

**Faculty Senate Minutes #575
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Friday, December 6, 2024

10:00 AM

Zoom

Present (34): Chevy Alford, Nicole Awai, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Heath Brown, Mustafa Demir, Artem Domashevskiy, Jonathan Epstein, Diana Falkenbach, Nina Rose Fischer, Alejandro Garcia-Lozano, Robert Garot, Heath Grant, Veronica Hendrick, Susan Kang, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine Kemp, Vicente Lecuna, Anru Lee, Joseph Maldonado, Brian Maule, Adam McKible, Brian Montes, Raymond Patton, Alison Perry, Susan Pickman, Marie Springer, Stephen Russell, Ignacio Sanchez, Francis Sheehan, Todd Stambaugh, Robert Till, Shilpa Viswanath, Violet (Sung-Suk) Yu

Absent (3): Nicole Elias, Mohammad Islam, Joseph Rebello

Invited Guests: Karol Mason, President; Christopher Shults, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Strategy; Dyanna Pooley, Director of Outcomes Assessment; Professor Nathan Lents, Chair, Committee on Honorary Degrees

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes #574 of the November 19, 2024, meeting**
- 3. Report from the Chair**
- 4. Selection of 2 faculty members for the Dean of Faculty search committee**
- 5. Invited Guests: Dr. Christopher Shults, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Strategy, and Dyanna Pooley, Director of Outcomes Assessment: A Discussion about JJ's Mission and Values in preparation for JJ's next 5-year Strategic Plan for 2025-2030**
- 6. Invited guest: President Karol V. Mason**
- 7. Discussion of questions and topics you would like to see on a survey of our full-time and adjunct faculty to be conducted by the Faculty Senate**
- 8. Consideration of candidates for Honorary Degrees: Invited guest: Professor Nathan Lents, Chair, Committee on Honorary Degrees**
- 9. New business**

1. Adoption of agenda. The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes #574 of the November 19, 2024, meeting. Approved

3. Report from the Chair

President Kaplowitz reported that following the presidential election, the Executive Committee wrote to both President Mason and VP Matos to inform them that if trans people are ruled ineligible to serve in our military by the next administration, the Senate's position supporting the return of ROTC to our campus will likely be withdrawn.

Given that there was no faculty/staff meeting this semester, as required by the Charter, President Mason is holding two in the spring: on Monday, February 10, and Monday, May 12.

Senator Ned Benton has graciously agreed to serve as the Senate rep on the search committee for our next Budget Director; the current Budget Director is an interim appointment.

Myrna Forney has been approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees as our legal counsel.

4. Selection of 2 faculty members for the Dean of Faculty search committee

The college is about to conduct a national search for a Dean of the Faculty; Angela Crossman now serves as interim. In consultation with President Kaplowitz, Provost Pease is appointing Kathy Stavrianopoulos (Chair of the Department of Human Services and Community Justice) to chair the search committee. Provost Pease will name two administrators to serve on the committee. The Senate's Executive Committee nominated two faculty members: Jason Rivera, chair of Public Management, and, Olivera Jokic, director of the Gender Studies Program, to also serve on the committee. The Senate voted to recommend these colleagues for appointment to the search committee.

5. Invited Guests: Dr. Christopher Shults, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Strategy and Dyanna Pooley, Director of Outcomes Assessment

Dr. Christopher Shults, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Strategy, and Dyanna Pooley, Director of Outcomes Assessment, shared with the Senate the timeline for producing a new strategic plan for 2025-2030. As part of that process, they led the Senate in a discussion and assessment of both the college's current mission statement and the college's values.

Senator Heath Brown strongly recommended that academic freedom be added to our list of college values. Senators Kaplowitz and Benton agreed. Senator Nina Rose Fischer recommended adding praxis since it is learning by doing; Senator Joseph Maldonado agreed that an orientation toward action should be emphasized.

President Kaplowitz recommended that in our list of values, learning and scholarship be listed first and then the others could be listed alphabetically but all shouldn't be listed alphabetically as they are currently. Senator Todd Stambaugh suggested there be two overriding values: teaching and learning is

one and justice is the other; the other values could be listed under justice. Several Senators recommended changing the passive voice found in many sentences of the Mission Statement.

6. Invited guest: President Karol V. Mason

President Mason reported on the series of listening sessions she has been participating in across the college – 12 so far and 1 more to take place shortly – to hear from different constituencies about (1) “When should a president make statements about public events and issues?” and (2) “How do we promote an atmosphere on campus that encourages constructive dialogue?”

Senator Fischer spoke about her research on how to bring different groups together to work on a shared vision. In her classes, she asks her class to define the norms that will allow them to achieve their vision of learning.

Senator Stambaugh has observed in the classroom more and more resistance to basic interpersonal interactions. Public interactions in the classroom are driven by incentives. Our students have lived their lives in a panopticon. They know that anything they say may get out into the world. Students are scared that someone is always watching. This also contributes to their felt need to state their views in the strongest terms.

Senator Ray Patton pointed to the new political environment in which we find ourselves and thinks these questions have a different valence now than they did at the start of the semester, when Prof. Mason last visited the Senate. He anticipates increasing polarization in the years ahead. He thinks we need to be sensitive to the power imbalance between students and the college. He cautions that we may need to embrace a different model of what “advocacy” means.

Senator Joseph Maldonado spoke to the importance of “cultural humility.” He encourages students to be lifelong learners while they seek to address power imbalances. He thinks we faculty and staff must model for students what we want them to be. Like Senator Fischer, he sets up a class covenant with his students.

Senator Chevy Alford emphasized the importance of the curriculum in training students, and faculty, to engage in conversation.

Senator Stephen Russell thinks it will be easier for students to learn to engage in conversation about issues they are less personally invested in. The general education curriculum, and humanities and arts courses in particular, have a special role here. Our students also need opportunities to build relationships outside of the classroom. He knows we may have to close the cafeteria, which is not breaking even financially, but as a commuter college, we need spaces where students can interact with one another. Dominic Stellini, our new Dean of Students, has a heavy load to lift in this regard.

Asked about undocumented students at the college, President Mason explained that we have a Student Immigration Center that is supported by private monies. Denise Vivar, who was herself once undocumented, is its director, and she is the one that faculty members should turn to who have concerns or questions on behalf of their students. Director Vivar sees more than 600 students a year.

If ICE [Immigration & Customs] or BP [Border Patrol] come to campus to speak with a student, they must have a subpoena. Ours is a closed campus and always has been closed for many reasons, one of which is this. If the agents do have a subpoena they will be escorted to our college lawyer, who will take the issue to the office of CUNY's general counsel, who will take it to the NYS Attorney General. Asked for a list of resources for our immigrant students, President Mason said she'll send them to Karen. But, she added, faculty themselves need only remember two names: Denise Vivar and Diego Redondo, our director of public safety.

Senator Heath Brown asked if it's correct to describe John Jay as a sanctuary college. Also, if our students were to ask us to become a sanctuary college, what would we say. President Mason said the 'sanctuary college' and 'sanctuary city' are terms of art fashioned by those who oppose immigration and, thus, it's term she doesn't want to validate. Also, she can't guarantee sanctuary to students and if we were to use such a term, they may think if they come here they'll be safe, but she can't guarantee they will be. Instead of a label, she wants to actually protect our students. One idea is to track when our students leave campus and make sure that they arrive home so they're not disappeared. Senator Brown said he believes the term actually has a different origin but was co-opted by those who oppose immigration.

President Mason said the next step after the listening sessions is deciding how we build capacity in our community to engage in conversations when they're difficult. She reported that she's trying to find someone to lead us in intergenerational conversations. The generation coming in now is being called "alpha" and they're characterized by students who say that if you disagree with them, then you're evil; at Town Hall meetings, they're hostile when she just greets them with a 'hello.' Some faculty treat her that way as well, she added. The systemic issue is how do they learn to communicate with people who disagree with them.

7. Discussion of possible questions and topics for a survey of our full-time and adjunct faculty to be conducted by the Faculty Senate

Senator Ned Benton proposed that the Senate survey the faculty on a number of issues that the Senate has been discussing this semester. He offered to create a survey instrument using Monkey Survey. The Senate is the voice of the faculty, and it may be helpful to know what faculty think about a series of issues. He offered to conduct the survey. This was agreed to. Possible topics for the survey were suggested, including:

What modalities of instruction have worked for you?

How do you deal with AI and plagiarism?

What is your experience with overtallies?

What do students tell you they want?

Are students and faculty members receiving the accommodations to which they are entitled?

Has the personnel process been fair to you personally?

How can we build a vibrant campus life?

Do you understand CUNY policies and college policies?

What is your experience with student absenteeism?

What is your experience with Brightspace?

President Kaplowitz thanked Ned and praised him for offering to do this. She suggested that a draft of the survey be brought to our next meeting for discussion, and this was agreed to.

8. Consideration of candidates for Honorary Degrees: Invited guest: Professor Nathan Lents, Chair, Committee on Honorary Degrees

Professor Nathan Lents, chair of the Committee on Honorary Degrees, presented to the Senate a series of candidates for honorary degrees. The Senate discussed each in closed session and voted on each by secret ballot using Simply Voting.

The following candidates received at least 75% affirmative vote of those Senators present and voting:

Sunitha Krishnan
Lydia Villa-Komaroff
Jon Stewart
Samuel Walker

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Submitted by S. Russell and K. Kaplowitz