

**Faculty Senate Minutes #573
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (30): Chevy (Schevaletta) Alford, Nicole Awai, Elton Beckett, Heath Brown, Mustafa Demir, Artem Domashevskiy, Jonathan Epstein, Diana (DeeDee) Falkenbach, Nina Rose Fischer, Alejandro Garcia-Lozano, Robert (Bob) Garot, Heath Grant, Veronica Hendrick, Mohammad Islam, Susan Kang, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine (Cathy) Kemp, Vicente Lecuna, Anru Lee, Joseph Maldonado, Brian Maule, Raymond (Ray) Patton, Alison Perry, Susan Pickman, Stephen (Steve) Russell, Marie Springer, Robert Till, Todd Stambaugh, Shilpa Viswanath, Violet (Sung-Suk) Yu

Absent (7): Ned (Warren) Benton, Nicole Elias, Adam McKible, Brian Montes, Joseph Rebello, Ignacio Sanchez, Francis Sheehan

Invited Guest: Vice Provost & Dean of Research Anthony Carpi

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #572 of the October 21, 2024, meeting
3. Report from the Chair
4. Invited Guest: Anthony Carpi, Vice Provost & Dean of Research
5. Discussion: Possible John Jay changes to the definition of hybrid courses and to the requirements for in-person teaching
6. New business

1. **Adoption of agenda.** Approved.

2. **Approval of Minutes #572 of the November 6, 2024, meeting.** Approved.

3. **Report from the Chair**

The Executive Vice Chancellor & University Provost Wendy Hensel is leaving CUNY to take up the position of chancellor of the University of Hawaii system.

Joe Laub new computers available for faculty; if you need one, email Joe Laub. The college also has a site license for Qualtrics which faculty can take advantage of.

The college would like to invite ROTC back on campus. Previously, when openly gay and lesbian individuals had been prohibited from serving in the military, the Faculty Senate called on the college council to support the Senate's call to end ROTC's presence on campus, in protest against discrimination. That Faculty Senate initiative was successful and the contract between John Jay and ROTC was cancelled. Now that the military no longer prohibits gay and lesbian individuals from serving, the college would like to invite ROTC back on campus. Currently our ROTC students conduct their ROTC work at CCNY; indeed, almost all CCNY ROTC students are John Jay students. No Senator voiced an objection and several praised the opportunities this would provide to our students.

Senator Veronica Hendrick asked for clarification on class attendance policy, given that CUNY is a 'non-attendance taking institution'; this issue will be taken up at a future meeting.

4. Invited Guest: Vice Provost & Dean of Research Anthony Carpi

Dean Anthony Carpi praised the productivity of John Jay faculty and research staff and their success in obtaining external grant funding. For many years John Jay has ranked at number 1 or number 2 in CUNY in per capita scholarly productivity. In recent years, CUNY has stopped providing this comparative data, but Dean Carpi's office continues to track data for John Jay and our faculty remains incredibly productive. Productivity is measured by CUNY metrics: the number of peer reviewed articles, books, performances. During the last couple of years, we produced 50-60 books a year and hundreds of peer-reviewed articles across all the disciplines; over the past five years, we've averaged \$30 million a year in grants. Indeed, we are the third most active in CUNY in getting grants for student support (only CCNY and Hunter obtain more and they have huge Science programs). Furthermore, John Jay is the leader among CUNY colleges in receiving non-research grants for services or support.

Senator Kaplowitz congratulated Dean Carpi on his success in leading the college's efforts in external grant funding and in the tremendous increase in faculty and staff research.

She asked about the fact that CUNY ranks John Jay as a Tier 2 college. He explained that Tier 1 colleges are "research or research-intensive institutions," comprising City, Hunter, Queens, Brooklyn, and Baruch. Tier 2 colleges are "Masters granting institutions," comprising Lehman, John Jay, College of Staten Island, Medgar Evers, and York. The tier designations don't directly affect faculty salaries or teaching loads, but they do affect the administrative salaries that an institution can offer, which affects whom we can attract, and they also affect space allocations, not for faculty offices but for research activities, for example labs.

We're under-allocated for research space: Tier 1 colleges receive at least twice the amount of research space as Tier 2 colleges. Being in Tier 2 also affects our reputation, specifically how others perceive and rate our college. The reputational aspect is most important, he said. Five or six years ago CUNY started to think better of us; this comes up in terms of invitations to present research or to collaborate on projects, invitations to co-sponsor grant applications, and other possible opportunities for John Jay faculty.

Senator Karen Kaplowitz asked why John Jay is classified as a Tier 2 college. Dean Carpi said he believes the classification is entirely based on history as well as on CUNY's lack of interest or lack of willingness to revisit the rankings. He sees no justifiable reason for our continuing to be listed as a Tier 2 college, adding that President Mason brings this up with the Chancellor whenever she can.

Senator Heath Brown asked how the Office of Academic Research allocates travel funds to academic departments. Dean Carpi explained that travel funds come from indirect recoveries from external grants. The college allocates close to \$400,000 per year for faculty travel, although the PSC contract requires only \$50,000. His office allocates this money based on (1) the number of full-time faculty per department; and (2) productivity by department when compared with average college productivity. Dean Carpi noted that the college doesn't dictate to the departments how to allocate travel funds. Some departments split the money equally. Others may prioritize new faculty or more productive faculty.

President Kaplowitz suggested the Senate consider asking CUNY that we be reclassified; we'll take this up at our next meeting.

5. Discussion: Possible John Jay changes to the definition of hybrid courses and to the requirements for in-person teaching

Senator Kaplowitz shared data developed by Dean Andrew Sidman and provided by Provost Allison Pease to inform discussions about the need for more of an on-campus presence by faculty and students. One change being considered by the Provost is to change the current policy whereby faculty must teach at least 1 in-person course to a policy whereby faculty would teach a maximum of 1 online course. A second proposal being considered is to henceforth count hybrid courses as online courses rather than as in-person courses, as they are now.

Senator Veronica Hendrick said she loves teaching in person, but that students don't enroll in hybrid or in-person courses. During the past two semesters, her hybrid courses did not fill; when they were moved to entirely online, they filled in two days. Students are telling us what they need by their enrollment patterns.

Senator Heath Grant noted that some department chairs would like to see hybrid courses removed all together.

Senator Ray Patton cautioned against making policy changes without data. He enjoys teaching hybrid courses, and finds them pedagogically effective, but thinks we need to study the issue across the college before rushing to implement a new rule.

Senator Todd Stambaugh pointed out that delivery of instruction is an academic issue, and he doesn't think that decisions about academic issues should be based on non-academic desires, such as the desire for more community. He would like to see more people on campus, but that

has no bearing on what modality a course should be offered in. Course modalities should be determined based on concerns about learning.

Senator DeeDee Falkenbach emphasized the need for data. She said the data she has seen is not what she would consider “good” data. For example, she has seen data about DFW rates in courses, but she has not seen this studied in a way that would account for other factors that may influence the data. She thinks our students need and want flexible enrollment. She thinks we need a granular response and not a blanket rule from the provost.

Senator Cathy Kemp emphasized the need for more data before we make any kind of policy change. She thinks we can’t go back ten years and recreate some imagined in-person past. We can have in-person community, but it will likely be smaller than it was pre-COVID. She emphasized that departments should be the ones to determine what course modalities best fit their learning outcomes and their faculty expertise.

Senator Mustafa Demir is in favor of providing options to students. Our students work while studying and they need courses that suit their schedules in order to complete their degrees.

Senator Stambaugh noted that there are certain disciplines or courses where there is no effective online teaching method that he has encountered. Some majors cannot exist entirely online without the college becoming a degree mill. Only departments can determine whether or not a certain course modality can help students achieve a particular learning outcome.

Senator Becket pointed out that there is inconsistency in the quality of online offerings. He emphasized that when students take course in person, they learn certain skills that may help to better prepare them for the work force, skills they may not have the opportunity to work on in fully online courses. Also, department chairs should scrutinize online courses to make sure that effective online teachers are being assigned to online courses.

Senator Hendrick pointed out the need to distinguish between synchronous online and asynchronous online instruction. Senator Kemp agreed, saying it makes no sense to have the online component of hybrid courses be asynchronous; the online component should be by Zoom.

Vice President Pickman would like to visit the possibility of smaller classes for online courses.

6. New Business. There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by S. Russell and K. Kaplowitz