

Faculty Senate Minutes #408

Thursday, October 10, 2013

1:40 PM

Room L.61 NB

Present (39): Chevy Alford, Simon Baatz, Dale Barleben, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Geert Dhondt, Janice Dunham, Jennifer Dysart, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Terry Furst, Lior Gideon, Maria Grewe, Norman Groner, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Shaobai Kan, Karen Kaplowitz, Kwando Kinshasa, Maria Kiriakova, Tom Kucharski, Vincent Maiorino, Charles McKenzie, Hyunhee Park, Jay Pastrana, Melinda Powers, Dainius Remeza, Tanya Rodriguez, Raul Rubio, Manouska Saint-Gilles, Cary Sanchez, Francis Sheehan, Carmen Solis, Charles Stone, Richard Stripp, Staci Strobl, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Absent (9): Mark Alpert, Andrea Balis, Ned Benton, Stanley Ingber, Richard Kempter, Anru Lee, David Munns, Raul Romero, Fritz Umbach

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Announcements & Reports
3. Adoption of Minutes #407 of the Wednesday, September 25, 2012 meeting
4. Approval of additional candidates for John Jay standing committees
5. Search committee for Associate Provost & Research Dean
6. Report from Senate/PSC Ad Hoc Workload Committee: Senator Simon Baatz
7. Proposed draft letter to the Interim Chancellor of CUNY regarding JJ's budget
8. VC for Legal Affairs' legal opinion and Faculty Personnel Committee's (FPC) actions
9. Preliminary review of October 24 College Council agenda
10. For public comment: Proposed CUNY BoT policy on Expressive
11. Review of actions by the College Council at its September 26 meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved

2. Announcements & Reports

President Travis rescheduled his fall faculty/staff meeting which his office had scheduled in conflict with the Faculty Senate meeting; this rescheduling took place after Karen Kaplowitz informed President Travis that the Senate would meet as scheduled and would not attend his meeting.

3. Adoption of Minutes #407 of the Wednesday, September 25, 2012 meeting. Approved

4. Approval of additional candidates for John Jay standing committees

The Senate approved the following additional faculty members to serve on standing committees:

College-wide Grade Appeals Committee

Glenn Corbett: Security, Fire, Emergency Management

Nancy Velasquez-Torres: SEEK

Children's Center Advisory Board

Maureen Allwood: Psychology

Angela Crossman: Psychology

Student Evaluation of the Faculty Committee

McKenzie: English

Elizabeth Nisbet: Public Management

Gen Ed Subcomm of UCASC (Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards Comm)

Jay Paul Gates: English

Rebecca Weiss: Psychology

Committee on Scholarships

Christen Madrazo: English

Peter Mameli: Public Management

Charles McKenzie: English

Committee on Honors, Prizes, and Scholarships

Charles McKenzie: English

Board of Directors of the Student Association

Jean-Marie Col: Public Management

5. Search committee for Associate Provost & Research Dean

President Kaplowitz summarized the situation: President Travis has refused to appoint the four faculty members whom the Senate elected to serve on the search committee for Associate Provost and Research Dean on the grounds that the four do not have the necessary credentials, even though neither he nor Provost Bowers had specified any credentials. Indeed, the guidelines on the membership of search committees developed by the Senate and President Travis shortly after he began his presidency of John Jay about ten years ago – and adopted by

unanimous vote of the Senate at that time – specifies that credentials, or special qualifications, if any, must be enumerated in the communication to the President of the Senate that asks for faculty members to be recommended by the Senate for appointment by the President.

After President Kaplowitz declined to send a new call for nominations to the faculty, as President Travis requested she do, he posted such a letter himself. In the meantime, the four faculty members asked that the Senate resend their names to President Travis for appointment by him to the search committee. The Senate Executive Committee determined that it should not decide the next course of action itself but rather it should turn the matter to the full Senate, which is why this is on today's agenda.

In the meantime, five additional faculty members self-nominated themselves after President Travis called for new nominations. President Kaplowitz asked all nine candidates – the four we had elected and the five new self-nominees -- to provide short narrative bio's for the Senate in case the Senate were to decide on an election of any kind. The five new candidates sent their bio's; one of the four originally elected faculty members withdrew from the process entirely; this was followed by two additional members of the original four withdrawing, one late last night; and then, just this morning, the fourth person the Senate had elected withdrew. So the request to resend the names of the four originally elected by the Senate is no longer an option for the Senate.

Senators expressed extreme unhappiness with President Travis' actions and spoke of the empathy they feel with the four whom we originally elected. Senators decried the public humiliation of our colleagues by the President. Others noted that two of the four colleagues we elected do not yet hold the rank of full professor and expressed serious concern about the negative impact this public judgment by the President might have on their standing among members of the FPC. Others questioned whether faculty members would henceforth be willing to self-nominate for committees given how our colleagues have been treated.

The identities of the five new candidates were not revealed so that the discussions and decisions would be based solely on principles and not on personalities. A motion to conduct a second election from among the five new candidates failed by a vote of 7 yes and 32 no. A motion that a letter be sent to President Travis expressing the Senate's displeasure with his actions was approved by unanimous vote.

It was agreed that President Kaplowitz would draft a letter which she would share with Senator Chevy Alford, who had made the motion about a letter, and that Senator Alford would have the opportunity to revise the letter; the letter would then be sent to the Executive Committee; after the Executive Committee had an agreed-upon version, the proposed letter would be sent to the full Senate for comment. There was consensus that this process should take place as soon as practicable and should not await the next Senate meeting.

6. Report from Faculty Senate/PSC Ad Hoc Workload Committee: Senator Simon Baatz

Senator Baatz reported, as chair of the committee, that the committee had met, was working on various ideas, and welcomes additional members.

7. Proposal to approve a draft letter to Interim Chancellor of CUNY regarding JJ's budget: Senators Ned Benton and Karen Kaplowitz

A draft letter was circulated, read, and approved by unanimous vote for transmittal to the Interim Chancellor. Senators Benton and Kaplowitz were thanked for having written the letter. President Kaplowitz said she would send the full letter, with the four pages of charts, to the Senate after the letter was sent to Interim Chancellor Kelly.

8. VC for Legal Affairs' legal opinion and Faculty Personnel Committee's (FPC) actions.
Postponed.

9. Preliminary review of October 24 College Council agenda: proposal from UCASC to revise the Dean's List requirements for undergraduate students. Postponed.

10. For public comment: Proposed CUNY Board of Trustees policy on Expressive Activity [i.e., demonstrations] to be voted on by BoT in November. Postponed.

11. Review of actions by the College Council at its September 26 meeting. Postponed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.