

Faculty Senate Minutes #316

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

3:20 PM

Room 630 T

Present (25): Simon Baatz, Adam Berlin, Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Elise Champeil, Edward Davenport, Virginia Diaz, Marcia Esparza, DeeDee Falkenbach, Gail Garfield, P. J. Gibson, Amy Green, Heather Holtman, Tim Horohoe, Karen Kaplowitz, Jinwoo Kim, Amie Macdonald, James Malone, Evan Mandery, Patrick O'Hara, Rick Richardson, Peter Romaniuk, Nancy Ryba, Shonna Trinch, Thalia Vrachopoulos

Absent (12): Myrna Archer, Dara Byrne, Kirk Dombrowski, Janice Dunham, Konstantin Georgatos, Richard Kempter, Ma=at Coles Lewis, John Matteson, Nicholas Petraco, Raul Romero, Francis Sheehan, Davidson Umeh

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Announcements
3. Adoption of Minutes #315 of the September 26, 2007, meeting
4. Election of the Faculty Senate Committee on Technology
5. Discussion of items on the agenda of the October 18 meeting of the College Council
6. Charter Revision proposals
7. Proposal for a common College-wide theme for 2007-8

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Announcements

October 15th is the deadline for proposals from faculty members to reorganize academic departments; as agreed by the Senate at its last meeting, after the proposals are sent electronically to the community, the Senate's listserv will be the medium for the Faculty Senate forward faculty comments on the proposals to the faculty. This was reaffirmed by the Senate.

3. Adoption of Minutes #315 of the September 26, 2007, meeting. Approved.

4. Election of the members of the Faculty Senate Committee on Technology

The following faculty were elected: Anthony Carpi, Lou Guinta, Robert Hong, Richard Lovely, Keith Markus, Peter Moskos, Bonnie Nelson, Alexander Schlutz, Peter Shenkin, Maggie Smith, Liliana Soto-Fernandez, Alan Winson.

5. Discussion of items on the agenda of the October 18 meeting of the College Council

A proposal to permit students to withdraw online without a faculty signature was discussed. Senator Pat O'Hara said he is mainly in favor of this, but he thinks there should be some advisement component. Senator Heather Holtman agreed, saying that students should be encouraged to speak to a counselor or other faculty member about the course withdrawal. Senator Edward Davenport asked whether there could be a requirement that the involved faculty member be notified and his or her permission be given on-line before the resignation would go through.

Asked about the relationship between course withdrawal and students' financial aid, President Kaplowitz explained that students who withdraw from a course may lose their financial aid for the subsequent semester, whereas if they complete the course, even receiving a failing grade, they will continue to be eligible for financial aid. Senator Gibson asked about the rule for re-taking courses to improve an F grade. President Kaplowitz explained that students who fail a course and retake it and earn a grade of C or better do not have the F grade calculated in their GPA but the F grade does remain on the student's transcript; students may do this for a maximum of 16 credits throughout their CUNY career; this is a CUNY policy, not a John Jay one.

6. Charter revision proposals

The charter revision timetable decided by the College Council Exec Committee on October 2 is as follows:

- *Deadline for proposing Charter amendments: October 31
- *Deadline for official bodies to take a position on proposed amendments: November 30
- *College-wide forums hosted by the College Council Exec Committee: early December
- *Drafting of language of proposed Charter amendments: January
- *Deliberation and vote by the College Council: early spring semester
- *Approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees: no later than June 2008

The Senate continued its discussion of the consensus proposals developed by the faculty and administration members of the Charter Revision Working Group.

7. Proposal for a common College-wide theme for 2007-8

A proposal was introduced that the Faculty Senate endorse a proposed initiative whereby the College would adopt a theme for the 2007-8 Year, to be the topic of seminars, films, speakers, etc., and a common reading related to that theme.

Senator Green said she does not think it could do any harm. Senator Holtman suggested a technological component, where students could comment on-line on a common book or common theme. Senator Davenport said that the proposal seems to create undue interference with the right of professors to design their own syllabi and reading lists; he was assured that

neither books nor themes would be required but only recommended. He also asked how this proposal would fit with the ongoing reshaping of the College's general education requirements. Senator Green said it is possible that there could be some conflicts or bumps in the road. Senators Garfield and Romaniuk spoke in favor of the proposal to have a common theme and common book for each year.

Senator Gibson said this proposal could run into financial barriers, since students now sometimes cannot afford to buy the books required for their courses and so asking them to buy another book might present a problem. She suggested that perhaps copies of the book might be made available through the college Library, and others said perhaps the College could subsidize these recommended books. Senator Trinch said that programs like this work quite well at colleges which are well-endowed but might not work so well here unless President Travis is able to bring in extra funding to support such a program. Senator Green said she likes the idea of the Senate endorsing this proposal only if new funding can be found for it. The Senate concurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Submitted by Edward Davenport & Virginia Diaz
Co-Recording Secretaries