

Faculty Senate Minutes #429

February 4, 2015

1:40 PM

Moot Court NB

Present (37): Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Angelique Corthals, Artem Domashevskiy, Janice Dunham, Jennifer Dysart, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Joel Freiser, Terry Furst, Katie Gentile, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Hunter Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Maria Kiriakova, Lou Kontos, Tom Kucharski, Carmen Kynard, Anru Lee, Kyoo Lee, Vincent Maiorino, Xerxes Malki, Jay Pastrana, Edward Paulino, Frank Pezzella, Raul Rubio, David Shapiro, Jon Shane, Francis Sheehan, Charles Stone, Staci Strobl, Robert Till, Daniel Yaverbaum

Absent (7): Marsha Clowers, Silvia Dapia, Carmen Kynard, Dainius Remeza, Raul Romero, Ian Seda, Dennis Sherman

Invited Guest: Professor Jay Hamilton

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #428 of the December 5, 2014, meeting
3. Announcements & Reports – 1:32 PM
4. Declaration of a vacancy on the Faculty Senate
5. Election of a full-time faculty member to fill the vacancy on the Faculty Senate
6. Election to fill a vacant seat on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
7. Provost's Banked Time Balance Initiative
8. John Jay's Strategic Plan 2020 – Draft #2
9. Review of the February 11 College Council agenda
10. Report on President Travis' January 26th "Getting Started" meeting
11. Update on the Open Meetings Law issue
12. The status of adjunct faculty: Senator Joel Freiser
13. New business

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

2. **Adoption of Minutes #428 of the December 5, 2014, meeting.** Approved.

3. **Announcements & Reports.** Noted.

4. **Declaration of two vacant at-large positions on the Faculty Senate**

Professors Melinda Powers and Fritz Umbach have tendered their resignations from the Senate. A motion was made and adopted declaring the two vacant positions.

5. **Election of 2 full-time faculty members to fill the vacant seats on the Faculty Senate**

Upon learned of the plans of Professors Powers and Umbach, a public call for nominations and self-nominations was issued, and having received two self-nominations, the Faculty Senate elected Professors Anru Lee (Anthropology) and David Shapiro (Public Management) by unanimous vote. Both were welcomed when they took their seats at the table.

6. **Election to fill a vacant seat on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

Both Melinda Powers and Fritz Umbach were members of this year's Executive Committee; because Professor Powers tendered her resignation two weeks ago and it was made public at that time, an election to fill her seat on the Executive Committee will take place at today's meeting. Because Professor Fritz Umbach tendered his resignation two days ago, the Executive Committee has determined that the Senate has not had sufficient notice to fill his seat and his position as vice president of the Senate at today's meeting and, therefore, the election for Vice President will take place at the February 19 meeting of the Senate.

Senator Janice Dunham conducted the election at the request of the Executive Committee. She invited nominations for the vacant position on the Executive Committee. Senator Chevy Alford and Senator Peggy Escher were nominated. Each gave a 3-minute election speech. The Senate cast votes by secret ballot. Counters tallied the vote. Senator Chevy Alford was declared the new member of the Executive Committee. She thanked the Senate.

7. Provost's Banked Time Balance Initiative

The entire faculty has received a letter from the Provost about their Banked Time balance. This fact and the fact that it was issued so close in time to the Provost's letter regarding the Workload Mitigation Initiative has raised many concerns and questions among the faculty. The Senate voted to authorize an ad hoc group of Senators to ascertain facts about what is going on and report back to the Senate so that the Senate may ask informed questions of the Provost and the President when the two of them meet with the Senate on February 19. Senator Adam Berlin offered to head this group. Senators Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, and Staci Strobl offered to work with him

8. John Jay's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan – DRAFT #2

In response to comments from the John Jay community, the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee is recommending six Strategic Goals of the 10 initially proposed comprise the strategic plan for the next five years and has revised some of the language of the strategic plan and is now asking for comment from the community about this second draft, which was unanimously approved by the Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Budget & Planning Committee (a different entity from the ad hoc committee). The deadline for comments about Draft #2, which will be officially released on February 4th, is February 23. The final version of the proposed Strategic Plan is to be on the April College Council agenda for approval by that body.

Questions were asked as to why the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee excluded the globalization goal and why it included goal of enhancing the college as an Hispanic-serving institution. Members of the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee explained that the goal of globalization is viewed as too expensive for the college given our terrible financial situation.

Because the next deadline for comments is February 23, the draft proposal will be on our next Senate agenda, that of our February 19 meeting. Department representatives were encouraged to seek their departments' feedback on the goals.

9. Review of the February 11 College Council agenda. Noted.

10. Report on President Travis' January 26th "Getting Started" meeting on possible charter revision; schools/divisions; and committees: Senators Alford, Benton, Kaplowitz, Sheehan.

President Kaplowitz reported that President Travis hosted a meeting during intersession on January 26, to discuss his plan to have the college study its charter, consider the college's

organization, and review the college committees. At this meeting were: President Travis; representing the Faculty Senate were Professors Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, Francis Sheehan, Karen Kaplowitz; Chair of the Council of Chairs Jonathan Jacobs; on telephone Chair of Science Lawrence Kobilinsky; Sandrine Dikambi and Nikki Hancock-Nicholson (HEOs); Provost Bowers, VP Cook-Francis, Legal Counsel Singer, Associate Provost Llana, Chief of Staff Rulisa Galloway-Perry; students Shereef Hassan, Kyle Roberts, Maria Plata, Barna Akkas; and former Interim Chancellor and former President of the Graduate Center William Kelly, whom President Travis has asked to serve as consultant and facilitator of the entire process.

President Travis said that at his request, Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer will provide a topography of CUNY governance structures by April or May and that by that date Counsel Marjorie Singer and Rulisa Galloway-Perry will have constructed a list of all committees including their jurisdiction and operating rules.

President Travis said that he especially hopes that junior faculty will participate in the process and that he hopes to see hundreds of junior faculty visit other campuses, CUNY and non-CUNY colleges, to question and investigate and report back about other ways of doing things. President Travis said that in September the discussions about changes will start and he would like to see governance votes take place and be completed by the end of the next academic year.

President Kaplowitz reported that she spoke of the need of many groups to research charters and various practices, not just the Vice Chancellor, that different perspectives may very well yield different analyses.

She said that there didn't seem to be any point to the meeting since President Travis repeated what he had said previously but perhaps he had not said all of this to everyone and this was a chance to say the same thing to representatives of all the constituencies.

President Kaplowitz said that it is essential that we have a faculty group studying charters and committees and college organization. She said the Council of Chairs the previous day had said the same thing and that the Council of Chairs proposed a Senate/Chairs Task Force to do this and among the Chairs those who volunteered were Jay Hamilton, the new Chair of the Council of Chairs, and Ned Benton, Angela Crossman, and Evan Mandery.

She asked for Senate volunteers. Those who said they wanted to serve on this Task Force were: Karen Kaplowitz, David Shapiro, Francis Sheehan, Staci Strobl and Robert Till.

The Senate voted to create a joint task force with the Council of Chairs and to approve Karen Kaplowitz, David Shapiro, Francis Sheehan, Staci Strobl and Robert Till as the Senate members of this Task Force. The vote was unanimous.

11. Update on the Open Meetings Law issue

President Kaplowitz reported that Robert Freeman, the head of the NYS Committee on Open Government, responded to her letter on behalf of the Faculty Senate by stating that the College was in violation of the Open Meeting Law by its action of holding a meeting of graduate program directors while excluding the other members of the Graduate Studies Committee, given that the graduate program directors comprise a majority of the members of the GSC and therefore a quorum of the GSC was present, which under the OML requires that the meeting be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law, that is, that it be open to everyone. Having received a copy of the letter, President Travis asked Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Shaffer for legal advice and the Vice Chancellor basically told him, in writing, to ignore Mr. Freeman.

A motion was adopted directing President Kaplowitz to bring this issue to the University Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

12. The status of adjunct faculty: Senator Joel Freiser

As a representative of the adjunct faculty, Senator Joel Freiser spoke about the major role adjunct faculty play at John Jay. He reported that a task force on adjunct issues appointed by the Provost and led by Professor Allison Pease had made a recommendation that there be a permanent committee on adjunct issues. He reported that the Provost had indeed established such a standing committee and that he had been a member of it. He reported his frustration that the committee, after meeting several times, seemingly ceased to exist. Meetings just stopped being scheduled. The Senate asked President Kaplowitz to ascertain from Provost Bowers the status of the committee and the reason it seemingly no longer exists. Senator Freiser invited anyone interested in working with him on adjunct issues to please contact him.

13. New business

A Senator said that her students report that they are having problems ordering their books online from Akedemos. On the other hand, other Senators reported that their students are not reporting any problems. It was suggested that any faculty member whose students are reporting problems contact Akedemos' liaison to John Jay, Julie Kuljurgis, to ascertain how many of their students have actually ordered their books and when they posted their orders.

By a motion made and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.