

Faculty Senate Minutes #404

Friday, May 10, 2013

12:30 PM

Room L.61 NB

Present (38): Chevy Alford, Simon Baatz, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Erica Burleigh, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Elise Champeil, Demi Cheng, Lyell Davies, Janice Johnson Dias, Janice Dunham, Terry Furst, Lior Gideon, Maria Grewe, Maki Haberfeld, Jay Hamilton, Charles Jennings, Shaobai Kan, Karen Kaplowitz, Kwando Kinshasa, Maria Kiriakova, Tom Kucharski, Anru Lee, Ma'at Lewis, Richard Li, Yue Ma, Evan Mandery, Amie Macdonald, Vincent Maiorino, Roger McDonald, Jean Mills, David Munns, Melinda Powers, Hyunhee Park, Raul Romero, Francis Sheehan, Staci Strobl

Absent (9): Andrea Balis, Peggy Escher, Tim Horohoe, Cyriaco Lopes, Michael Maxfield, Brian Montes, Richard Ocejo, Manouska Saint-Gilles, Shonna Trinch

Invited Guests: Professor Gail Garfield, Professor Nathan Lents, Provost Jane Bowers

Guest: Professor Emeritus Edward Davenport

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #403 of the April 25, 2013 meeting
3. Announcements & Reports
4. Approval of the Calendar of 2013-14 Faculty Senate meetings
5. Consideration of honorary degree candidates for May 2014 commencement
6. Proposal to revise the faculty personnel processes
7. Invited Guest: Provost Jane Bowers: follow-up on workload reduction initiative
8. Ad hoc Faculty Senate Elections Committee: proposals for the May 23 elections
9. Review of the agenda of the May 16 meeting of the College Council
10. On-line student evaluation of the faculty: oral reports from academic departments

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Adoption of Minutes #403 of the April 25, 2013 meeting. Approved.

3. Announcements & Reports. Noted.

4. Approval of the Calendar of 2013-14 Faculty Senate meetings. Approved.

Thursday, September 12

Wednesday, September 25

Thursday, October 10

Wednesday, October 23

Thursday, November 7

Monday, November 18

Friday, December 6

Wednesday, February 5

Thursday, February 27

Monday, March 10

Thursday, March 27

Wednesday, April 9

Thursday, April 24

Friday, May 9

First Meeting of the 2014-15 meeting: Thursday, May 22

5. Honorary degree candidates proposed by the Committee on Honorary Degrees to be awarded at the May 2014 commencement ceremonies: Professors Garfield and Lents

This year the co-founders and co-directors of the Innocence Project – Barry Scheck and Peter Neufeld – will receive honorary degrees. Also invited to receive degrees in May were Gloria Steinem and Nobel winning scientist Mario Molina; Ms. Steinem said she would be honored to accept the degree but is not available on May 28 and Professor Molina was not reachable. Both will be asked again to receive the degrees in May 2014, in accordance with our College's procedure for awarding honorary degrees. In case one or both are not available or again unreachable, the Senate is being asked by the Committee on Honorary Degrees to consider additional candidates for the May 2014 ceremony.

Professor Gail Garfield (Chair, Committee on Honorary Degrees) and Professor Nathan Lents (Member, Committee on Honorary Degrees), on behalf of the Committee, therefore presented additional candidates for May 2014 commencement: Former U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and Professor Charles Figley. Each was approved by secret ballot.

The Senate then rank ordered the four candidates approved so far for May 2014 who have not been asked: by secret ballot the Senate ranked them in the following order of descending choice: Hillary Clinton, Charles Figley, actor and firefighter Steven Buscemi, Pulitzer-Prize

winning novelist Junot Diaz (the latter two having been approved by the Senate at its December 2012 meeting).

6. Proposal to revise the faculty personnel reappointment, tenure, promotion, and appeals processes [Attachment A , B & C]

It was reported by Senators Ned Benton, Tom Kucharski, Jay Hamilton, and Evan Mandery – all of whom are members of the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC) – and by Senate President Karen Kaplowitz (who attended the public portion of the FPC meeting that morning) that at 12:15 PM that day the Faculty Personnel Committee had approved a proposed revision of the Faculty Personnel Process Guidelines for action as New Business at the May 16 meeting of the College Council. Copies of the proposed revisions [see Attachment A of the Minutes] were circulated to the Senate members. The revisions would

- authorize the FPC to make adjustments in its internal deliberative structures and processes, involving the identification of the subcommittees to be formed, the responsibilities and operations of the subcommittees, the criteria for the assignment of cases to the subcommittees, and the criteria for assignment of FPC members to the subcommittees;
- eliminate language requiring the existing committee structure of three committees – one each for reappointment, tenure and promotion;
- alter the Senate's role from approvers of changes to the Guidelines (as voting members of the College Council) to commenters only.

The FPC members spoke of the interest the Committee has to change its subcommittees from what they are now – reappointment, tenure, and promotions subcommittees – to discipline-based subcommittees. Many Senators spoke of support for such a change but requested further information, and expressed reservations about giving up any opportunity to vote on changes at the College Council, and expressed reservations about making changes that might take effect in the Fall.

After deliberation, the Senate conducted a non-binding straw poll by secret ballot as to whether Senators would vote to approve the proposed revisions on May 16: the vote was 13 yes, 12 no, and 3 abstentions. The consensus was that the 15 non-affirmative votes would make the passage of the FPC revisions highly improbable, given the Perez v. CUNY court decision that requires passage of motions at the College Council to be by an absolute majority affirmative vote of all members, and not a simple majority affirmative vote of those present.

Accordingly, the Senate members developed a series of conditions that would likely enable more than 13 Senators to vote yes at the College Council on May 16. [See Attachment B & C of the Minutes]

7. Invited Guest: Provost Jane Bowers [Attachment D]

Provost Bowers continued her ongoing discussion with the Senate about workload reduction by asserting that surprising few faculty actually teach a 4/3 load. She said her data show that in 2009-10, only 67 (18%) of the tenured faculty taught a 4/3 load, that 64 (17%) taught a heavier than 4/3 load, and that 237 taught less than 4/3; for 2010-11 45 (12%) taught 4/3; 83 (22%) taught more than 4/3; and 240 taught less than 4/3; and for 2011-12, 38 (10%) taught 4/3; 51 (13%) taught more than 4/3 and 279 taught less than 4/3.

Provost Bowers next reported on a proposal she has developed for discussion: it is a workload reduction initiative, noting that she has not yet had an opportunity to meet with President Travis on her proposal and, thus, does not know if he will support it; she also said she believes she would have to fund her proposal from the faculty travel budget. She explained each of the three initiatives as outlined on the document she distributed [see Attachment D]

8. Proposals from the ad hoc Faculty Senate Elections Committee for conduction the May 23 elections: Senator James Cauthen

Senator Cauthen reported on the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee he chaired, explaining that its other members, all volunteers, were Senators Simon Baatz, Janice Dunham, and Evan Mandery. The Ad Hoc Committee recommended the following procedures for the May 23 Faculty Senate elections for the Senate Executive Committee members:

- A. During the election process for all officers, the presiding officer of the Senate shall be a neutral member of the Senate (i.e., not a current officer or a candidate for office).¹
- B. Nominations and vote for each officer shall be completed before moving to the nominations and vote for the next officer.
- C. The President of the Senate shall be the first office filled. After nominations for President are made, each candidate for President, in alphabetical order, shall have the opportunity to address the Senate for up to eight (8) minutes each.
- D. After all candidates for President have spoken, there will be a fifteen (15) minute question and answer period for each candidate. Again, the order shall be alphabetical. Questions shall be limited to one (1) minute each and responses from the candidate to each question limited to two (2) minutes.
- E. After the election of the President is completed, the election for all other officers shall proceed in the following order: Vice President, Recording Secretary(ies), Corresponding Secretary, Officer at Large, Officer at Large.
- F. In each of the elections for officers other than President, each candidate shall have the opportunity to address the Senate for three (3) minutes (again, in alphabetical order). There shall be no question and answer period in these elections.

The Committee members were thanked for their work. The Senate subsequently adopted the following procedures:

- A. During the election process for all officers, the presiding officer of the Senate shall be a neutral member of the Senate (i.e., not a current officer or a candidate for office at today's meeting).
- B. Nominations and vote for each officer shall be completed before moving to the nominations and vote for the next officer.
- C. The President of the Senate shall be the first office filled. After nominations for President are made, each candidate for President, in an order determined by a coin toss, shall have the opportunity to address the Senate for up to five (5) minutes each; after all candidates have spoken, the candidates shall have the opportunity to again address the Senate, this time to give a concluding statement of up to three (3) minutes.
- D. After all candidates for President have spoken, there will be a question and answer period. The questions shall be asked in alternating order of each candidate: ie, a question shall be asked of candidate #1, then a question shall be asked of candidate #2, then a question of candidate #3; then a next round of questions shall be asked of each of the candidates, and so forth. This shall continue for a maximum of 30 minutes. Again, the order shall be determined by a toss of a coin. Questions shall be limited to one (1) minute each and responses from the candidate to each question limited to two (2) minutes.
- E. After the election of the President is completed, the election for all other officers shall proceed in the following order: Vice President, Recording Secretary(ies), Corresponding Secretary, Officer at Large, Officer at Large.
- F. In each of the elections for officers other than President, each candidate shall have the opportunity to address the Senate for three (3) minutes (again, a coin toss shall determine the order). There shall be no question and answer period in these elections.
- G. Only members of the Faculty Senate shall be permitted to ask questions of candidates.

The Procedures were adopted without dissent; there was one vote of abstention.

9. Review of the agenda of the May 16 meeting of the College Council. Noted.

10. A preliminary assessment of on-line student evaluation of the faculty: brief oral reports from academic departments. Postponed for lack of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Submitted by
The Executive Committee