Marcia Esparza, Yi He, Richard Kempter, Brian Onieal, Edward Paulino, Nicholas Petraco, Peter Romaniuk, Robin Whitney

Guest: Professor Ned Benton

Agenda

1. **Announcements & Reports**
2. **Approval of Minutes #307 of the March 8, 2007, meeting**
3. **Ratification of the uncontested election of delegates to the University Faculty Senate**
4. **Proposed endorsement of the membership and time line for the Gen Ed Task Force.**
5. **Review of the agenda of the March 22 College Council meeting**
6. **The shutting down of "The Week Of"**
7. **Election of the Senate's Student Awards Committee**
8. **Charter Revision discussion**

1. **Announcements & Reports [Attachment A]**

Senator Evan Mandery urged that additional Senators join the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Department Reorganization in addition to himself and Senator Thalia Vrachopoulos and Professors William Heffernan, Norman Olch, Adina Schwartz, Lydia Segal (all from Law, PS & CJA) and Mary Ann McClure (Philosophy). Senators P. J. Gibson, Tom Litwack, James Malone, and John Matteson agreed to also serve.

Senator Thalia Vrachopoulos reported from the Ceremonial Occasions Committee and circulated a document from VP Tova Friedler about the plans for a split commencement, one ceremony to be held in the morning and the other in the afternoon because of the large number of graduates.

The Investment Plan II Proposal [Attachment A], which had been distributed and discussed at

the College Budget Committee on March 11, was reviewed.

2. Adoption of Minutes #307 of the March 8, 2007, meeting. Approved.

3. Election of delegates to the University Faculty Senate

The Senate unanimously ratified the uncontested election of Karen Kaplowitz, as a delegate representing the full-time faculty; Mark Chaffie, as a delegate representing the adjunct faculty; and Janice Dunham, Diana Friedland, Daria Montero, and Nicholas Petraco, as alternate delegates of the full-time faculty.

4. Membership and timeline for the Gen Ed Task Force [Attachment B]

The timeline and membership of the Gen Ed Task Force were discussed [Attachment B]. Senator Thalia Vrachopoulos said that because her department is being reorganized, she would like a member of her department to serve on the Gen Ed Task Force. Senator Amy Green said her department, Speech & Theater, is also concerned about Speech courses in the Gen Ed program and she wondered if it would be appropriate for every department which will be affected by changes to our gen ed curriculum to request membership on the Task Force. Professor Ned Benton said it would be unfortunate if the Task Force were made up only of people representing those departments that are stakeholders or were made up only of people who plan to defend our current Gen Ed program. He said there should be a representation of the interests of the entire College.

President Kaplowitz suggested that we table this item and ask Dean Bowers to come to the next Senate meeting to discuss this issue with us. This was agreed to.

5. Review of the agenda of the March 22 College Council meeting

The agenda was reviewed. It comprises proposals for undergraduate and graduate course proposals and revisions; a proposal for a new Master of Arts Program in Forensic Mental Health Counseling; and proposed revisions for the MPA Program.

6. Shutting down of "The Week Of"

Senators reported that the Administration's decision to shut down "The Week Of," the weekly information publication long provided to all at John Jay by the Administration, is harming the ability to the faculty (and others) to do the work of the College, because there is now no way for information to be disseminated about such things as conferences, seminars, new library databases, deadlines for putting material on library reserve, etc., and because the lack of a good communications tool is hurting the sense of the College as a community because there is no way to announce retirements, promotions, prizes, etc.

The Senate approved, by unanimous vote, a motion to request and recommend to the

Administration that as a short-term solution an electronic-only version of “The Week Of” continue to be published until the end of this spring semester and that for a long-term solution, given that a new email system, a new listserv system, and an IT plan will be in place by September, that an ad hoc committee of faculty and administrators develop a plan for faculty communication with the implementation to take place by the beginning of the fall semester.

7. Election of the Senate’s Student Awards Committee

The Senate elected Edward Davenport and Jennifer Dysart to recommend recipients of the Faculty Senate’s awards to graduating seniors in the CUNY BA Program, one award for a student majoring in the humanities and the other for a student majoring in the social sciences or sciences.

8. Charter Revision – Version 09 [Attachment C]

President Kaplowitz reported that the Senate/Chairs Task Force and the Administration agree that it is impossible for the revision of the Charter to be completed this semester and, so, the work will continue this semester and through the summer and into the fall, with a first reading at the College Council in November and a vote in December.

The Senate considered a series of issues that had been raised in the interim since the last Senate meeting and agreed to propose the following changes to Version 09 [Attachment C]:

- a. The proposed Budget Advisory Committee should be revised so that it shall be co-chaired by the Provost and the VP for Finance and Administration; shall meet at least once quarterly; shall advise the faculty, the administration and the College Budget Committee in performing their duties and responsibilities; shall issue an annual report on the budget to the College community.
- b. The proposed Academic Advisory Committee should be revised so that it shall be advisory to the Provost.
- c. The proposed Admissions Committee should be revised to make it a sub-committee of the Committee on Undergraduate Standards (thus serving a parallel function of the admissions responsibilities of the Graduate Studies Committee).
- d. The section on the deadline for agenda items for the College Council and on the scheduling of meetings of the Executive Committee of the College Council should be revised in consultation with Mayra Nieves, the Secretary of the College Council.
- e. The voting membership of the College Personnel Committee should be revised to add both the Provost and the VP for Student Development (who is the chair of an academic department).
- f. The proposal regarding the membership of the faculty on the College Council should be

revised so that the faculty comprise at least 75% of the voting members but in no case less of a percentage than is the norm of the senior colleges.

g. The section on the definition of faculty shall be extended to specify who is eligible to not only vote for faculty but also to nominate faculty.

h. The section on the referendum method of amending the Charter should be revised to require that, for an amendment to be adopted, at least 30 percent of the instructional staff must vote in such a referendum and that at least a majority of those voting must have cast an affirmative vote.

i. The section on the resolution of election disputes should be revised to require the Faculty Elections Committee to resolve faculty election disputes; the Student Election Review Committee (SERC) already resolves student election disputes; if a HEO committee exists or is established it shall resolve HEO election disputes; and if any constituent body does not have an official elections committee, then the College Council resolves election disputes for that body.

j. The section on the change of the date of the first meeting of the College Council each year from September to May should be revised to add language providing that the College Council Executive Committee is to be elected at that May meeting.

k. The section on the Council of Chairs should be revised to exclude any reference to the membership of the Council; such membership is to be established by the Council of Chairs and is to be codified in its bylaws, which the Council of Chairs shall adopt.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Submitted by
Edward Davenport & Virginia Diaz
Co-Recording Secretaries