

Faculty Senate Minutes #431

March 4, 2015

1:40 PM

Moot Court NB

Present (29): Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, Adam Berlin, Claudia Calirman, James Cauthen, Kashka Celinska, Marsha Clowers, Artem Domashevskiy, Janice Dunham, Peggy Escher, DeeDee Falkenbach, Joel Freiser, Terry Furst, Katie Gentile, John Gutierrez, Hunter Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Maria Kiriakova, Carmen Kynard, Vincent Maiorino, Xerxes Malki, Dainius Remeza, Raul Rubio, Ian Seda, Francis Sheehan, Dennis Sherman, Charles Stone, Staci Strobl, Daniel Yaverbaum

Absent (15): Angelique Corthals, Silvia Dapia, Jennifer Dysart, Maki Haberfeld, Louis Kontos, Tom Kucharski, Anru Lee, Kyoo Lee, Jay Pastrana, Edward Paulino, Frank Pezzella, Raul Romero, Jon Shane, David Shapiro, Robert Till

Guests: Professor David Munns

Invited Guests: Professors Amy Green, Richard Haw

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #430 of the February 19, 2015, meeting
3. Announcements & Reports
4. Nomination and election of a member of the Senate Executive Committee
5. Proposed Faculty Senate Statement on Banked Time
6. Review of the Senate's February 19th meeting with Pres. Travis and Provost Bowers
7. Review of the March 11 College Council agenda

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

2. **Adoption of Minutes #430 of the February 19, 2015, meeting.** Approved.

3. Announcements & Reports. Noted.

4. Nomination and election of a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Two meetings ago, the Faculty Senate officially accepted Professor Fritz Umbach's resignation from the Senate, in accordance with the procedure mandated by the Constitution. Professor Umbach had been serving as the vice president of the Senate. At the subsequent meeting, Senator Chevy Alford was elected to serve as vice president. Because Senator Alford had already been serving on the executive committee, her election left a vacancy on that body. To fill this vacant seat, an announced election was held. Senator Janice Dunham was nominated and accepted nomination. The Senate elected Janice Dunham to serve on the Executive Committee; her term as well as those of the other members ends on May 21.

5. Proposed Faculty Senate Statement on Banked Time: Chevy Alford, Adam Berlin, Kashka Celinska, Jennifer Dysart, DeeDee Falkenbach, Maki Haberfeld, Tom Kucharski, Staci Strobl [Attachment A]

The Senate discussed the draft statement written by Senators Chevy Alford, Adam Berlin, Kashka Celinska, Jennifer Dysart, DeeDee Falkenbach, Maki Haberfeld, Tom Kucharski, and Staci Strobl. After some amendments, the Senate approved the Statement and thanked the authors [Attachment A].

6. Review of the Faculty Senate's February 19th meeting with President Travis and Provost Bowers and discussion about how to move forward

At the February 19th Faculty Senate meeting, President Travis asked the Senate to propose ways to improve communication between the Faculty Senate and him and other senior members of the administration. He and Provost Bowers complained at the rarity of invitations proffered to them by the Senate.

The Senate members reaffirmed its previous determination that the 60 minutes available during community hour for Faculty Senate meetings is too brief for substantive discussions with guests and also that the agenda topics of our meetings are too many, and too important, for substantive discussions with the administration that are needed.

The Senate considered an approach to recommend to President Travis and Provost Bowers. The proposal is to have joint meetings between the Senate's Executive Committee plus four Senators elected by the Senate with President Travis and the administrators he selects. Agenda items will be provided by each group to the other prior to the meeting. No decisions will be

made by the Senate representatives who will, instead, report to the Senate and the Senate will make decisions. After the first meeting, both the Senate and the administration will evaluate the meeting and decide whether to continue this approach. If approved, the Senate at its next meeting will elect four (4) Senators who will join the seven (7) members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Senate approved the proposal.

7. Review of the March 11 College Council agenda. Noted.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

ATTACHMENT A

Faculty Senate Statement on Banked Time

Adopted March 4, 2015

by Unanimous Vote

The new policy on banked time, stated in the Provost's email to the John Jay faculty dated January 21, 2015, hurts our faculty and students.

Faculty members earn their banked time. In order to facilitate their research and/or improve their teaching, they should be allowed to use their time when they see fit. Forcing faculty members to use banked time within a three-year timeframe could potentially impair academic goals, which in turn could negatively affect the academic experience of our students. A common scenario is that a faculty member with banked time will apportion his or her banked time gradually so as to be a more effective instructor or to complete an academic/creative project.

While the Provost gives out work release time for in-house projects, which are supposed to be completed in a timely fashion, many course releases are earned through PSC-CUNY grants and academic awards and outside research awards. This type of awarded time should have no time constraints.

Another problem concerns course releases earned from conducting independent studies. Because of the way independent studies are calibrated, ten Independent Studies equaling one course, many faculty members will lose time earned if the three-year rule is enforced. This also applies to release time accumulated from supervising Masters and doctoral students and honors projects. Not allowing some of our most accomplished faculty from accruing additional release time from supervision of MA theses, PhD dissertations, independent studies, and honors student supervision would prevent students from finding mentors and would encourage faculty to seek employment elsewhere.

It has also been brought to our attention that Junior Faculty Contractual Release time is not being noted on the Faculty Workload Balance Summary sheet. If faculty members are not aware of this omission, they may lose owed time in the administrative shuffle.

Perhaps most important, forcing faculty to use release time over a three-year period will diminish our students' contact with full-time faculty. If the three-year rule is implemented, there will be cases where no full-time faculty or practically no full-time faculty will be allowed

to teach our undergraduate or graduate courses. In addition, specialized courses developed by our faculty will not be offered to students, thus depriving them from gaining expert knowledge. And faculty members could be forced to stop teaching and/or supervising thesis students in order to comply with the three-year requirement. Evidence suggests there is a clear link between contact with full-time faculty and increased retention. If the banked-time policy is enforced, we will no doubt lose students during a critical time at our College when enrollment figures are already below expectations. Moreover, the College has relied on faculty banked time to carry out core functions of its mission; without this compensation, core functions will suffer.

The three-year policy to use banked time has never been enforced and the stringent implementation of this policy seems unusually short-sighted. We ask that the decision to enforce this three-year policy be dropped immediately as it is in conflict with the mission of the College and the strategic plan recently submitted. Banked time is just that—earned time. It should not be taken from faculty if not used within three years. We ask that the Provost work in conjunction with PSC-CUNY and the CUNY Central Administration to ensure that John Jay faculty members be allowed to use their hard-earned banked time when they choose.