

Faculty Senate Minutes #320

Thursday, December 13, 2007

9:30 AM

Room 630 T

Present (30): Simon Baatz, Adam Berlin, Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Dara Byrne, Elise Champeil, Edward Davenport, Kirk Dombrowski, Janice Dunham, DeeDee Falkenbach, Gail Garfield, P. J. Gibson, Heather Holtman, Karen Kaplowitz, Richard Kempter, Jinwoo Kim, Ma=at Lewis-Coles, James Malone, Evan Mandery, John Matteson, Patrick O=Hara, Nicholas Petraco, Rick Richardson, Tanya Rodriguez, Peter Romaniuk, Raul Romero, Nancy Ryba, Francis Sheehan, Shonna Trinch, Thalia Vrachopoulos

Absent (7): Myrna Archer, Virginia Diaz, Marcia Esparza, Konstantinos Georgatos, Amy Green, Tim Horohoe, Davidson Umeh

Guests: Professors Elton Beckett, Ric Curtis, Betsy Gitter, Tom Litwack, Vincent Maiorino, Bonnie Nelson, Martin Wallenstein, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Invited Guests: CUNY Vice Chancellor Ernesto Malave, President Jeremy Travis

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report of the Senate President
3. Adoption of Minutes #319 of the November 29, 2007, meeting
4. Student Evaluation of the Faculty process this semester
5. Proposal for changing the class period grid
6. John Jay=s budget
7. Invited guest: CUNY Vice Chancellor for Budget Ernesto Malave
8. Invited guest: President Jeremy Travis
9. Proposed resolution on the removal of a department chair
10. Discussion about proposals for departmental reorganization
11. Report of the Task Force on Distance Learning
12. Discussion of Charter amendment proposals

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Report & Announcements

3. Adoption of Minutes #319 of the November 29, 2007, meeting. Approved.

4. Student Evaluation of the Faculty process this semester: Professor Daniel Pinello [Attachment A]

President Kaplowitz reported that this agenda item, submitted by Professor Daniel Pinello [Attachment A] has already been solved. The Provost has agreed that the flawed evaluation of faculty will not be used in the next personnel process, although the forms will be kept by the Provost so that faculty members will be able to see student comments. Vice President Francis Sheehan reported that upon reading Professor Pinello's memorandum, he personally observed many unsecured evaluation envelopes on three different occasions, all of which he photographed. He and President Kaplowitz then met with Provost Bowers earlier in the day.

Senator Rick Richardson said that the problem of forms being left in unsealed envelopes on an open cart in an unsecured corridor was brought to the attention of administration a week ago, and yet nothing was done, even by the last day of classes, which was last night. Vice President Sheehan said he had looked again at 6:30 this morning and saw a new batch of open envelopes piled in the hall. Senator Gail Garfield said the administration must ensure that the evaluations are more secure.

5. Proposal for changing the class period grid: Professor Pat Licklider [Attachment B]

The Senate considered Professor Licklider's proposal [Attachment B] that there be 15 minutes between classes, that the first period be changed to start at 8 AM, and that the 7th period start at 5:15 or somewhat later. One version of the proposal was approved; then the proposal was amended to include a club period of one hour. The Senate authorized the Senate President to send these proposals to the Undergraduate Academic Standards Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee for their action and ultimate referral to the College Council.

The reason that more time is needed between classes is that students and faculty are now traveling between three non-contiguous buildings.

Senator Heather Holtman said she favors making the evening class at 7th period start later, so that working students can make it to class on time, but she wondered if we can realistically expect students who start classes at 5:15 p.m. to still be alert at the end of the last period at 8:45 p.m. President Kaplowitz noted that when she started teaching at John Jay, her classes started at noon and ended at 11:00 p.m. Senator Berlin said he favors starting classes at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 9:45 p.m., which would provide for a club hour for students.

Senator James Malone said that reserving a club hour when no classes are scheduled is very important, even though we are faced with a need for the maximum utilization of classroom space.

Senator O'Hara moved that the Senate recommend an hour-long club time, recommend that 7th period start at 5:15 pm, and recommend a 15 minute gap between class periods. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

6. Report about John Jay's budget: Kirk Dombrowski, Tom Litwack, Karen Kaplowitz

Professor Litwack said the University thinks that our adjunct faculty costs are still increasing even though we have been hired additional full time faculty members. The University does not think John Jay's full time faculty members are spending enough time in the classroom.

Senator Gail Garfield asked whether the John Jay administration is doing its part in explaining and defending to the University our spending at the College, given that the Vice Chancellor may be concerned that our adjunct spending is not decreasing as we add more full-time faculty. Professor Tom Litwack said he had seen the administration report about this and he thinks overall it is a good report.

Professor Litwack said the reason our adjunct spending is not decreasing is that we are replacing full-time substitute professors, who teach a 4/4 workload, with new tenure-track professors who, by contract, receive reassigned time to do research and publish during their first few years, so that on average they teach only 9/9 or 9/6 or 6/6. So we require more spending on adjuncts. He said that if we are faced with the deficit which is now projected for next year, our only solution will be to not hire the new professors we are now searching for.

Senator Elise Champeil said that the Science Department cannot get the start-up funds it needs to set up labs for the new Science faculty. She said that on average it costs \$100,000 to start up a new lab, and after hours of pleading, the Science Department has been able to get only about \$10,000 for a lab start up.

Senator Kirk Dombrowski said he does not think we would hear about any fiscal help until the last minute, in other words, not until next August. Professor Litwack said that on a more positive note, he had heard Vice Chancellor Allan Dobrin, who was at the College for the celebration of the new building, say that he expects John Jay to receive substantial fiscal help next year, although no specifics were mentioned.

7. Invited guest: CUNY Vice Chancellor for Budget Ernesto Malave

Vice Chancellor Malave was welcomed. Upon being asked by Senator Kirk Dombrowski how long he can stay, he replied, "I will do a Hilary Clinton, and say, 'I am here and I will stay as long as you want me.'" He circulated CUNY budget documents and explained them. He also talked about the State Education Commission on Higher Education, on which he is serving. He said a Report will be released next Monday but he is not free to speak about the Report in advance. But he did say that it is very refreshing to now have a Governor – Eliot Spitzer -- who is committed to public higher education.

Unfortunately, he said, the economy seems to be tanking just as the moment have a Governor prepared to make major investments in higher education. Therefore, the Vice Chancellor said,

we will not get everything we want or need, but at least we now have some protection against retrenchment in budget or in personnel.

In reviewing CUNY's budget, he noted that CUNY's energy budget alone is around \$80 million. He said that for the second year in a row, CUNY has had all of its costs covered and all of its investment requests funded. This has never happened before. His handout included specific amounts of new investment in CUNY for 2008

The Vice Chancellor expressed a concern that the academic partnerships John Jay is establishing with the community colleges might not be going forward rapidly enough. Vice President Sheehan said that the concern in the Science Department is the opposite--that so many students are being recruited into the forensic science partnerships that we might not have room for them when they are ready to come to John Jay unless our building program goes forward at a faster rate.

Senator Pat O'Hara spoke about plans for distance learning courses and asked for assurances that there would be funding for these plans.

Senator Gail Garfield referenced the Vice Chancellor's comments about freshman advisement at Hunter and she spoke about how much students at John Jay need such advisement and asked him how we could provide this for our students. He said we should ask for funding for such an initiative in our annual budget request.

The Vice Chancellor reminded us that colleges have a lot more constituencies than just faculty but faculty tend to be the most powerful constituency because of tenure and because of faculty governance, and so CUNY administration has to look out for needs that exist in other areas, such as student advisement. He said he is surprised to learn that John Jay is lacking such a vital resource for a college. He said he wants to learn how we made the decision not to invest in student advisement at John Jay. If it was the push for full-time faculty which has derailed student advisement then he would want a different emphasis.

President Kaplowitz spoke about changes in John Jay's administration which led to a sidelining of efforts for student development.

Vice Chancellor Malave ended his presentation and a question and answer session. President Kaplowitz invited the Vice Chancellor to join the Senate for lunch and he said he would love to. After chatting with Senators over lunch the Vice Chancellor left at 1:45.

8. Invited guest: President Jeremy Travis. Noted.

At 2:00 President Travis arrived and joined us in a celebration of the tenure or promotion of a large number of Senators. President Kaplowitz briefed President Travis on the meeting with Vice Chancellor Malave.

President Travis said there are just so many moving pieces in our planning for the budget process, especially the issue of revenue targets. He called Vice Chancellor Malave a very tough negotiator: when he sees you need a million dollars from him, he says, what about this issue over here, which has nothing to do with the other issue. President Travis thanked the Senate for its additional help in the negotiation process by having the Vice Chancellor as its guest. President Travis acknowledged that there had been a snafu in consultation with the students last summer about the Compact funds and he said progress is being made on fixing that. A Senator asked President Travis why the Vice Chancellor is so concerned about student consultation on the budget. It's politics, said President Travis; it is easier for him to negotiate with the legislators in Albany if he can say the students are on board as well as the faculty and administration.

President Kaplowitz moved to the resolution on the removal of departmental chairs, and shared with the Senate an email from the Chair of Chairs, who wrote that following a successful meeting between the Council of Chairs and President Travis, the Chairs no longer view their resolution on this matter as so pressing.

President Travis said that what he had said to the Chairs is that he hopes we are in a situation where we could discuss this issue with one another, rather than confronting one another with formal resolutions. He said he does not think the policy in the resolution makes sense--that before a college president can exercise a power which he should only exercise in extremely sensitive situations, that he should have open public discussions of the matter. He talked about discussions he had already had with the faculty of LPS about who they would like to be their new chair. He said during three weeks of consultation with that faculty it was his conclusion and that of the Provost, that the department was so divided that the department would benefit by having a chair from outside the department. He said he hoped this would be a rare if not unique event.

President Kaplowitz explained the events at the end of the last Senate meeting which led to the placing of a resolution on the Senate agenda.

Senator O'Hara, who had drafted the resolution that's on the Senate's agenda for today said he has no problem in allowing his resolution to mellow for a time and for it to become separated from the excessive drama of our last meeting, but he thinks there may still be things in the resolution which we would want to consider at a later meeting in planning for the future of the college.

President Kaplowitz said that when President Travis asked whether issuing resolutions is the way we communicate at this college, she realized that this is indeed the way we have been communicating for the past twenty years, during which time discussion between the faculty and the administration has been entirely one-way, with no opportunity for faculty to engage in director communication or in informal communication. She said the situation between the faculty and the current administration is so completely different that perhaps the issuing of resolutions is no longer appropriate.

Professor Betsy Gitter said that she hopes others could greet these changes in LPS with the optimism with which she has greeted the news. She said that the problems in the LPS department have been festering for 25 or 30 years and should have been fixed a long time ago. She congratulated President Travis on taking action about things which are very important for the future of the college. VP Sheehan asked President Travis whether he is still determined to keep an appointed chair in place for the duration of the former chair's term and President Travis said he is.

9. Proposed resolution on the removal of a department chair: Senator Patrick O'Hara

President Kaplowitz asked Senator O'Hara to speak about what he wants done with his resolution. He said that only the first part speaks about what the president can do – and the rest speaks about what the faculty can and should do in such a situation, and since the resolution had already been widely circulated, he thought we might want to wait to discuss it at a future meeting. Senator Malone noted that resolutions are not binding on anyone, and perhaps this one may not be useful. Professor Ric Curtis, Chair of Anthropology, said that since President Travis just came to us and said he prefers to communicate by dialogue rather through resolutions, it would be stupid of us to pass this resolution. President Kaplowitz said the language of the resolution is not respectful and that we should try to be as respectful as possible in dealing with President Travis.

Senator Evan Mandery said he thinks it is necessary to separate the faculty governance question, which is important, from the questions about the former chair, and for that purpose he thinks would be best to put this issue off for a while. He moved to table, but President Kaplowitz said that it could not be tabled since it had not been moved. Professor Curtis said that if we do anything other than kill this resolution we would be making a mistake. Senator Richardson asked whether there was a motion on the floor and was assured that there was not. A motion was made to adopt the resolution and this motion failed.

10. Discussion about proposals for departmental reorganization [Attachment B of Min #318]

The Senate reviewed the faculty proposals for department restructuring [see Attachment B of Minutes #318 of the November 7 Senate meeting]. The Senate voted in favor of the proposed merger of the Speech & Theater Department and the Communication Skills Department. The Senate also unanimously supported the proposal to create a separate Philosophy Department from the Art, Music and Philosophy Department; the Senate included in its motion of endorsement the fact that the Senate is not taking a position on the proposal for additional philosophy faculty lines.

Senator O'Hara explained the proposed division of the Public Management Department which that department supports unanimously. President Kaplowitz asked why the proposal involves so many faculty members being jointly appointed. Senator Malone said that joint appointments are sometimes problematic, because there have been squabbles in the past over where a

faculty member really belongs, and there have been questions about whether tenure and seniority are carried from one department to another.

President Kaplowitz said she thought that the issue of joint appointments needs further review before we endorse this departmental reorganization. She suggested having talks with Professor Ned Benton, the chair of the Public Management Department, and discussing this further at the January 29th Senate Meeting. Senator O'Hara withdrew his motion and it was left to his department to reintroduce this issue at a subsequent Senate meeting.

Previous to today's Senate meeting, Senator Evan Mandery and 12 signatories of his proposal for a new Department of Law and Justice Policy, had requested that the Senate postpone consideration of their proposal until the spring semester. The Senate abided by that request.

11. Report of the Task Force on Distance Learning: Senator Pat O'Hara

Senator O'Hara reported on the Report of his Task Force on Distance Learning. He said that the Task Force recommends that John Jay put its existing programs online for our professional students. He said that many people in law enforcement across the country start a second career in their forties and we are hoping to attract these students to our online courses. We are also hoping to attract professional students who have children and need to take courses from home for that reason. Senator O'Hara said that our administration wants these online courses to continue and has indicated that money will be available. The Task Force is insistent that we should not go forward without money for faculty development and support. He made copies of the Task Force report available to the Senate and invited questions.

President Kaplowitz recommended that if we do have distance learning courses, there should be a requirement that full-time distance learning professors be required to do at least some of their teaching on campus. Senator O'Hara said he does not think this request is contrary to the Task Force Report.

Professor Curtis said he is sympathetic to President Kaplowitz's concern, but he there might be a case where a professor needs to be away from the campus for awhile, and he does not think the chair's hands should be tied. Senator O'Hara said he believes the Provost and President are also opposed to faculty members having 100% of their courses taught online.

The Senate voted to recommend that the College adopt a policy requiring that full-time faculty members who teach courses online teach at least one course each semester on campus unless there are unusual circumstances in which case the department chair and the Provost would have to approve that semester's exemption from the policy. This position was supported by Senator O'Hara and by Professor Curtis and was adopted by unanimous vote.

12. Discussion of Charter amendment proposals submitted by the Student Council, by the

HEO Council, and by the Administration

The Senate voted to authorize a small group of Senators to negotiate with students and HEOs during January about the composition of College Council and about other Charter revision proposals.

The Senate voted to revise its Charter proposal so that the faculty membership of the College Council would be 66 percent of the voting members, rather than 60 percent. The vote was 28 yes, 2 no.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Submitted by Edward Davenport
Recording Secretary