

**Faculty Senate Minutes #506
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (30): Chevy Alford, George Andreopoulos, Ned Benton, Chelsea Binns, Marta Bladek, Teresa Booker, Gloria Browne-Marshall, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Sven Dietrich, Jonathan Epstein, Joel Freiser, Heath Grant, Amy Green, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Michelle Holder, Karen Kaplowitz, Erica King-Toler, Cyriaco Lopes, Peter Mameli, Mickey Melendez, Catherine Mulder, Tara Pauliny, David Shapiro, Francis Sheehan, Charles Stone, Marta Laura Suska, Rebecca Weiss, Violet Yu

Absent (11): Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Silvia Dapia, Lila Kazemian, Yuk-Ting (Joyce) Lau, Xerxes Malki, Hyunhee Park, Edward Paulino, John Pittman, Hung-Lung Wei, Guoqi Zhang

Invited Guest: Provost Yi Li

Agenda

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes #505 of the March 5, 2020, meeting**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Proposal to endorse a UFS Resolution Criticizing the Lack of Consultation by the Chancellor**
- 5. Proposed resolution urging the provost to suspend the SEOF during the spring 2020 semester**
- 6. Discussion: UCASC Proposed First-Semester Freshman Forgiveness Policy**
- 7. Invited Guest: Provost Yi Li**

1. Adoption of the Agenda. Approved.

2. Adoption of Minutes #505 of the March 5, 2020, meeting. Approved.

3. Announcements

There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 7, using Zoom. The Senators were invited to participate in a practice Town Hall event on April 3.

3. Proposal to endorse a UFS Resolution Criticizing the Lack of Consultation by the Chancellor

The CUNY Chancellor has not consulted with the University Faculty Senate (UFS) leadership, has not invited the UFS Chair to be a member of his Coronavirus Task Force, and had not consulted

with the PSC leadership. The previous night, the UFS adopted a statement criticizing the Chancellor's lack of consultation with elected representatives of the faculty. The John Jay Senate discussed the UFS resolution and decided that the UFS resolution is so weak and so vague that it does not merit our endorsement.

5. Proposal to recommend to the Provost that he suspend the Student Evaluation of the Faculty

The following is a proposed resolution from the Executive Committee:

Whereas, The CUNY Board of Trustees mandates that students have the option of evaluating their professors at least once each academic year, and

Whereas, At John Jay, at the recommendation of the Faculty Senate, students are given the option of evaluating their professors every semester, and

Whereas, Because of the coronavirus pandemic, faculty members have had to provide their courses through distance learning without the benefit of sufficient training and without sufficient time to recreate their courses as needed for distance learning, and

Whereas, Students have had to take their courses by distance learning without the benefit of training or the time needed for them to learn how to do so, and

Whereas, It would be extremely unfair to faculty to be evaluated by students in such circumstances because such evaluations would not necessarily reflect faculty members' ability or skill at teaching,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommends and urges the John Jay administration to suspend administration of the Student Evaluation of the Faculty for this spring 2020 semester.

The Resolution was adopted by a vote of 28 yes, 2 no.

6. Discussion: UCASC Proposed First-Semester Freshman Forgiveness Policy

VP Kaplowitz reported that President Benton and she conveyed to Dean Dara Byrne and Registrar Daniel Matos the concerns and questions of the Faculty Senate about the First-Semester Freshman Forgiveness Policy that is on the agenda of the April College Council meeting. She reported the replies of Dean Byrne and those of Registrar Matos. President Benton said he will email their written answers the next day. It turns out that all CUNY and SUNY colleges have some form of freshman forgiveness; ours is geared toward student academic success while many others are geared toward improved retention. The plagiarism concern is moot because there is no grade in the menu of possible final grades that may indicate that an F grade is the result of academic dishonesty; this is a mandate of CUNY Central.

6. Invited Guest: Provost Yi Li

The Provost reported the on the 13 faculty searches, 7 of which have been completed, noting that in all but one case, the department's first choice was the person hired. Three more searches are in the final stages, and he's about to meet with the candidates for the other positions for a second time.

The provost said he wants to hear how the distance teaching is going. Senate Michelle Holder said the transition has been incredibly bumpy and she is saying this as someone who has taught online previously. She said she is really struggling. She teaches a lab course which is really supposed to be an in-person course.

Senate Erica King-Toler said one of biggest struggles is getting connected to students; some of the students have the coronavirus, some have trouble using technology; many have lost their jobs. The provost said that John Jay has just obtained 130 laptops as well as a delivery from CUNY of Chromebooks and iPads. He said we should be able to meet the needs of all the students on the waiting list for these devices. He acknowledged that internet connection is a struggle and added that Spectrum and another provider are offering free internet to CUNY students but it is a very long wait.

Senator Francis Sheehan said most Science classes are lab classes and that he has spent an extraordinary amount of time trying to effectively convert to distance teaching. His students say they don't have the equipment for next week's test and yet yesterday he was told a final decision had to be made about offering chemistry courses during summer session. He said he supports virtual labs instead of wet labs in the summer only if the college remains closed and the labs are not accessible since there is no replacement for wet labs, especially for science majors.

Provost Li said he was one who pushed to go entirely online for summer school. He noted he has been a dean of science and mathematics and he appreciates the difference between virtual labs and wet labs. In what circumstances would we want students to come to campus using public transit? We need either a cure for COVID-19, or a vaccine, or we need two-thirds of the populations to have been infected and know that they have partial or full immunity. We know that none of these conditions are going to happen soon. He doesn't see us being able to do in-person teaching in June or July. And we don't want to give faculty false hope. But he acknowledged that he has told Public Safety Diego Redondo that we may want students and faculty to have access to wet labs. He added that he participated in a zoom call with the provosts of CUNY. CCNY, BCC, and CSI are already full online this summer. He said he does not see how we can have students come to campus this summer.

Senator Cathy Mulder said that the two different calendars for online courses that began in February and those that began in March are confusing students, some of whom are registered for the courses that were originally online and those registered for courses that are now online classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Submitted by,

Karen Kaplowitz