

Faculty Senate Minutes #411

Monday, November 18, 2013

1:40 PM

Room 630 Haaren

Present (33): Chevy Alford, Mark Alpert, Simon Baatz, Andrea Balis, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Janice Dunham, Peggy Escher, Norman Groner, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Karen Kaplowitz, Maria Kiriakova, Tom Kucharski, Anru Lee, Vincent Maiorino, Charles McKenzie, David Munns, Hyunhee Park, Jay Pastrana, Melinda Powers, Dainius Remeza, Raul Romero, Raul Rubio, Cary Sanchez, Francis Sheehan, Carmen Solis, Charles Stone, Richard Stripp, Fritz Umbach

Absent (15): Dale Barleben, Geert Dhondt, Jennifer Dysart, DeeDee Falkenbach, Terry Furst, Lior Gideon, Maria Grewe, Stanley Ingber, Shaobai Kan, Richard Kempter, Kwando Kinshasa, Tanya Rodriguez, Manouska Saint Gilles, Staci Strobl, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes #410 of the November 7, 2013, meeting**
- 3. Announcements & Reports**
- 4. Invited Guest: Student Council Treasurer Shereef Hassan**
- 5. Report on changes by the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC) of its operating procedures**
- 6. Introduction to the basics of John Jay's budget: Senator Tom Kucharski**
- 7. International Advisory Board**
- 8. Review of the agenda of the November 26 meeting of the College Council**
- 9. Draft CUNY Board of Trustees Policy on Expressive Activity**

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Adoption of Minutes #410 of the November 7, 2013, meeting. Approved.

3. Announcements & Reports. Noted.

4. Invited Guest: Student Council Treasurer Shereef Hassan

Mr. Hassan had requested that he be invited so he could speak to the Senate about two Student Council initiatives; however, he did not arrive at any time during the meeting.

5. Report on changes by the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC) of its operating procedures: Senator Tom Kucharski

Senator Kucharski, a member of the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC), reported that the FPC has historically divided its members into three review committees: reappointment, tenure, and promotion. This means that chairs of departments that may have no connection to the discipline of the candidate will consider that candidate for promotion and another such group will consider a candidate for tenure, etc. Indeed, if a professor is a candidate for tenure and promotion, which is often the case, two different groupings of department chairs, all of whom may be in disciplines totally unrelated to that of the candidate, consider and vote on the action they are assigned to. The FPC in September voted to change this procedure; instead of having review (sub) committees based on action, starting next fall the review committees will be organized based on discipline. One review committee, for example, will comprise the chairs of the departments of History, English, Foreign Languages and Literature, Art & Music, Philosophy, and Communication and Theater Arts; furthermore, all actions of all candidates who are members of these departments will be considered by this one review committee.

Senator Kucharski also read the grouping of the other departments into three other review committees. He added that the FPC also voted that if any candidate for any action believes that s/he should be considered by a different review committee than the one his department chair is assigned to, the candidate may petition the Provost to have his action considered by a different review committee.

A Senator asked what is the deadline for making this request and is the request to be in writing with an explanation as to why the request is being made. Another Senator asked when this change will be announced to the community and whether it will be before candidates complete their Form C. Another asked if the Senate is expected to let the faculty know about the changes or are the department chairs or the provost. Senator Kucharski said that the implementation of this procedure has not been discussed. Other questions were then asked. President Kaplowitz suggested that we place this topic on the agenda of our December 6 meeting at which time a list of questions can be developed about the FPC's new procedures that can be formally transmitted to the FPC. This was agreed to.

6. Introduction to the basics of John Jay's budget: Senator Tom Kucharski [Attachment A,B,C, D, E]

Senator Kucharski distributed a set of College budget documents and explained each element. Senator Benton joined him in answering questions.

Senator Kucharski started with DRAFT FY2013 Financial Plan Update 7/9/13 [Attachment A]. He showed that the second from the last column shows that this plan would have resulted in a deficit of \$2 million dollars in FY2014, which is the *current* year, and that the last column shows that this plan would have resulted in a deficit of \$3.5 million in FY2015; actually, our deficit in FY2015 (next year) would have been \$5.5 million (\$2 million plus \$3.5 million). Because the CUNY Central Administration does not permit any college to end any year in a deficit, the Fiscal Planning Committee met throughout the summer to find ways to make budget cuts so that there would be no deficits. The actions agreed to and recommended to the Budget Planning Committee which recommended them to President Travis agreed to implement them are enumerated on the next document [Attachment B]. The planned expenditures were also explained [Attachment C]. As a result of these decisions, a new FY2013 Financial Plan Update was issued by the Budget Planning Committee. This document [Attachment D] shows that we will not have deficits this year or next; rather, we will have a surplus of \$60k this year and a surplus of \$4k next

year. Further cuts and anticipated revenues [Attachment E] shows a modestly larger surplus.

It was explained that the revenues listed in all versions of the financial plan include the \$3 million we collect and keep from summer school tuition. That \$3 million is not surplus monies.

Several Senators asked for a more detailed presentation about the budget. President Kaplowitz suggested we invite the College's Budget Director Pat (Patricia) Ketterer to our next meeting and this was agreed to.

Also, Senator Carmen Solis agreed to report at our next meeting about the revenues and expenditures of the Auxiliary Corporation budget, explaining that she is a member of the Auxiliary Corporation Board, elected by the Senate, along with Professors Susan Will and Liza Yukins.

7. President Travis' response to the Senate's recommendation regarding the governance structure of the International Advisory Board and his request for 5 faculty members to be recommended by the Senate for membership on the International Advisory Board [Attachment F, G]

The Senate discussed President Travis' reply [Attachment F] to the letter he received from the Senate [Attachment G] conveying the Senate's recommendation that the International Advisory Board be a committee of the College Council; the Senate noted that president Travis has explicitly agreed that meetings of the IAB will be noticed and open, that agendas and minutes will be issued as well as an annual report. The faculty members will be recommended by the Faculty Senate.

The question arose as to why President Travis is not willing to have the IAB a committee of the College Council if he is willing to agree to all these provisions, which would be required if the IAB were a committee of the College Council. The suggestion was made to ask him this question when he meets with the Senate on December 6 as he is scheduled to do.

One Senator argued that it would be far better for the faculty if the IAB were not a committee of the College Council.

Senators raised other questions that should be asked of President Travis when he meets with the Senate: what is the actual charge of the IAB? what kinds of issues will the IAB be asked to advise the president about and what kinds of issues will the IAB not be asked to advise the president about? what are the specific qualifications that the faculty members of the IAB will have to have in order to be acceptable to the president for appointment by him? The Senate agreed that the letter from President Travis is extremely vague and directed President Kaplowitz to send him these questions in advance of our December 6 meeting so he can come with answers.

8. Review of the agenda of the November 26 meeting of the College Council. Noted.

9. Draft CUNY Board of Trustees Policy on Expressive Activity [i.e., demonstrations] to be voted some time after January by the CUNY Board of Trustees. Postponed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.