

**Faculty Senate Minutes #499**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**Monday, September 23, 2019**

**1:40 PM**

**Moot Court NB**

**Present (32):** Chevy Alford, George Andreopoulos, Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Chelsea Binns, Marta Bladek, Teresa Booker, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Silvia Dapia, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Sven Dietrich, Jonathan Epstein, Joel Freiser, Gail Garfield, Heath Grant, Amy Green, John Gutierrez, Karen Kaplowitz, Erica King-Toler, Yuk-Ting (Joyce) Lau, Yue Ma, Xerxes Malki, Peter Mameli, Mickey Melendez, Hyunhee Park, Edward Paulino, David Shapiro, Francis Sheehan, Charles Stone, Rebecca Weiss, Guoqi Zhang

**Absent (10):** Gloria Browne-Marshall, P.J. Gibson, Maki Haberfeld, Michelle Holder, Catherine Mulder, John Pittman, Marta-Laura Suska, Roberto Visani, Hung-Lung Wei, Violet Yu

**Guests:** Professor Jennifer Holst, Professor Kimora

**Invited Guest:** Assistant Vice President for Finance Mark Flower

**Agenda**

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Election of a new member of the Faculty Senate**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes #398 of the September 4, 2019, meeting**
- 5. Election of additional members of College governance committees**
- 6. Student Council document on faculty attendance policies**
- 7. Invited Guest: Assistant Vice President for Finance Mark Flower**
- 8. New Business**

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

**2. Election of a Senate member**

Chelsea Binns was nominated and elected by unanimous vote to the Faculty Senate as an at-large Senator. Senator Binns was then nominated and unanimously elected to be a Senate representative to the College Council.

### **3. Announcements**

President Ned Benton noted that in preparing for his role as vice chair of the Middle States reaccreditation in his role as president of the Faculty Senate he reviewed the Middle States Standards for Reaccreditation; whereas there had been 14 standards when our last reaccreditation took place a decade ago, the Middle States Association revised the standards that a college must meet and now there are seven. More importantly, there is no longer a standard called “faculty” and the word “faculty” rarely appears in any of the standards but of course faculty are implicitly embedded in all seven areas. He explained that he has created a chart, which he distributed, that suggests topics and areas related to faculty in each of the seven standards where faculty can be studied. He said he is distributing this chart to administrators, officials, and stakeholders.

**4. Adoption of Minutes #498 of the September 4, 2019, meeting.** Approved.

**5. Election of additional members of College-wide governance committees:**

An at-large member of the Faculty Personnel Committee (FPC) has resigned; in response to the college-wide call for nominations, the Senate received one candidate: Professor Chevy Alford. The Provost’s Office asked the Senate to elect a replacement as soon as possible because the FPC Review Committees work starts next week. The Senate elected Chevy Alford by unanimous vote.

Professor Rosemary Barberet, the faculty member on the Student Travel Committee, is taking a sabbatical leave in the spring and asked the Senate to elect a replacement for her for the spring semester. Professor Gohar Petrossian has agreed to serve and is available when the meetings will take place in the spring. The Senate elected Professor Petrossian by unanimous vote.

**6. Student Council document on faculty attendance policies**

In March, the Student Council released a document they had prepared about faculty class attendance policies. Current Student Council President Musarrat Lamia told the College Council this month that this year’s Student Council is revisiting the issue. The students are focused primarily on the sometimes extreme differences in individual faculty policies and what they see as a contradiction in the percentage of a final grade that relates to class participation and the number of absences permitted (if any). VP Kaplowitz said the students are making a false equivalency in connecting participation with attendance; they are saying that if class participation counts as only, as an example, 10% of the final grade, then they should be able to attend, arguably, only 10% of the classes. But of course, she added, students have to be in class to learn, to hear others, not just to speak and that participation really includes being there and actively listening and taking notes.

Senator Andrea Balis pointed out that no one size fits all situation and we should state that this is an academic freedom issue for the faculty. Senator Heath Grant suggested the Senate could also issue a document about the best practices in setting attendance policies. Senate Francis Sheehan said there does exist a quasi-standard: students are permitted as many absences as the course meets in 2 weeks. Senator Chevy Alford said the complaints she hears are from students who are absent many times because of illness and who are penalized for such absences. The Senate ended the discussion upon the arrival of an invited guest.

## **7. Invited Guest: Assistant Vice President for Finance Mark Flower**

AVP Mark Flower handed out copies of the John Jay FY19 Budget Book – 82 pages of budget charts – to each senator about virtually all aspects of our current and recent tax levy budget history; he reported that John Jay finished the last fiscal year in the black after starting the fiscal year with a \$10 million projected deficit. We actually ended with \$200,000. This year is a different situation, he said. What got us into the black last year was that CUNY Central only allowed us to spend \$7 million of our \$10 million OTPS [Other Than Personnel Services] budget and, also, CUNY gave us a one-time \$2 million infusion.

Our problems are more severe this year because we will not be receiving the \$3.2 million from the Department of Corrections for rental of a floor of North Hall to do cadet training because there are no more cadets; CUNY has told us they are not going to give us anything, certainly not the \$2 million infusion they gave us last year; CUNY has told us we must set aside \$6.2 million for the expected increase in expenses that will result from the anticipated labor contract agreements; we are projecting an 8.7% increase in our adjunct budget; we have a mandated reduced teaching load. We also have experienced an enrollment growth: we projected a 12,400 enrollment for this fall; we are at 12,700 and this creates a budget problem for us.

AVP Flower explained that because more economically disadvantaged students attend John Jay than other CUNY senior colleges we are more severely hit by the TAP Gap than the other colleges. NYS TAP covers all of tuition for the poorest students but the State Legislature has capped it at \$5,000 a year. But CUNY senior college tuition is now \$6,600 a year. The colleges get only \$5,000 per each student who receives full TAP and the colleges have to cover the additional \$1,600 per student. The more such students a college has, the larger the gap. That is a large part of our budget problem.

Senator George Andreopoulos noted that page 57 of the Budget Book shows that each year we spend more in aggregate salary for our administrators than we do for our faculty: it shows that this year we will spend only \$43.8 million for our faculty compared to \$44.3 million for our HEOs and also \$4.7 million for our ECP Executive Compensation Plan [ECP] members (those who hold the title of dean and above). President Benton said we have more HEOs than faculty. VP Karen Kaplowitz said we have been hiring more HEOs than full-time faculty. AVP Flower said the provost has a hiring plan which President Mason has approved. New faculty have been brought in on substitute lines; there were 12 faculty retirements this year and the provost is looking at how many full-time faculty members we can hire with the money we accrue from the higher salaries of these retired faculty. He noted that the budgeting by CUNY of each senior college is historical and is based on the previous year's allocation: the difference, for example, between John Jay and Lehman in terms of how much of its revenue from student tuition it is permitted to keep is \$9 million. If we were permitted to keep that \$9 million, our fiscal situation would be totally different.

Senator Andreopoulos said it seems to be the same situation every year. He asked whether this year it is different. AVP Flower said he thinks it is, it is more serious.

AVP Flower said that the cut in our OTPS budget will hurt our Library and our Science Department. He said he and VP Titan are going to ask CUNY to increase our OTPS. Senator Sheehan noted that without the chemicals for the labs, students cannot be taught and cannot learn.

AVP Flower said the revised projected deficit is now \$6.6 million, not the previously projected \$8 million for this year.

President Benton said the hiring initiative is being discussed with the chairs. He called it a game of chicken: if CUNY says we must have a balanced budget fiscal plan before we can proceed with our hiring plan, which is what it has said every year previously, we will have a serious problem. AVP Flower said he has proposed to President Mason that any administrative vacancies that occur not be replaced; and that more Auxiliary Corporation funds be used to support our theater and athletics costs; and that we use our Research Foundation funds to support the shop of Associate Provost for Research Anthony Carpi. He said if we do all these things, we would have our budget deficit solved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Provided by Karen Kaplowitz