

**Faculty Senate Minutes #525**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Thursday, May 20, 2021

1:40 PM

Zoom

**Present (34): Alex Alexandrou, Chevy Alford, Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, David Brotherton, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Silvia Dapia, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, Joel Freiser, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Heath Grant, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Christopher Herrmann, Veronica Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine Kemp, Erica King-Toler, Yuk-Ting (Joyce) Lau, Anru Lee, Alexander Long, Samantha Majic, Gerald Markowitz, Mickey Melendez, Patrick Raftery, Maureen Richards, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Gregory Sheppard, Marie Springer, Charles Stone, Fritz Umbach, Adam Wandt**

**Absent (5): Mohamed Ben Zid, Jonathan Epstein, Hyunhee Park, Marta-Laura Suska, Violet Yu**

**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes #524 of the May 7, 2021, meeting
3. Organization and Work of the Faculty Senate
4. Election of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
5. Election of Faculty Senate reps to College Committees
6. Election of two additional members of the FS Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion
7. JJ Budget update
8. New business

1. **Adoption of the Agenda.** Approved.

2. **Adoption of Minutes #524 of the May 7, 2021, meeting.** Approved.

3. **Organization and Work of the Faculty Senate**

President Ned Benton welcomed the returning and new Senators to the first meeting of the 2021-22 Faculty Senate. He invited each member to introduce themselves. He then explained that the Senate is a deliberative and advisory body and because all the faculty members on the College Council also serve on the Faculty Senate, the Senate functions as a faculty caucus of the College Council.

4. **Election of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee**

President Benton explained that the Senate will need to amend its election rules in order to conduct the elections on Zoom. The amendments are the addition of the following language in italics:

*The following committee positions must also be filled:*

*2 Faculty Senate Reps: Budget Planning Committee  
1 Faculty Senate Rep: Fiscal Planning Subcommittee  
2 Faculty Senate Reps: Strategic Planning Subcommittee  
2 Faculty Senate representatives to the Town Hall Planning Committee  
2 faculty members to the Interim College Council Executive Committee.*

*When the elections are conducted by electronic means, the Executive Committee shall invite nominations and self-nominations, to be submitted to any two members of the executive committee by midnight before the day of the election. The executive committee shall confirm that nominated members accept the nomination. For the positions of President and Vice President and for any office where the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats, a separate electronic ballot shall be created. For the remaining positions, a single slate ballot shall be created listing the offices and candidates, and members shall cast a single vote (for or against) or abstention for the slate.*

At the request of the Executive Committee, Senator Jerry Markowitz conducted the election and Senator Adam Wandt served as liaison with DoIT in managing the Simply Voting ballots.

Nominations were made and seconded, and votes were cast by written, secret ballots, using *Simply Voting*. The following were elected:

2021-2022 Faculty Senate Officers:

- ◆ President: **Ned Benton**
- ◆ Vice President: **Karen Kaplowitz**
- ◆ Recording Secretary: **Francis Sheehan**
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary: **Mickey Melendez**
- ◆ Officer at Large: **Erica King-Toler**
- ◆ Officer at Large: **Heath Grant**

Nominations were made and seconded, and votes were cast, for Faculty Senate representatives to College Committees. The following were elected:

- ◆ Faculty Senate Reps to the College Budget Planning Committee (the Senate President and Vice President are ex-officio members): **Erica King-Toler, Francis Sheehan**
- ◆ Faculty Senate Rep to the College Fiscal Planning Subcommittee (the Senate President and Vice President are ex-officio members): **Erica King-Toler**
- ◆ 2 Faculty Senate Reps to the Strategic Planning Subcommittee (the Senate President and Vice President are ex-officio members): **Heath Grant, Francis Sheehan**
- ◆ 2 faculty members to the Interim College Council Executive Committee (the Senate President and Vice President are ex-officio members): **Andrea Balis, Francis Sheehan**

## **6. Election of two additional members of the FS Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion**

Senator Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, the Chair, of the Faculty Senate Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion, briefed the Senate: last fall the Senate created the Racial Justice & Inclusion Committee in response to student demands for more diversity and inclusion in the curriculum and to faculty demands for more diversity among the faculty. Four senators put forward a proposal for this committee [Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, John Gutierrez, Lissette Delgado-Cruzata, and Veronica Johnson] whose charge is monitoring and advocating. The Senate elected 11 committee members and elected her as chair and Lissette Delgado-Cruzata as secretary. They are hard work to figure out how to do this monitoring. Progress is slow and everyone is sensitive to the issues and the committee might not even know what they are monitoring because they don't have a baseline. The committee decided it needs two more members to help with energy and time. The Committee may come back to the Senate in the fall to request a research assistant. The Committee wants to make sure there is action at the college and not verbiage. Senator Gordon-Nembhard explained that three members of the Senate's committee on also on President Mason's Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, which she said is purposeful so there would be overlap. The 11 current members of the Faculty Senate committee, all of whom hold 3-year terms, are:

Chevy Alford – SEEK  
Silvia Dapia – Modern Languages & Literature  
Lissette Delgado-Cruzata – Sciences (Secretary)  
Jessica Gordon-Nembhard – Africana Studies (Chair)  
Heath Grant – Law, PS, CJA  
Amy Green – Interdisciplinary Studies  
John Gutierrez – Latin American & Latinx Studies  
Veronica Johnson – Psychology  
Alexander Long – English  
Alexandra Moffat-Bateau – Political Science  
Mangai Natarajan – Criminal Justice

Senator Jerry Markowitz and Senator Charles Stone were elected by unanimous vote.

## **7. Update on the John Jay Budget**

President Benton shared the CUNY third quarter financial report for the university and each of the colleges, showing that John Jay projects a \$8.6 million deficit. However Federal CARES and CRRSSA monies are being allocated by CUNY in such a way that we will have \$3 million in funds carried over to next year. (These are CUNY CUTRA – carryover – funds.) John Jay has spent during the current fiscal year \$7.6 million in CARES funds. We are receiving \$19 million in one-time COVID funds (of which we've already spent \$2m) and \$24 million in American Rescue Plan (Biden monies) funds, but the \$24 m has not yet been allocated. In other words, John Jay will have available \$42 million to spend one time for things to ameliorate the Covid situation.

So the question is unusual: how to spend \$42 million. The issue is that we need to be very careful; we can't use it to create new positions for which there will be no funds to pay salaries after next year. President Benton said in the fall the Senate will discuss ways to spend this money. He said, for example, given the fact the Aux Corps lost \$7 million, we can put \$7 million into Aux Corps in a locked box for a rainy day.

President Benton reported that Senator Francis Sheehan, when meeting with Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the NYS Senate President and Majority Leader, has emphasized how some senior CUNY colleges were harmed when tuition was raised because it created a TAP GAP: over a three-year period, John Jay accumulated an \$8 million gap between tuition and TAP. Andrea Stewart-Cousins has pledged to restore funding over the next 3 years, money that can be spent on hiring new faculty because these are recurring funds. In fact, we can hire 80 new faculty with an infusion of \$8 million. Others at the college will want to spend the money in other ways. The Senate issued a statement, which was adopted by the college's budget committee, whereby we will create a structure that controls our hiring, which means we will have caps on positions in each category. There will be an increase in positions but a limited increase. The goal is to avoid having the administration hire during the last quarter and then say in the fall there is no money to hire others. In his mind, the top job of the Faculty Senate will be to make sure this structure is created and adhered to.

President Benton said we all have to think about how we should spend these one-time funds to, for example, help us improve hybrid teaching; help those working remotely do a better job; recruit students by changing our marketing strategies, etc.

Senator Jerry Markowitz said that if we will be hiring new faculty, money should be used to conduct outreach so we can hire more diverse faculty and, perhaps, make the college more sustainable.

President Benton said the Senate should pass a statement on how to spend the money. And because we have Senate representatives on all the college committees, we could influence the decisions made by those committees.

Senator Fritz Umbach suggested that an ad hoc committee could be formed now to come up with ideas over the summer. President Benton suggested, alternatively, that the Executive Committee could call an unofficial Zoom meeting of the Senate during the summer to brainstorm ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Provided by Karen Kaplowitz