

DRAFT
Faculty Senate Minutes #534
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (33): Alex Alexandrou, Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Mohamed Ben Zid, David Brotherton, Silvia Dapia, Jonathan Epstein, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Heath Grant, John Gutierrez, Maki Haberfeld, Jay Hamilton, Marta-Laura Haynes, Christopher Herrmann, Mohammad Islam, 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, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Gregory Sheppard, Charles Stone, Fritz Umbach, Violet Yu

Absent (5): Chevy Alford, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, Hyunhee Park, Maureen Richards, Adam Wandt

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of agenda**
- 2. Announcements**
- 3. Approval of Draft Minutes #533 of the February 9, 2022, meeting**
- 4. Reports from Members of Governance Committees**
- 5. Initial Review of Spring 2022 Faculty Senate Initiatives**
- 6. Proposed Resolution Calling for a Resumption of Surveys of Administrative Offices**

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Announcements

President Ned Benton reported that upon learning that the Registrar of CUNY recently issued a memorandum on grades and grading and on the procedures to be followed for grade appeals, he sought out the opinion of JJ's Registrar Daniel Matos, who said that because this was unilaterally issued, without consultation with or approval by any governance body, he was treating the memo as a set of suggestions and not as policy.

3. Adoption of Minutes #533 of the February 9, 2022, meeting. Approved.

4. Reports from Members of Governance Committees

Senator Mickey Melendez reported that the Faculty Senate Technology Committee met with Associate Provost Allison Pease and learned that faculty members cannot be forced to use the dev shells being developed.

President Benton reported that all the draft chapters for our Middle States self-study were due the previous day and now he, Professor Cauthen, and AP Pease are will be doing style edits.

He also reported that the Ceremonial Occasions Committee, on which he and Karen Kaplowitz are serving, have met with VP Brian Kerr and AVP Michael Sachs, and one of the two student members, and Rosann Santos, who is responsible for commencement. Commencement is planned at the end of May at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Stadium; however, no date can be announced because no contract has yet been signed. There will be two sessions and joining the morning session will also be the 2020 graduates and joining the afternoon ceremony will also be the 2021 graduates. Everyone is to be masked and vaccinated.

5. Initial Consideration of Faculty Senate Spring 2022 Initiatives

President Benton suggested an initial consideration of Spring 22 Faculty Senate initiatives that have been proposed by the Senate's Executive Committee. As for the project to amend the College Council's 2013 Online Education Policy, it was agreed that the policy and suggested changes thus far be sent to the Senate's Technology Committee for its recommendations. VP Kaplowitz asked about the proposed revision of the definition for synchronous instruction: the proposed revision says that at least 50% of classes shall meet online whereas she thought 100% of the classes meet online. Senator Mohammad Islam said 50% online and 50% in person is called mixed synchronous. VP Kaplowitz said we need to ask Registrar Daniel Matos whether such distinctions can be put in CUNYFirst so that students know what they are registering for. It was agreed that the executive committee would consult with the Registrar and with AP Pease about this.

Senator Jessica Gordon-Nembhard reported that the Senate's Racial Justice and Inclusion Committee, which she chairs, is meeting in a week and would like to be on the agenda of the next Senate meeting.

The initiative to survey lecturers and make recommendations based on those and other findings, given that we are about to hire 17 new lecturers, was widely supported. There was discussion as to whether lecturers are John Jay may serve on the department P&B, with several senators saying this has long been done at John Jay. VP Kaplowitz said that unlike the CUNY Board of Trustees Bylaws which prohibits this, John Jay's Charter (which supersedes the CUNY Bylaws) gives lecturers permission to do so. Senator Stephen Russell strongly supported our doing a survey, saying the part of the power of what we do comes from quantitative data.

The issue of post-Covid governance meetings was next taken up. President Benton said that whether we can hold online meetings of the College Council will depend on whether the Open Meetings Law is in effect but that perhaps we could have hybrid CC meetings; we would need

legal advice about this. Senator Maki Haberfeld said that we are an in-person college and, therefore, we should not make any definitive statement about having meetings online. She said holding meetings online demoralizes faculty and discourage them from coming back to campus.

VP Kaplowitz said that rather than discuss entities such as the College Council, the venue of whose meetings is subject to NYS law, we should be deciding about Faculty Senate meetings for next year, because we have to soon send a call for nominations and many will be influenced to run or to not run based on whether our meetings will continue to be on Zoom or in-person. She noted that the Faculty Senate is not subject to the NYS Open Meetings Law and so it is entirely up to us how our meetings are conducted.

A straw poll was conducted: 8 voted for in-person meetings; 13 voted for Zoom meetings; 7 voted for alternating meetings with one meeting a month being in-person and the other meeting being on Zoom. Senator Francis Sheehan proposed that for each meeting members (and guests) may attend either in-person or on Zoom so that we may have as many voices as possible. He noted DoIT Director Joe Laub has purchased a Zoom cart with a 70-inch monitor. Jessica: each meeting should be hybrid. Senators Gordon-Nembhard and Joyce Lau agreed. A straw poll was taken on this option: 18 voted yes. Senator Catherine Kemp proposed that the base of the meeting should be remote and that a meeting room should be made available for those who would like to be together during meetings. It was agreed that we will pilot this approach at our next Senate meeting.

6. Proposed Resolution Calling for a Resumption of a Survey of Administrative Offices

It was recalled that when Rob Pignatello was vice president of administrative affairs, he distributed a poll annually about the entire range of administrative services – quality of life issues – and that there has been no survey for several years. A motion was made to recommend and request that the administration resume these surveys and publish the results. Senator Francis Sheehan called this a great idea, noting that Rob Pignatello always said how important it was for him and for his directors to get the feedback. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm

Provided by
Karen Kaplowitz