

DRAFT
Faculty Senate Minutes #536
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Monday, March 21, 2022

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (32): Alex Alexandrou, Chevy Alford, Ned Benton, Mohamed Ben Zid, David Brotherton, Marta Concheiro-Guisan, 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, Maureen Richards, Francis Sheehan, Gregory Sheppard, Charles Stone, Fritz Umbach, Violet Yu

Absent (6): Andrea Balis, Elton Beckett, Silvia Dapia, Hyunhee Park, Stephen Russell, Adam Wandt

Guests: Professor Andrew Karmen, Professor Robert Till

Invited Guest: President Karol Mason

AGENDA

- **Adoption of agenda**
- **Announcements**
- **Approval of Minutes #534 of February 22 and Minutes #535 of March 10, 2022**
- **Invited Guest: President Karol Mason**
- **Reports from Members of Governance Committees**
- **Approval of calendar of 2022-23 Faculty Senate meetings**
- **Proposed Faculty Senate Survey of Lecturers**
- **New Business**

1. Adoption of the agenda. Approved.

2. Announcements

President Ned Benton reported that the annual *Chronicle of Higher Education* “Great Colleges to Work For” survey is still open and encouraged all who receive it to fill it out.

3. Approval of Minutes #534 of February 22 and Minutes #535 of March 10, 2022.

Approved.

4. Invited Guest: President Karol Mason

President Mason spoke of her excitement of being back in person and she urged everyone to read

the Middle States Self-Study Report and to attend one or both of the open forums on the report or to provide written feedback. She invited questions.

Senator Jason Epstein reported that one of his students is very upset upon learning from a petition that an opera is being performed at the college about Emmett Till; the petition calls on the college to not permit the opera from being performed. He asked President Mason's position. President Mason explained that the opera was written by Clare Coss, a person who has close contact to a John Jay person; Coss is white. The objection is that it is a white person who has written this opera about Emmett Till. The opera will be performed in the Lynch Theater. The blowback is primarily external to John Jay. The petition has 12,000 signatories but they are not our students although, she said, she has begun receiving emails from the John Jay community. She said tickets have been made available for free to some of our students and there have been discussions with members of the Black Student Union. The BSU wants to see the opera before making up their minds. President Mason said she thinks the perceived problem is that the narrator is a fictional white woman who witnesses the incident that led to Emmett Till's death. She said the situation is more complicated than many understand in that while Clare Coss is white, she is the librettist; the composer of the opera, Mary Watkins, is Black. Senator Gerald Markowitz said that although he hasn't seen the opera yet, he has seen the play, by Clare Coss, upon which the opera is based. The play is about the price of silence; it is a powerful anti-racist statement. It is not about white guilt as some are alleging.

Senator Jessica Gordon-Nembhard said her department, Africana Studies, is trying to figure out new faculty hires. There will be new funds from the NYS budget. Most discussions are about hiring lecturers. She asked what the thinking is regarding hiring f-t faculty. President Mason said that if everything goes according to plan, 250 lecturers will be hired at CUNY. John Jay received 17 of these lecturer lines and they have been allocated by the provost. She said we expect to get additional full-time faculty lines. The lecturer lines were allocated by CUNY based on the number of DFW grades. We don't know the criteria for the new lines. President Benton said some in the NYS Legislature want the lines to be given based on shortages of f-t faculty, especially at minority-serving campuses, but SUNY is arguing it should receive the lion-share of the lines.

President Benton asked for the President's response to the Senate's recent Statement about Covid masking. He explained the Senate was trying to promote an attitude of respect to mask-wearing; we want to be a respectful college. He asked her position about masking now that the governor and mayor have lifted the mask mandate. President Mason said she will continue to mask. There are lots of viruses besides Covid and she will continue to mask to protect herself from all of them. She noted the Student Council adopted a policy very similar to that of the Faculty Senate. She continues to hope we'll be a community that's respectful.

President Benton said that faculty and HEOs have asked if they are permitted to require people to wear masks when they enter their offices. President Mason said she doesn't have the answer. Her policy is to ask people to who enter her office to wear a mask but she knows that she's in a different position in that people comply when she makes this request. People might put a sign on their doors saying: "I am wearing a mask to protect myself and my family; please wear a mask." And, then, she advised, we should give our visitor a mask. If the person says no, she said we can suggest we walk outside together.

Senator Fritz Umbach said the Faculty Senate is in solidarity with HEOs who can't tell students to stay out of their offices. He asked if she has asked legal counsel. President Mason said it is complicated but she does not think we can mandate this. Senator Gerald Markowitz asked if it is possible to send a message to HEOs telling them that one option is that they may invite a student to step into a place where they can socially distant because some HEOs may not know they have this option. President Mason said she is not going to put such things into writing because she doesn't have the authority to do so.

President Benton spoke of the recent Faculty Senate Resolution calling on CUNY to authorize a new master plan for John Jay, saying it is outrageous that CUNY treats our students and staff in such a neglectful way. Even in this big budget, nothing is being asked for John Jay's physical plant because our capital master plan is so old and outdated. Furthermore, there seems to be no more discussion about North Hall.

President Mason said she disagrees that CUNY is funding only schools with a master plan. Each year CUNY asks us about our capital needs and uses that information for our capital funds. With regard to North Hall, this is again on the table: CUNY is thinking of a public/private partnership for North Hall, which would provide 200,000 square feet for John Jay as well as for another college, either Guttman CC or the School of Professional Studies. We identified 200,000 square feet of need. She said we would like a library in the NH space and that this new library can also be used by the other CUNY school assigned there. Senator Patrick Raftery said Guttman has a different set of studies and already has a chief librarian and we are searching for a chief librarian; he asked how that would be reconciled. President Mason said these matters are way premature, but the marker she has put down is that is *our* library, and the others would get to use *ours*. She said the question would then be what to use for the space that would be vacated by our current library. Professor Robert Till asked what 200,000 square feet represents in proportion to our current library. President Mason explained that our current library covers 58,000 square feet.

President Benton said he does not share the president's view about our lack of a capital master plan, adding that master plans are what CUNY base their large capital projects. He called our lack of a master plan appalling and incompetent.

5. Reports from Members of Governance Committees

There were no reports.

6. Approval of calendar of 2022-23 Faculty Senate meetings

Calendar of 2022-2023 Faculty Senate meetings

Fall 2022

Wednesday, August 31

Monday, September 12

Wednesday, September 28

Tuesday, October 11

Thursday, October 27

Thursday, November 10

Tuesday, November 22
Friday, December 2

Spring 2023

Thursday, February 2
Wednesday, February 15
Thursday, March 2
Tuesday, March 14
Wednesday, March 29
Tuesday, April 19
Friday, May 5

First meeting of the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate: Thursday, May 18, or Tuesday, May 23, 2023

The proposed calendar was approved by unanimous vote.

7. Proposed Faculty Senate Survey of Lecturers

Several technical suggestions were made to improve the draft survey. A motion was made and adopted to send the survey to the Lecturers at John Jay. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

8. New business

VP Kaplowitz said that she would like the Executive Committee to bring to the next Senate meeting a resolution calling on the administration to annually send the department election guidelines to every full-time faculty member, rather than to only the department chairs, as is done now. She said she was dismayed to learn from Ned, at a previous meeting, that when he piloted the draft survey on several lecturers, some said they had they had no idea they were eligible to vote in department elections. She said some chairs probably never think of distributing the guidelines and some may be purposefully choosing to not share them. President Benton said this is an excellent idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.

Provided by
Karen Kaplowitz