

**Faculty Senate Minutes #493  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Thursday, March 21, 2019

1:40 PM

Moot Court NB

**Present (30): Chevy Alford, Valerie Allen, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Michael Brownstein, Ronald Calvosa, James Cauthen, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Silvia Dapia, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Sven Dietrich, Artem Domashevskiy, Jonathan Epstein, Joel Freiser, Maki Haberfeld, Sheeba John, Hunter Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Erica King-Toler, Mickey Melendez, Brian Montes, Karen Okamoto, Jose Olivo, Francis Sheehan, Charles Stone, Marta-Laura Suska, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Hung-Lung Wei, Rebecca Weiss, Guoqi Zhang**

**Absent (13): Andrea Balis, Rosemary Barberet, Heath Grant, Amy Green, Veronica Hendrick, Louis Kontos, Thomas Kubic, Yue Ma, Vincent Maiorino, Josh Mason, Frank Pezzella, Vijay Sampath, Charlotte Walker-Said**

**Agenda**

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**
2. **Announcements**
3. **Adoption of Minutes #492 and #492 of the February 4<sup>th</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, meetings**
4. **Election of a Senate rep to the search committee for director of honors**
5. **COACHE and Chronicle of Higher Education Surveys**
6. **Vote on Faculty Senate Space Planning Document**
7. **Proposed Endorsement of UFS Resolution on CUNY Budget**
8. **How to improve Senate attendance**
9. **Election of Senators to joint Senate/Chairs ad hoc committee on shared governance**
10. **FPC appeals processes issues**
11. **Student Council document about faculty attendance policies**

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

2. **Announcements**

President Benton reported that it has been explained to him for transmission to the Senate that the “\$7K or Strike” signs were taken down because they were posted on classroom doors. VP Kaplowitz said that she had been told by JJ’s PSC leadership that these signs were not authorized by the PSC, but rather were created by a separate group and that the PSC does not condone or agree with this group’s approach.

3. **Adoption of Minutes #491 and #492 of the February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> meetings.** Approved.

#### **4. Elect a Senate rep to the search committee for director of the honors program**

Senator Elton Beckett was elected by unanimous vote.

#### **5. COACHE Survey and Chronicle of Higher Education Survey**

President Benton urged Senators to complete both surveys and to spread the word to other faculty to do so.

#### **6. Vote on the Faculty Senate Space Planning Document**

President Benton said that he spoke with CUNY Vice Chancellor for Facilities Judy Bergtraum the previous night; she had read the Senate's draft statement on space planning which he and VP Kaplowitz had sent her, with the Senate's concurrence. VC Bergtraum had said that until she read the Senate's draft statement, she had not known that there is any opinion regarding what should be done with North Hall. Given that surprising and significant statement by the VC, President Benton urged the Senate to adopt the statement. The Senate adopted the statement by unanimous vote.

#### **7. Proposed Endorsement of the UFS Resolution on the CUNY Budget**

The University Faculty Senate has asked that the college faculty senates endorse its resolution calling on a solution to the TAP Gap that is creating huge budget problems at colleges like John Jay where many students who receive the full TAP award attend. When a student's maximum TAP award is less than the cost of full-time tuition, the student's college must absorb the difference. This adds up to millions of dollars every year. The Senate unanimously endorsed the UFS resolution.

#### **8. How to Improve Senate Attendance**

President Benton explained that Senate attendance has been insufficient. Several times we have not had a quorum, which means that everyone who came in for a meeting was faced with the inability to do any business. Also noted, by VP Kaplowitz, was the poor showing when we had the Provost as our guest last month, which did not give a good impression of the Senate and which also meant there was little energy in the room and few voices heard.

The Senate discussed possible actions. One was to emulate the College Council, which gives feedback to members on their attendance; we could amend the Senate Constitution so that a person who misses more than two meetings in a role would be in lapsed status until the person and chair said they would return so that that person's absence would not count in the quorum.

Another thought was to change our two meetings a month to one meeting a month. We don't know if this would result in better attendance but it might. Several senators spoke against this

because the Senate is the only place for faculty to talk as faculty and there's too much work for an hour meeting once a month.

Another possibility is to propose a charter amendment whereby there would be a proportional reduction by members of every constituency; this would result in the need for fewer faculty to serve and perhaps those faculty would be those able and willing to attend.

Senator Michael Brownstein said that before we consider options, we should get a handle on why people miss meetings. He proposed an anonymous survey anonymous of Senators, which the Executive Committee could create and analyze and then we could have a discussion based on the data and on comments. It's important that we know why members are not attending.

Senator Elton Beckett said the people who sit on the Senate are the most active people. He said he would rather be at a Senate meeting than at many other meetings.

Senator Maki Haberfeld said most of us have valid reasons for missing. She agreed with Senator Beckett that there are many meetings scheduled at same time. She spoke in favor of one meeting a month also because it will give us time to think about the agenda. We do need a quorum at every Senate meeting; most other meetings can be held without a quorum.

President Benton said that village boards schedule official meetings and also schedule work sessions which have to be publically announced. These are sessions to work on matters without any votes. He said we could have two 2 meetings with one that's official requiring a quorum and the second meeting is a work session, which people can attend if they're interested in the topic.

Senator Mickey Melendez said at many other institutions organizations have meetings on set days. At John Jay, UCASC is always on Fridays, for example. But the Senate rotates every day of the week which makes it very difficult to plan and to schedule.

Senator Sven Dietrich said the rotating schedules and the two meetings a month gives more opportunity of attending and participating.

Senator Francis Sheehan said the Senate began in 1986 and the Senate never a quorum problem until the College Council created its new attendance policy. The need to always attend the College Council is probably hurting attendance at the Senate. But he said the problem is not so drastic as to require making changes. One meeting a month is not enough. We don't discuss issues at the College Council. We want to make informed votes there. None of us have a lock on information. He said he is most concerned about the lack of quality of discussion. If we tell faculty there's lack of interest in shared governance, the situation will be self-perpetuating.

Senator Jim Cauthen said he agrees with Senator Sheehan. He said he has been on the Senate off and on for 20 years; this is the only place where real discussions take place. The College

Council is not a deliberative body. The question for him is how we can make the Senate's voice better heard. He said that whenever the Faculty Senate votes with the Council of Chairs both bodies' voices are more powerful and both bodies are more powerful. He said the Senate should include truly important issues on its agenda which will bring members to meetings. The Faculty Senate is an extremely important body at the college, he said.

By unanimous vote the Senate authorized the Executive Committee to create a survey instrument to be sent to Senators only and to report back the results so that this topic can be further discussed based on the survey results.

#### **9. Election of Senators to joint Senate/Chairs ad hoc committee on shared governance**

At a previous meeting, Senator Cauthen, who is also the Co-Chair of the Council of Chairs, proposed a joint Senate/Chairs ad hoc committee to draft a statement on the importance of shared governance which would ultimately be brought to the College Council for its adoption. The Senate elected Andrea Balis, Ned Benton, Maki Haberfeld, and Karen Kaplowitz.

#### **10. FPC appeals processes issues**

President Benton said that later this spring, the FPC will take up the issue of what the appeals process should be. FPC members are currently replaced by people who are not FPC members. Also, the PSC is reporting to us that the perception is that the appeals process is extremely painful for people coming up for appeal. There are also serious concerns about the role of FIDO.

Senator Dietrich said he is meeting with Joe Laub and the PSC on April 1 to FIDO and related technical issues.

The meeting ended at 2:50 pm.

Submitted by Karen Kaplowitz