

Faculty Senate Minutes #315

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

3:20 PM

Room 630 T

Present (30): Myrna Archer, Simon Baatz, Adam Berlin, Marvie Brooks, Dara Byrne, Elise Champeil, Edward Davenport, Virginia Diaz, Janice Dunham, Marcia Esparza, DeeDee Falkenbach, Gail Garfield, Konstantin Georgatos, P.J. Gibson, Amy Green, Heather Holtman, Tim Horohoe, Karen Kaplowitz, Jinwoo Kim, Ma=at Coles Lewis, James Malone, Evan Mandery, John Matteson, Patrick O=Hara, Rick Richardson, Peter Romaniuk, Nancy Ryba, Francis Sheehan, Shonna Trinch, Thalia Vrachopoulos

Absent (7): Teresa Booker, Kirk Dombrowski, Richard Kempter, Amie Macdonald, Nicholas Petraco, Raul Romero, Davidson Umeh

Guest: Professor Tom Litwack

Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Announcements
3. Adoption of Minutes #314 of the September 6, 2007, meeting
4. Election of an at-large Senator
5. Election of faculty to serve on the Provost Search Committee
6. Report on John Jay's budget
7. Proposals for amending the John Jay College Charter of Governance
8. Discussion of CUNY proposed changes to Institutional Review Boards [IRB]

1. **Adoption of the agenda.** Approved.

2. **Announcements**

The proposal for a Gender Studies Major passed the Curriculum Committee unanimously and upon its approval by the College Council, John Jay will be one of only nine colleges in the country to have such a major. Senator Amy Green announced that the Gender Studies Committee will be holding a workshop. Senator Janice Dunham announced that the Library will be holding a workshop on ReferenceWorks next week.

3. Adoption of Minutes #314 of the September 6, 2007, meeting. Approved.

4. Election to fill a vacant at-large position on the Faculty Senate

Myrna Archer, an adjunct in the Department of Law, Police Science & CJA, is the sole candidate for the vacant at-large adjunct Senate seat. By unanimous vote, the Senate ratified the election of Myrna Archer as the new adjunct senator to replace an adjunct senator who had resigned.

5. Ratification of the election of the 7 candidates to serve on the Provost Search Committee

In response to calls for nominations and self-nominations, seven tenured members of the faculty are nominees for election to the seven faculty seats on the Provost Search Committee (in addition to the faculty chair, Professor Gerald Markowitz (History/ISP) who was appointed by President Travis):

C. Jama Adams B African-American Studies
Ned Benton B Public Management
Thomas Kubic B Forensic Science
Karen Kaplowitz B English
Evan Mandery B Law, Police Science, CJA
Allison Pease B English
Harold Sullivan B Government

The Senate ratified the election of all seven by unanimous vote.

6. Report on John Jay's budget

Professor Litwack gave a budget report and President Kaplowitz thanked him for coming in on his sabbatical to do so. He explained that John Jay is in discussions with 80th St about covering projected deficits in our budget. He said we will have more definitive information about our budget in about a month, but he said he is sure that no retrenchment of faculty positions is on the horizon.

President Kaplowitz announced that President Travis had agreed to totally restore the proposed 38% cut to the Library budget as a result of concerns raised with him at a Senate meeting.

7. Consideration of proposals for amending the John Jay College Charter of Governance
[Attachment]

Meetings have been taking place from May through September between the Senate/Chairs Charter Revision Task Force and President Travis and his senior administrators. President Kaplowitz circulated a handout on the Charter Revision Proposals and explained the reasons why the College charter needs to be revised. She also explained the steps in consultation and discussion these proposals had gone through over the past year. She said today she would highlight the most important proposals in the handout and then ask everyone to read them all before our next meeting, when the Senate will be asked to vote. The Senate agreed with this procedure. She then explained the importance of putting some rules into Bylaws rather than into the Charter, allowing the College more flexibility in changing these rules.

President Kaplowitz spoke about the proposal that there be a limited increase in the size of the College Council and the Senate. Faculty representation on the expanded College Council would increase from 28 to 42.

Senator P. J. Gibson stated that the students on College Council committees should not be freshmen. President Kaplowitz said the Task Force agrees and had drafted language for student members of college committees requiring that they have a minimum number of credits which would preclude their being freshmen.

Senator Gail Garfield said she thinks that the volume of work for the Curriculum Committee is so large that perhaps we might put more members on that committee. Senators Gibson and Garfield asked what the motivation would be for faculty to join a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee. President Kaplowitz explained that all faculty members need to participate on committees in order to get reappointed and promoted, so that would be one motivation.

Senator Dara Byrne spoke about her experience as a member of the Curriculum Committee at a time when she was new to the College. She said there was a tremendous amount of back history which everybody else seemed to know. She praised Provost Bowers for having set up separate meetings just to put new members in the picture about the back history.

Senator Gibson asked what student reaction there had been to the proposal to remove students from the college P and include them only on the B committee. President Kaplowitz said they are opposed to this change but the faculty and the administrators are strongly in support of this change.

President Kaplowitz spoke about Professor Ned Benton's study of votes on the College Personnel Committee which shows that the absence of even one or two members of the P has a large negative impact on a candidate's chance for a positive vote. She then explained Professor Benton's proposal for adding three alternate at-large members to the P to make it easier for the possibility of sufficient votes for a productive session. She said this change would be put in the bylaws so that it could be changed easily without our having to go to the Board of Trustees, which we must do if it's in the Charter, if the alternate voting member solution does

not work, if, for example, it promotes more absenteeism.

Senator Janice Dunham asked how the alternates would work on the committee itself. President Kaplowitz said that the alternates would do the same work as all other members and would participate in discussions and would vote if any of the faculty members – any of the chairs or at-large members – are absent. Senator DeeDee Falkenbach said that publishing attendance could also help.

President Kaplowitz discussed the make-up of the committee which makes proposals to the College Council. She went on to discuss the process for electing directors of the Graduate program. The working group is proposing that criteria be developed and faculty member would be nominated. The faculty member nominated for program director would then be reviewed by the provost. The charter revision also sets forth a term limit of 3 years but the position is not term limited.

President Kaplowitz discussed the creation of a provost advisory committee and the role of such committee.

President Kaplowitz suggested that the Senate nominate faculty for College Council committees as do the students. She also discussed how items are submitted for the agenda of the College Council.

President Kaplowitz asked that member of the Senate should read the document and to e-mail any suggestions directly to her. She will bring this information back to the Senate.

Senator James Malone suggested that reporting information from the Senate back to the academic departments should become a priority.

Senator Dunham stated that part of the problem is that members of the Senate are usually junior faculty and can't report back to their departments because many times meetings of the department don't allow for reporting.

Senator Davenport agreed with both Senator Malone and Senator Dunham saying that bringing back information is important but department meetings may not be conducive for this.

Senator Malone suggested a change in the college culture to allow for sharing of information.

Senator Garfield suggested forwarding information to department chairs.

Senator Falkenbach suggested that the dates and times be available as well. She states that the members of the Senate are representative of their department and it is their responsibility to keep the department informed.

8. Discussion of CUNY proposed changes to Institutional Review Boards [IRBs]

9. Discussion of the CUNY 2008-2012 Master Plan Process. Noted.

10. New business