

**Faculty Senate Minutes #518
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (31): Chevy Alford, Elton Beckett, Mohamed Ben Zid, Ned Benton, Marta Bladek, Michael Brownstein, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Jonathan Epstein, Joel Freiser, Amy Green, John Gutierrez, Christopher Herrmann, Crystal Jackson, Veronica Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Joyce Lau, Anru Lee, Alexander Long, Maxwell Mak, Mickey Melendez, Hyunhee Park, Edward Paulino, Atiba Rougier, Francis Sheehan, Marie Springer, Charles Stone, Lucia Velotti, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Adam Wandt, Violet Yu

Absent (8): Andrea Balis, Chelsea Binns, Silvia Dapia, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Heath Grant, Maki Haberfeld, Erica King-Toler, Christian Parenti

Agenda

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of Minutes #516 & #517 of the Dec. 4 and the Dec. 8, 2020, meetings**
- 3. Elections to fill vacant seats**
- 4. Resolution to Rescind the Honorary Degree Awarded to Rudolph W. Giuliani in 1988**
- 5. Consideration of draft Inclusive Curriculum statement issued by Dr. Byrne & Dr. Pease**
- 6. Preliminary data on student use of the CR/NC grading option during Fall 2020 semester**

1. Adoption of the Agenda. Approved.

2. Adoption of Minutes #516 & #517 of the Dec. 4 and the December 8, 2020, meetings

3. Elections:

- a. Vacant seat on the Faculty Senate: By a secret vote using SimplyVoting, the Senate elected Charles Stone (Psychology)**
- b. Vacant alternate seat on the College Council: By a secret ballot vote, the Senate elected Charles Stone (Psychology)**
- c. Vacant Senate seat on the Strategic Planning Subcommittee: The Senate elected Marie Stringer (Public Management).**

4. Consideration of a Resolution to Rescind an Honorary Degree Awarded to Rudolph W. Giuliani in 1988 [Attachment A]

President Ned Benton explained that, as the last two “Resolved” clauses state, if the Senate approves this Resolution today, then it will be transmitted to President Mason with the request that she forward it to the Chancellor and the CUNY Board of Trustees for a vote by the Board.

President Benton explained that both he and Karen Kaplowitz, the Senate VP, met with President Mason, who said she will, indeed, forward it to the Chancellor and the Board if the Senate approves it. He and Karen also sent it to the College's legal counsel, asking if any statement needed to be modified for legal reasons.

VP Kaplowitz noted that four colleges have already rescinded the honorary degrees that they had conferred on Mr. Giuliani: Middlebury, Lehigh, Wagner, and Fisher colleges. She also reported that the Senate never recommended Mr. Giuliani for an honorary degree; rather, the then president, Gerald Lynch, had selected Giuliani and asked a small faculty committee that he had chosen to support his choice. This was in the fall of 1988 when Mr. Giuliani was the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District (and many years before he became mayor). When the Senate first learned that Mr. Giuliani would be receiving an honorary degree (along with two others whom the Senate also did not think worthy), the Senate created a procedure for the Faculty Senate to be the entity to recommend honorary degree candidates and, subsequently, brought the proposal to the College Council in the spring of 1989, where it was approved. That procedure is the one the college has followed ever since 1989.

Asked whether we have ever rescinded an honorary degree, President Benton explained that in 2015, the Senate voted to rescind an honorary degree from Bill Cosby; the then president, Jeremy Travis, agreed with the Senate's action and forwarded the Senate's resolution to the Chancellor and the CUNY Board of Trustees, which voted to rescind the degree.

The Senate then went into executive session to discuss the resolution. After the discussion, the Senate unanimously voted to approve the resolution and, thus, unanimously voted to have the honorary degree rescinded. **[See Attachment A for the text of the resolution is at the end of these minutes.]**

5. Consideration of draft statement about our curriculum issued by AP Byrne & AP Pease

President Benton explained that Associate Provost Dara Byrne and Associate Provost Allison Pease have just issued a draft document entitled, "A Framework for a Culturally Responsive, Inclusive and Anti-Racist Curriculum at John Jay College of Criminal Justice." It was noted that AP Byrne and AP Pease plan to bring the document to the College Council before the end of this semester for adoption by the College Council. President Benton said that we will soon be inviting the two authors to a Senate meeting. He added that he strongly supports what the document says but is unclear as to what the College Council will be actually asked to vote on. [Further discussion of the Framework will take place at the March 25, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting.]

6. Preliminary data on student use of the CR/NC grading option during the Fall 2020 semester.

Noted. Further review of more complete data will take place later in the semester.

ATTACHMENT A

Resolution of the Faculty Senate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice Recommending the Rescission of an Honorary Degree

Conferred in 1988 on Rudolph W. Giuliani

Adopted by Unanimous Vote, February 10, 2021

Whereas, John Jay College of Criminal Justice has been proudly conferring honorary degrees on truly meritorious and respected individuals since 1977, and

Whereas, Honorary degrees are intended to serve as a means by which a College can recognize the distinguished achievements of persons who have made significant contributions to the principles for which the institutions stand or to their academic or professional disciplines, and

Whereas, John Jay College of Criminal Justice conferred an honorary degree on Rudolph W. Giuliani on November 17, 1988, at a special convocation, and

Whereas, Rudolph W. Giuliani has engaged in a public campaign of lies, baseless conspiracy theories, and unsubstantiated lawsuits in order to convince the American public and the nation's courts of massive voter fraud and a stolen presidential election, and

Whereas, On January 6, 2021, Rudolph W. Giuliani exhorted a crowd near the U.S. Capitol, when electoral votes were being counted to determine the result of the presidential election, to engage in "trial by combat" because he "staked his reputation" that they would find election "criminality" there, and

Whereas, The actions of Rudolph W. Giuliani were not only an assault on truth but also helped to foment a violent insurrection against democracy itself, culminating in an uprising against our country's Capitol and against our elected representatives, resulting in multiple deaths and injuries of police officers and other people, and

Whereas, Rescinding any degree, honorary or earned, is a serious matter, and the John Jay Faculty Senate does not make such a recommendation lightly, and

Whereas, The John Jay Faculty Senate members were able to carefully evaluate the facts and circumstances of Rudolph W. Giuliani's conduct, because they are in the public record and in the judicial record, therefore

Be It Resolved, That it is the judgment of the Faculty Senate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice that Rudolph W. Giuliani engaged in conduct that is contrary to the values of our College and University and contrary to the qualities for which he was honored and that this conduct is not in keeping with commitment of our college to advance justice in its many dimensions through the values of diversity, equity, integrity, justice, respect, learning and scholarship, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice considers Rudolph W. Giuliani to be unworthy of an honorary degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of John Jay College requests that Karol V. Mason, President of the College, forward to the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York the Senate's resolution recommending that the Board rescind the honorary degree conferred on Rudolph W. Giuliani in 1988, and

Be It Further Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of John Jay College requests that the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York act affirmatively on the recommendation that the honorary degree conferred on Rudolph W. Giuliani be rescinded.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Minutes provided by Karen Kaplowitz