

**Faculty Senate Minutes #519**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1:40 PM

Zoom

**Present (37):** Chevy Alford, Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Chelsea Binns, Marta Bladek, Michael Brownstein, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Silvia Dapia, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Jonathan Epstein, Joel Freiser, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Heath Grant, Amy Green, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Christopher Herrmann, Crystal Jackson, Veronica Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Erica King-Toler, Anru Lee, Alexander Long, Maxwell Mak, Mickey Melendez, Christian Parenti, Hyunhee Park, Edward Paulino, Atiba Rougier, Francis Sheehan, Marie Springer, Charles Stone, Lucia Velotti, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Adam Wandt, Violet Yu

**Absent (2):** Mohamed Ben Zid, Joyce Lau

**Guest:** Professor David Munns

**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #518 of the February 10, 2021, meeting
3. Election to fill two seats on the Advisory Committee on Online Elections
4. Report from the Faculty Senate Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion
5. Discussion and poll on issues regarding the reopening of the college
6. New business

1. **Adoption of the Agenda.** Approved.
2. **Adoption of Minutes #518 of the February 10, meeting.** Approved.
3. **Election to fill two seats on the Advisory Committee on Online Elections**

In December, the College Council approved the Faculty Senate's resolution that all online confidential elections at the college be conducted using the same, single technology. President Mason is creating an advisory committee to her to recommend which technology should be adopted. The committee members are: 2 from the Faculty Senate; 1 from the Faculty Senate Technology Committee; 1 from the Council of Chairs; 1 from the College Council Committee on Faculty Elections; 1 from the HEO Council; 1 from the Student Council (if they wish to use this technology); 1 from Faculty Personnel Committee [Kyeanna Bailey]; 1 from DoIT [Joe Laub or his designee].

Ned Benton and Adam Wandt were nominated. Both accepted nomination and both were elected by unanimous vote and were thanked for representing the Senate.

#### **4. Report from the Faculty Senate Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion**

Senator Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, chair of the committee, reported that her committee has decided to create four subcommittees: (1) campus-level curriculum; (2) student support; (3) faculty and staff development; (4) Faculty Senate pipeline.

The full committee met in December with Associate Provost Dara Byrne and Associate Provost Allison Pease to discuss curriculum changes and will be meeting with Graduate Dean Sofia Morote next week.

The committee has determined that there is a lot more discussion about curriculum is taking place but less action in terms of curricular change. There are lots of ideas but actual course changes and course creations is much slower. The question is how to monitor this and how to help. The committee has determined that it needs to establish a baseline analysis in all the areas of the 4 committee's subgroups. They had hoped not to have to do this but discovered they do have to. The Committee will update the Senate every other month and will bring back any issues they think the Faculty Senate needs to address.

The 11 members are: Chevy Alford, Silvia Dapia, Lisette Delgado-Cruzata, Silvia Dapia, Amy Green, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard (Chair), Heath Grant, John Gutierrez, Veronica Johnson, Alexander Long, Alexandra Moffat-Bateau, and Mangai Natarajan.

Senator Gordon-Nembhard noted that several of these Senate committee members are also on the College's Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, which she said is a very good development.

#### **5. Discussion and poll on issues regarding the reopening of the college [Attachment A]**

President Benton reported that both he and VP Karen Kaplowitz are on the College Reopening Committee, co-chaired by Provost Yi Li and VP Mark Flower. Although the Chancellor sent out a global email more than a month ago saying the University will be reopening in fall 2021, he has since decided – and told the college presidents – that because each college is different, each college will make its own decisions as to whether and to what extent it will reopen in the fall. At John Jay we will have a partial reopening – perhaps 20% -- and additional reopening in the subsequent semester. Further reports will be made to the Senate; the committee is meeting every two weeks.

Senator Adam Wandt said faculty shouldn't be forced to come to campus if they don't feel safe doing so. Senator Andrea Balis said she is concerned about taking a position when things are so fluid; she is concerned about being locked into a position. Senator Amy Green said that by answering this survey we are not making policy; we're stating our preferences based on what we now know. President Benton said he is asking what Senators think the policies should be.

Senator Thalia Vrachopoulos said she wants to know what kind of filters have been installed in the classrooms and what kind of viruses are filtered out. Senator Lucia Velotti said sometimes our perceptions are different from actual risk; being vaccinated may not mean we can't spread the virus to our family.

Senator Heath Grant said we have to be careful to not use the results to say that "the faculty say." As for the idea being floated about using zoom for hybrid classes he has heard terrible things. Saying that having an "owl" — a camera — in our classrooms is very expensive, he added that we need to investigate this approach. Senator Francis Sheehan said an assistant is needed while you are teaching to deal with the students on zoom and a sufficiently sized monitor is needed in order to see the students on zoom. Also, the professor can't walk around the room but has to stay in one spot to be seen by the students on zoom.

Senator Green said the survey does not include mitigation efforts that we expect. President Benton agreed that the survey should be redone to consider mitigation by asking what faculty expect to see when they walk into John Jay on the first day back.

Senator Green asked whether we have any information as to what impact our being fully remote has on teaching, learning, governance.

Senator Grant said he's been hearing at the UFS and elsewhere expressions of fear that the University will be making us go online permanently. President Benton said the student surveys show a high preference of in-class courses. Senator Crystal Jackson said the response rate to this survey is low so far but if more respond, this may help us plan something for the next meeting. She added that the survey needs to be further refined.

Senator Violet Lu said she conducted a poll of her freshmen students: she has been having between 95% and 100% attendance. There are fully online sections for the same course and Senator Yu teaches synchronous versions of the classes, meeting twice a week. Only half said they want fully in-person classes. Students said that they work two or three jobs and it's tough for them to even log in. Senator Maxwell Mak said the survey needs to be rewritten: we want to know under what conditions we feel safe to come back: mandatory vaccinations, ID cards showing vaccinations, air filters, etc.

Senator Mickey Melendez said we need to survey the students. VP Karen Kaplowitz made a motion that the Faculty Senate ask the administration to survey the students within the next month in order for there to be informed discussions at reopening committee. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

See **Attachment A** for the results of the survey to which 38 of the 39 senators responded.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Minutes provided by Karen Kaplowitz

