

Faculty Senate Minutes #424

October 16, 2014

1:30 PM

Moot Court NB

Present (32): Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, Kashka Celinska, Marsha Clowers, Silvia Dapia, Artem Domashevskiy, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Terry Furst, Lior Gideon, Maki Haberfeld, Karen Kaplowitz, Maria Kiriakova, Lou Kontos, Carmen Kynard, Kyoo Lee, Xerxes Malki, Vincent Maiorino, Jay Pastrana, Edward Paulino, Melinda Powers, Dainius Remeza, Marcel Roberts, Raul Rubio, Raul Romero, Ian Seda, Francis Sheehan, Robert Till, Fritz Umbach, Daniel Yaverbaum

Absent (12): Andrea Balis, James Cauthen, Janice Dunham, Jennifer Dysart, Joel Freiser, Katie Gentile, John Gutierrez, Hunter Johnson, Tom Kucharski, Frank Pezzella, Charles Stone, Staci Strobl

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #423 of the October 1, 2014, meeting
3. Announcements & Reports
4. Approval of a slate of candidates for election by the full-time faculty to serve on the Faculty Personnel Appeals Panel
5. Approval of 2 faculty members to be recommended for a vacant seat on the Auxiliary Corporation Board
6. Discussion of a governance issue involving the NYS Open Meetings Law
7. Review of the October 23 College Council agenda, including a proposal from the Provost for an online Student Evaluation of the Faculty pilot
8. Update on the workload mitigation initiative and its implementation
9. New business

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.
2. Adoption of Minutes #423 of the October 1, 2014, meeting. Approved.
3. Announcements & Reports. Noted.

4. Approval of a slate of candidates for election by the full-time faculty to serve on the Faculty Personnel Appeals Panel

The Faculty Senate agreed to the recommendation of the Faculty Senate's Executive Committee that Senators shall cast a yes vote for nominees among the 24 professors whom they believe have the judgment and experience to serve on the Appeals Panel, which will hear appeals from faculty who have received negative recommendations for reappointment, tenure, and promotion. The Senate agreed that it should determine which of the 24 candidates merit the imprimatur of the Senate before the Senate places their names on a ballot that will be sent to all members of the full-time faculty. The names of those candidates who achieve at least a majority of affirmative votes from those Senators present and voting will be forwarded to the Provost's Office. The new Appeals Panel will comprise 12 members of the faculty who hold tenure and the rank of associate professor, full professor, or distinguished professor.

The Senate voted by secret, written ballot.

5. Approval of 2 faculty members to be recommended for a vacant seat on the Auxiliary Corporation Board

The Bylaws of the CUNY Board of Trustees require that the college's faculty governance body send the names of two candidates for every seat to be filled on the Auxiliary Corporation Board. The Senate approved Professors Ned Benton and Fritz Umbach to be recommended to President Travis who will choose one to fill the seat that had been held by Professor Susan Will. The other two faculty members on the Auxiliary Corporation Board are Professors Carmen Solis and Liza Yukins.

6. Discussion of a governance issue involving the NYS Open Meetings Law and a proposed action by the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate unanimously voted to authorize President Kaplowitz to send a draft letter, reviewed by the Senate, to the New York State Committee on Open Government for an advisory opinion on a question as to whether the Open Meetings Law had been violated by an administrator.

7. Review of the October 23 College Council agenda, including a proposal from the Provost for a 2-year pilot of online Student Evaluation of the Faculty

The Senate discussed the proposal for a two-year pilot of online Student Evaluation of the Faculty (SEOF), which had been placed on the agenda of the College Council by the Provost without advance notice. Several Senators said that the Director of Faculty Services, who reports to the Provost, had offered to withdraw the item from the College Council agenda if

professors assert that issues important to them have not yet been sufficiently addressed in the proposal. Other Senators reported that Professor Keith Markus, the chair of the College Council Committee on the Student Evaluation of the Faculty, is of the opinion that the SEOF online proposal is not ready for a vote because, in his opinion, there are important unresolved issues and that he plans to tell the Director of Faculty Services and the Provost of his assessment. Several of the outstanding issues were discussed.

The Senate conducted a non-binding secret ballot as to whether it can support the Provost's proposal as it appears on the agenda of the October 23 agenda of the College Council. The vote was 20-6-1 opposed to the proposal as it is now written. President Kaplowitz said she will convey this information to Provost Bowers as soon as practicable but certainly prior to the College Council meeting and will urge that she withdraw the proposal so that it can be worked on further.

8. Update on the workload mitigation initiative and its implementation. Postponed.

9. New business

The results of the secret, written ballot for the slate for the Appeals Panel were announced: only 8 of the 24 candidates achieved the requisite majority affirmative vote of those Senators present and voting. This was recognized as a problem because the Appeals Panel comprises 12 faculty members and thus the slate must have more than 12 candidates. Because there was no longer a quorum, the Senate could not take action to resolve this situation. President Kaplowitz said she would consult with the College's legal counsel immediately after the meeting and she adjourned the meeting.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.