

## Faculty Senate Minutes #318

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

3:20 PM

Room 630 T

**Present (27):** Simon Baatz, Adam Berlin, Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Dara Byrne, Elise Champeil, Edward Davenport, Virginia Diaz, Janice Dunham, Marcia Esparza, DeeDee Falkenbach, Gail Garfield, P. J. Gibson, Amy Green, Karen Kaplowitz, Jinwoo Kim, Ma=at Coles Lewis, Evan Mandery, John Matteson, Patrick O=Hara, Nicholas Petraco, Rick Richardson, Tanya Rodriguez,, Nancy Ryba, Francis Sheehan, Shonna Trinch, Thalia Vrachopoulos

**Absent (10):** Myrna Archer, Kirk Dombrowski, Konstantinos Georgatos, Tim Horohoe, Richard Kempter, James Malone, Nicholas Petraco, Peter Romaniuk, Raul Romero, Davidson Umeh

**Invited Guests:** Student Council President Francis Balducci, President Jeremy Travis

### Agenda

1. **Approval of the agenda**
2. **Invited guest: Mr. Francis Balducci, President of Student Council**
3. **Report of the Senate President**
4. **Adoption of Minutes #317 of the October 25, 2007, meeting**
5. **Honorary degree candidates to be ranked by the Faculty Senate**
6. **Discussion and vote about Charter proposals flagged for further review**
7. **Consideration of the additional proposals for amending the Charter of Governance**
8. **Discussion of the agenda of the November 12 meeting of the College Council**
9. **Invited guest: President Jeremy Travis**
10. **Student Council responses to Charter revision proposals**

1. **Approval of the agenda.** Approved.

2. **Invited guest: Mr. Francis Balducci, President of Student Council**

Student Council President Francis Balducci talked about his plans to revise the Student Council charter, which he reported has not been changed in 29 years. He spoke about the difficult process of getting student nominees for College-wide committees approved and assured the Senate that students are currently very interested in serving on committees and will attend committee meetings. He then listed the achievements of the new Student Council.

He reported that some students are currently troubled about aspects of the search for a Dean

of Students and, thus, he must cut short his visit so he can leave immediately for a meeting on this subject.

### **3. Report & Announcements [Attachment A, B]**

A copy of a Memorandum [Attachment A] from President Travis to the College community sent and dated today about the tenure case of Professor Michael White (Department of Law, PS and CJA) was distributed and read in preparation for the Senate's meeting with President Travis.

The five proposals for restructuring academic departments which were submitted before the established deadline were reviewed [Attachment B]. These five proposals are for a Department of Art and Music; for a Department of Communication and Theatre Arts; for a Department of Crime, Law & Policy; for a Department of Philosophy; and for a reorganization of the Department of Public Management.

### **4. Adoption of Minutes #317 of the October 25, 2007, meeting.** Approved.

### **5. Ranking of Honorary degree candidates**

Until now, each CUNY college was permitted to award up to five honorary degrees at each of its commencement ceremonies or academic convocations. The Chancellor has just decided that henceforth each college may confer a maximum of three (3) honorary degrees at commencement (even if a college holds two commencement ceremonies on a single day as does John Jay). In May 2007, the Faculty Senate had approved six (6) candidates for the May 2008 commencement ceremonies.

One candidate, Paul Farmer, has already agreed to accept the degree and has committed to attend commencement, a requirement of the CUNY Board. The Faculty Senate reviewed the credentials of the other five (5) candidates and, by a secret written ballot, rank ordered them.

### **6. Consideration of Charter proposals flagged for further review**

The Council of Chairs has unanimously endorsed the October 25<sup>th</sup> recommendations of the Faculty Senate with reference to the Charter revisions. Also, the Senate approved by unanimous vote a motion to recommend that the membership of the Standards Committee membership should be changed from 7 faculty members to 12 faculty members.

### **7. Consideration of the additional proposals for amending the Charter of Governance**

President Kaplowitz noted that each academic department has different rules of procedure, which is permitted, but most department members do not know what those rules are and often disagree about what has been done in the past and this is the reason for the proposed department bylaws.

Senator Evan Mandery spoke in support of departments bylaws. He said his department has the same discussions every year about the rules of voting and about other matters and said it would be extremely helpful to have such procedures formally agreed to and spelled out in writing in a document available to all department members.

By unanimous vote the Senate approved a motion to recommend that the Charter be amended to require academic departments to have bylaws, which would be received and reviewed by the executive committees of the Faculty Senate and of the Council of Chairs and then by the Executive Committee of the College Council. Professors Ned Benton and Karen Kaplowitz volunteered to draft bylaws that would serve as a template for the departments.

#### **8. Discussion of the agenda of the November 12 meeting of the College Council**

The agenda includes a proposal for an English Major; a proposal for FDNY and Department of Corrections General Education requirements; a proposal to terminate the Judicial Studies Major; and for a new graduate course in Psychology and for a change of level of an FCM course.

Because many Senators suspect that the clickers are not accurately recording their votes at the College Council meetings, the Senate asked President Kaplowitz to request that test questions be employed as a way of testing the electronic clickers. The recommendation is that the test require that all College Council members be asked to use their clicker to vote yes; then to vote no; and then to vote to abstain; and that the responses then be checked to make certain that all received unanimously affirmative votes.

#### **9. Invited guest: President Jeremy Travis [Attachment A, B]**

President Travis told the Senate that his agenda for today's meeting includes two items: first, the controversy about the tenure decision regarding a faculty colleague, about which he had today sent a memo to the community [Attachment A] which he understands has been circulated to the Senate, which he appreciates; and, second, aspects of the process for restructuring academic departments.

About the first issue, President Travis said that we at John Jay are fortunate that the University has clear procedures established for dealing with questions of research misconduct and of academic integrity and then, he said, we have the problem of, after all these processes have run their course, how to put the department and the tenure process back together again. He said this is an especially troubling issue for faculty who are as yet untenured, and he does not yet know how it will be resolved.

President Travis also said that Senator Mandery's proposal for department reorganization [Attachment B] is replete with issues that affect the entire College rather than just one department.

Senator Mandery praised the way President Travis has handled the tenure dispute issue and he

encouraged President Travis to continue to do what he thinks is in the best interests of the College about this matter.

President Kaplowitz praised Senator Mandery for having started a conversation about department reorganization, an issue which has been simmering at the College for a while, so that the whole College can be involved in a conversation which affects us all. President Kaplowitz said that, as agreed, she has been forwarding emails to the faculty from members of the faculty who have been commenting on the proposals and has done so without reading them because she became aware that some of the responses contained inaccuracies and she did not want to knowingly forward such errors or, what are possibly, purposeful disinformation, but she does not want to and cannot be a censor either because she sees the role that the Senate and administration agreed to as a conduit for the conversation.

President Kaplowitz praised Senator Mandery for the restraint he has shown in responding to criticisms of his proposal [Attachment B]. Senator Gail Garfield praised the transparency she has seen in the conduct of this department reorganization discussion. Senator Nancy Ryba asked for clarification about whether the postings are going to only the Faculty Senate or to the whole faculty, and President Kaplowitz said they go to all full-time faculty members and to a sizable portion of the adjunct faculty.

Senator Amy Green said that since the questions raised by the first proposal for departmental reorganization affect the entire College, she hopes that some of these questions can be answered before the other reorganization proposals are decided upon. President Travis said Senator Green is absolutely right that we have to focus on the whole picture of the College when deciding proposals from individual departments. Senator P.J. Gibson said our transparency had been good and President Travis said he thinks we can take pride in this. Senator Marcia Esparza thanked President Kaplowitz for making possible this open discussion of the reorganization issues.

President Travis said he has been surprised that there is no real celebration of people who achieve tenure or promotion at John Jay and so he is starting to have discussions about how this can be done. Senator Gibson said we need to start with the basics: when she was promoted, she received a letter saying that the matter is pending at the CUNY Board of Trustees and that was the last she heard; she has never been officially informed that she was, in fact, promoted.

#### **10. Student Council responses to Charter revision proposals [Attachment C, D]**

President Kaplowitz reported that the Student Council has distributed its proposed Charter revisions [Attachment C] and that the Student Council wants more student members on all College Council Committees than is now the case; on the other hand, the Charter revision proposals from the administration and the faculty [Attachment D] call for fewer student members, not more, than now sit on committees.

Senator Dara Byrne said she thinks students are not capable of finding student candidates for the committees. Several Senators objected that while assistant professors who are members of the College-wide Personnel Committee are not permitted to vote on promotions of faculty members to full professor, student members are. Senator Gibson spoke in favor of student representation on committees, including on the Personnel Committee, although she said she understands the concerns expressed about confidentiality.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by Edward Davenport & Virginia Diaz  
Recording Secretaries