

Faculty Senate Minutes #406

Thursday, September 12, 2013

1:40 PM

Room L.61 NB

Present (38): Chevy Alford, Simon Baatz, Andrea Balis, Dale Barleben, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Janice Dunham, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Terry Furst, Lior Gideon, Maria Grewe, Norman Groner, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Karen Kaplowitz, Kwando Kinshasa, Maria Kiriakova, Tom Kucharski, Anru Lee, Charles McKenzie, David Munns, Hyunhee Park, Jay Pastrana, Melinda Powers, Dainius Remeza, Tanya Rodriguez, Raul Romero, Raul Rubio, Manouska Saint-Gilles, Cary Sanchez, Francis Sheehan, Carmen Solis, Charles Stone, Fritz Umbach, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Absent (10): Mark Alpert, Kashka Celinska, Geert Dhondt, Jennifer Dysart, Stanley Ingber, Shaobai Kan, Richard Kempter, Vincent Maiorino, Richard Stripp, Staci Strobl

Guest: Professor Jay Hamilton

Invited Guests: Provost Jane Bowers, Jennifer Dobbins

AGENDA

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Announcements & Reports**
3. **Adoption of Minutes #405 of the May 23, 2013, meeting**
4. **Invited Guest: Provost Jane Bowers: Student Evaluation of Faculty: online or paper**
5. **Elections by secret ballot by the Faculty Senate**
6. **Election and Ratification of faculty members to serve on standing JJ and CUNY committees**
7. **Review of the agenda of the September 26 meeting of the College Council**
8. **John Jay Fundraising Gala honoring General David Petraeus**
9. **Pathways: review and update: Senators Andrea Balis and Fritz Umbach**
10. **JJ Budget Update: Senator Ned Benton**
11. **New business**

1. **Adoption of the agenda.** Approved.
2. **Announcements & Reports.** Noted.
3. **Adoption of Minutes #405 of the May 23, 2013, meeting.** Approved.

4. Invited Guest: Provost Jane Bowers: Student Evaluation of Faculty: online or paper

Accompanying Provost Bowers was Ms. Jennifer Dobbins, of the Provost Office, who is responsible for overseeing the student evaluation of the faculty process with Kevin Nesbitt, Director of Faculty Services for Provost Bowers; Director Nesbitt is available to come to the Senate on September 25 if we would like him to answer any additional questions.

Provost Bowers explained that the vote on whether to have a totally online student evaluation of the faculty will take place on September 26 and not later, which would have provided us with more notice and more time to discuss, is that the online vendor has said that it would not longer service John Jay unless a 3-year contract is signed by October. She said that if we do not sign a 3-year contract and do want to use online evaluations, a new vendor will have to be used and a new pilot will have to be begun. She said that the 3 years of a pilot thus far is, according to the vendor, as much as it will permit and now we must either sign a contract or no longer have its services.

The proposal [Attachment B1] calls for the same instrument as currently being used to be used online for three years at which time the College Council would vote to continue online or not. Provost Bowers assured the Senate that neither the numerical scores nor the written comments will be posted online, which is the position of the Faculty Senate although the Student Council in the past requested such posting. It was suggested that that be added to the proposal.

One issue that was raised was that student evaluation ratings and comments are subject to Freedom of Information Law requests and the concern that if digitalized by putting the process online the comments would be easier for a FOIL request to be honored and thus easier for an outside entity to put the comments online.

Senators questioned the low response rate, about half of that of paper evaluations. Provost Bowers said that having half the faculty use the online method and half use the online method as has been the case for the past three years reduces the rate of online participation and that Brooklyn College administrators had raised online response rate to that of paper response rate through incentives; Provost Bowers said that she is open to offering incentives to students to use the online evaluations but does not want to use punishments against those who do not evaluate their professors.

Ms. Dobbins spoke about the ability of students to redo their numerical ratings and comments: students can revisit the online forms over and over until they decide to use the "submit" button. Also, students who realized they filled the forms out in error were able to have them redone. Senators said this is a negative in their minds, not a positive.

5. Elections by secret ballot by the Faculty Senate

a. 4 faculty members for the search committee for Assoc Provost/Dean of Research

The Senate elected Professors

George Andreopoulos – Political Science

Konstantinos Georgatos – Mathematics and Computer Sciences

Yi Lu – Public Management

Bonnie Nelson – Library

b. 5 faculty members for the search committee for Assoc Provost/Dean of UG Studies

The Senate elected Professors

Angela Crossman – Psychology

Amy Green – ISP & Communication and Theater Arts

Jay Hamilton – Economics

Jodie Roure – Latin American and Latina/o Studies

Monica Varsanyi – Political Science

6. Election and Ratification, as appropriate, of faculty members to serve on standing College and University committees . Approved.

7. Review of the agenda of the September 26 meeting of the College Council. Noted.

8. John Jay Fundraising Gala honoring General David Petraeus

General Petraeus is being honored by John Jay at its 8th annual fundraising gala on October 16. Many faculty and professor emeriti have been asking about this and so the Executive Committee has decided to provide information that they have ascertained. The Board of Directors of the JJ Foundation – which is a separately incorporated 501(c) entity – voted in June to honor General Petraeus. The gala's are traditionally a way of raising scholarship money for our students; this gala is to be devoted to raising funds to support our veteran students. Although there are two faculty members on the Board of Directors (as well as President Travis, VP Pignatello, and VP Rosengarten), they are members not as representatives of the faculty but because as people of wealth they can contribute to the fundraising efforts of the Foundation both personally and through their personal and professional networks.

9. Pathways: review and update: Senators Andrea Balis and Fritz Umbach. Postponed.

10. JJ Budget Update: Senator Ned Benton. Postponed.

11. New business

Senator Francis Sheehan raised the difficulty for students and faculty members that has been created this semester by the changed programming of New Building elevators. Without

objection, the Senate authorized the Senate President to make the appropriate staff aware of this obstacle for those engaged in the core mission of teaching and learning and to report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by the Executive Committee