

Faculty Senate Minutes #407

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

1:40 PM

Room L.61 NB

Present (44): Chevy Alford, Mark Alpert, Simon Baatz, Andrea Balis, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Geert Dhondt, Janice Dunham, Jennifer Dysart, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Terry Furst, Maria Grewe, Norman Groner, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Shaobai Kan, Karen Kaplowitz, Maria Kiriakova, Tom Kucharski, Anru Lee, Vincent Maiorino, 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, Richard Stripp, Staci Strobl, Fritz Umbach, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Absent (5): Dale Barleben, Lior Gideon, Stanley Ingber, Richard Kempter, Kwando Kinshasa

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Announcements & Reports**
- 3. Adoption of Minutes #406 of the Thursday, September 12, 2012 meeting**
- 4. Approval of the membership of the Faculty Senate Technology Committee**
- 5. Approval of additional candidates for John Jay standing committees**
- 6. Proposal regarding a letter to Interim Chancellor William Kelly: Executive Committee**
- 7. College Council proposal for entirely online faculty evaluations**
- 8. John Jay's plans for international education and issues of shared governance**
- 9. Invited Guests: PSC Chapter Co-Chairs Nivedita Majumdar and John Pittman: JJ's PSC Chapter proposal regarding funding a reduction in faculty teaching load 3/3**
- 10. Agenda of the September 26 meeting of the College Council**

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Announcements & Reports. Noted.

3. Adoption of Minutes #406 of the Thursday, September 12, 2012 meeting. Approved.

4. Approval of the membership of the Faculty Senate Technology Committee

The Senate unanimously elected Professors:

Joshua Clegg -- Psychology
Robin Davis -- Library
Norman Groner – Security, Fire & Emergency Management
Lou Guinta – Communications & Theater Arts -- *Co-Chair*
Richard Lovely – Sociology
Peter Mameli – Public Management
Peter Moskos – Law, PS, CJA
Bonnie Nelson – Library – *Co-Chair*
Pat O'Hara – Public Management
Alexander Schlutz – English
Ellen Sexton – Library
Peter Shenkin – Mathematics & Computer Information Systems
Maggie Smith – Law, PS, CJA
Liliana Soto-Fernandez – Foreign Languages & Lit
Robert Till – Security, Fire & Emergency Management
Adam Wandt – Public Management
Valerie West – Criminal Justice
Alan Winson – Communication & Theater Arts

5. Approval of additional candidates for John Jay standing and ad hoc committees

The Senate unanimously approved Professor Ned Benton(Public Management) to serve on the Business Manager search committee; Professor Douglas Salane (Math & CIS) to serve on the Director of Professional Studies search committee; and Professors Roger McDonald (Political Science) and Ali Kocak (Sciences) to serve on the Faculty/Student Disciplinary Committee.

6. Proposal that the Senate authorize the President of the Senate and the Chair of the Senate's Fiscal Advisory Committee to draft a letter to be sent to the CUNY Interim Chancellor regarding John Jay's underfunding and that this letter be submitted to the Senate for approval at its next meeting: Executive Committee. Approved by unanimous vote.

7. Discussion of the September 26 College Council proposal to have entirely online student evaluation of the faculty during the next three years [Attachment]

The Senate Executive Committee reported its investigation of student response rates at

Brooklyn, Queens, and Hunter, whose numerical ratings are available online to the public. They reported that some courses had response rates as low as 5% but in general the response rates were between 30% and 40% with a general sense that the overall response rates were approximately 40%. Most Senate members said these response rates were too low, especially for John Jay where student evaluations of faculty are taken very seriously and where they carry great weight both at department and at college-wide personnel committees. The question was asked as to how many members of the College Council must vote “yes” for the proposal to pass and the answer was that 35 yes votes are needed no matter how many of the 69 members are actually present. Not knowing how the student members would vote, but assuming, for argument’s sake, that they will vote yes, it was calculated that if all College Council members who are students, administrators and HEOs (professional staff) were to be present and were to vote “yes,” that would equal 27 yes votes. This means that if 8 faculty members or more were to vote yes, the proposal would pass. A secret, written straw poll was taken. The result was that of those at the Senate meeting, the number who planned to vote “yes” was 5, the number planning to vote “no” was 36, and 3 planned to abstain.

8. John Jay’s plans for international education and issues of shared governance

The Faculty Senate unanimously opposed the following recommendation that appears in the “Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Programs: March 5, 2013” that there should be the

The creation of an International Advisory Board (IAB) composed of faculty, students, and administrators with interests and responsibilities in the internationalization of the College. The IAB:

a. should be instituted along lines similar to the College Council and other governance bodies, with proportional representation from the different College constituencies and election through, for example, the Faculty Senate, with administrative representation from units most involved in international education

In preparation for this discussion, the Senate also discussed a recent NY Times Op Ed piece by Jim Sleeper about NYU’s international education programs and ensuing problems; this article had been provided by the Senate Executive Committee.

9. Proposal from the Executive Comm. of JJ’s Chapter of the PSC about a possible method to fund a reduction in faculty teaching load to 3/3: Invited Guests: PSC Chapter Co-Chairs Nivedita Majumdar and John Pittman [Attachments]

Professors Nivedita Majumdar and John Pittman, co-chairs of the John Jay chapter of the PSC, were welcomed. They thanked the Senate for having granted their request to be on the agenda of today’s meeting. They explained that they had presented a proposal to President Travis and

Provost Bowers for funding a reduced teaching load [see Attachment] but that they are not wedded to it and are open and eager to receive other proposals for such funding. President Kaplowitz referred the Senate to a document in the agenda packet [see Attachment], explaining that in 2003 the Faculty Senate and Council of Chairs co-proposed to the College Council a policy proposal developed by Professor (and now Senator) Ned Benton. This proposal had two parts, one of which was to reduce class size which had been 44/46 for general education courses and 28/30 for other courses. This was a very hard fought and, ultimately, successful joint initiative of the Senate and Chairs, which the PSC Chapter supported, and which the administration at the time vehemently opposed, even bringing in the legal office of the CUNY Central Administration in an attempt to stop it.

Senator Simon Baatz moved that the Senate create an ad hoc committee to work with the John Jay PSC leadership to consider and analyze various proposals for funding a reduced workload. Professors Nivedita and Pittman said they would welcome the such a committee to work with. The motion was adopted. The following Senators volunteered and were elected by unanimous vote: Senators Simon Baatz (chair), Mark Alpert, Adam Berlin, Peggy Escher, Staci Strobl, and Kathryn Wylie-Marques.

Senators spoke about the inherent problem of the faculty recommending increases in class size and the likelihood that administrators will raise class size even further whenever faced with fiscal crises since the policy permits the administration to raise class size unilaterally after consulting with the budget committee; it was reported that the previous administration argued vehemently to raise class size to raise revenue and to decrease expenditures during various fiscal crises but the faculty had opposed any increases and had prevailed.

It was also noted that adjunct faculty, who teach 65% of the course sections at John Jay, would bear the overwhelming burden of increased class size and questions were raised as to how many adjuncts would actually benefit from a seniority plan if one were to be established.

10. Review of other items on the agenda of the September 26 meeting of the College Council. Noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.