

**Faculty Senate Minutes #544**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**1:40 PM**

**Zoom**

**Present (34): Chevy Alford, Tarun Banerjee, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Janice Bockmeyer, Raisa Castillo, Frank Chen, Silvia Dapia, Peter Diaczuk, Jonathan Epstein, Jessica Gordon-Nembhard, Heath Grant, Jonathan Gray, Maki Haberfeld, Emily Haney-Caron, Mohammad Islam, Veronica Johnson, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine Kemp, Edward Kennedy, Anru Lee, Joseph Maldonado, Marie-Helen Maras, Brian Montes, Ray Patton, Susan Pickman, Maureen Richards, Robert Robinson, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Adam Wandt, Sung-suk (Violet) Yu, Zhun Xu**

**Absent (5): Serguei Cheloukhine, Amy Green, Yuk-Ting (Joyce) Lau, Kyoo Lee, Ana Pego**

**Invited Guest: President Karol Mason**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Adoption of agenda**
- 2. Announcements**
- 3. Approval of Minutes #543 of the September 28, 2022, meeting**
- 4. Elections to fill an adjunct seat on the Faculty Senate and a seat on the CC**
- 5. Updates from members of Governance Committees**
- 6. Report on the CUNY BoT Resolution on the Open Meeting Law**
- 7. Invited Guest: President Karol Mason**
- 8. New business**

**1. Adoption of agenda. Approved.**

**2. Announcements**

President Benton reported that CUNY has just decided – in a very secretive manner – that North Hall will be replaced by a building built through a public/private partnership that will provide CUNY with 350k square feet but that all but 50k will go to Guttman Community College, with only 50k going to John Jay. He noted that John Jay actually needs 350k square feet. Rental prices around us are so high that that’s not an option. The only other option is to build above the Jay Walk; the NB architects built a foundation under the Jay Walk for a structure to be built between Haaren and the New Building. Of course, he said, that would mean that the Jay Walk would become the Jay Path. He added that CUNY is not permitting the 50K square feet to be used for expansion of our library. Our head of Facilities, Anthony Bracco, has proposed that the student-facing offices on the L floor of the New Building be moved to the new site and faculty

offices be built in their place. This won't happen for at least five years, however.

**3. Adoption of Minutes #543 of the September 28, 2022, meeting.** Approved.

**4. Elections to fill an adjunct seat on the Faculty Senate and a seat on the College Council**

Frank Chen (Public Management) was elected to both seats by unanimous vote.

**5. Updates from members of Governance Committees**

President Benton reported that the Executive Committee of the College Council voted to suspend attendance monitoring rules for a month to consider whether to modify them.

**6. Report on the CUNY BoT Resolution on the Open Meetings Law**

President Benton reported that the CUNY Board of Trustees has just adopted a policy saying that members of bodies covered by the Open Meetings Law – such as the College Council – may attend and vote online under certain circumstances but they are not to be counted in a quorum; a quorum of members must still be present for a meeting to take place. President Benton asked CUNY's legal counsel to distinguish between ADA exceptions and other permissible exceptions, arguing that the ADA exempted members should be counted in the quorum because the ADA requires the best reasonable accommodation possible (as long as it does not require an undue burden on the institution). He noted this semester's first meeting of the UFS, which meets in the CUNY Central building, could not achieve a quorum because so many people, many with disabilities, attended online. He also said that if no one states there is no quorum, then it's considered that there is a quorum.

Senator Maki Haberfeld noted that several members of the College Council will be at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) conference in November and, thus, will be off campus when the College Council meets. She recommended that College Council meetings be scheduled so that they don't conflict with major conferences, adding that this used to be the case. Asked whether online members attending the College Council meeting must be seen, President Benton said that we must keep our video cameras on.

**7. Invited Guest: President Karol Mason**

President Mason said our students are energetic; there's excitement in the air. She thanked those who are teaching in person, noting that our first year students and sophomores are attending in person in larger numbers than the others. She said fundraising is going well, but we will have no gala this year; instead, in 2024 we will have a really big 60th anniversary gala, and Jerry Markowitz is adding an epilogue to his history of the college, *Educating for Justice*. A Student Success fund and a Faculty Excellence fund will be established the following day at the meeting of the Auxiliary Corps Board. Dara Byrne is still working with us, even though she is now the dean of the McCauley Honors: we are developing a transfer program with McCauley.

She noted that an anonymous question during the last Town Hall asked why she reorganized Academic Affairs without conducting a search. She said the reason is that in November the

college is submitting its self-study to the Middle States Commission and the visiting team is coming in March. There was no time for a search. Once we are through the re-accreditation process, we'll conduct the searches, she said.

VP Kaplowitz responded that some faculty have expressed concern that there are so many searches on the near horizon – provost, dean of graduate programs, dean of undergraduate programs, dean of faculty, associate provost for institutional effectiveness, among them – and some have expressed interest in knowing if we will be paying for very costly executive search firms, as we have in the past. President Mason said we will no longer use search firms, not only because they cost a great deal of money but also because they don't do a very good job. She said she does not spend money frivolously; indeed, she hoards. From her work at Chapel Hill she knows a person with a huge database of the kinds of candidates we will be looking for and she will ask him to help us identify possible candidates *pro bono*. She said one of our goals is long-term endowments; Ketura Parker, our vice president for development, is fabulous. President Mason said the only unsuccessful pitch she has made in the past five years where she didn't get the money was a person who wants to give us money but only for what he wants, not for what we want.

VP Kaplowitz noted that President Mason had told the Senate in May that her number one priority was to improve disability services for students and had told us that an ADA committee would be created. The four faculty who agreed at that May meeting to serve on that committee were subsequently asked to serve and all four said yes. But none of us have yet heard about the formation of a committee nor of any upcoming meeting, although several months have passed. President Mason expressed surprise that the faculty haven't heard by now and said she is glad she is being told this. Her vision of the ADA office is that it be proactive: we know which students are registered with the ADA office and we know the ones who are coming from K-12. The ADA office should have worked during the summer with students, making plans and working with them as they register, providing the services they need during registration. She said she would follow up on this.

President Benton asked for an update about North Hall. President Mason said she had her evaluation by the chancellor the other day and at the end of the meeting they talked about NH. CUNY Central has hired very impressive consultants. Guttman CC is past due in finding a home, which is a condition of the \$25 million gift the college received. John Jay will be given 50k square feet of the space. Anthony Bracco, the director of facilities, has come up with a fabulous proposal since we're also being given no money to do any work: all student-facing offices, such as J Express, will move across the street, thus freeing up space for faculty office space. The advantage for us in having Guttman across the street is that CUNY's intention is for Guttman to grow to 5,000 students – there are currently 1,000 – and that will give us direct access to potential transfer students. This year we have 11,000 FTE students; the pipeline would be helpful in getting us to our goal of 12,500 FTE. Assuming no decrease in our funding, we will have fiscal stability for first time in her tenure as president of John Jay, if we reach 12,500 FTE.

Asked if there are any negatives in having Guttman across the street, such as overcrowding of the cafeteria and library and other facilities, President Mason said we own the revenue from the cafeteria; everyone can use our library anyway; and she would ask CUNY for compensation for any added pressures on our infrastructure.

President Benton asked President Mason's take for John Jay regarding the recent statement of CUNY's provost at the last UFS meeting that she is counting on increases in CUNY enrollment through online education. President Mason's reply was that she doesn't look at our students as a source of revenue but, rather, as people whom we can help to succeed. She did note that the CUNY Justice Academy includes some CUNY community colleges that already have online programs. How, she asked, do we move these students to success when they transfer to John Jay. She also noted that online programs offer opportunities for veterans who study while in the service; she noted that we have the largest enrollment of veterans in NYS and the highest graduation rate.

Senator Janice Bockmeyer said she understands that the college's priority is to have students come to campus. She, in fact, asked for all in-person classes. When one of those in-person courses did not hit the 10-student mark, her chair offered to switch the course to online so it would make the required enrollment. She said in her department the first courses that filled were all online. She asked that courses with fewer than 10 students be permitted to run if they are in-person courses. President Mason said that in person courses – including hybrid, are at about the same proportion as before Covid. She said she doesn't know if we lost 1,100 students because we didn't offer enough online sections. Some classes did run with fewer than 10 students, but they were courses that students need for graduation. Senator Bockmeyer said she's talking about courses that are electives that we want our students to take, not courses that they must take.

Senator Cathy Kemp said we are comparing the current proportions of course sections but not of students and asked if the proportion of students is the same as pre-Covid. President Mason said she doesn't know but that the buildings are full.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Provided by  
Karen Kaplowitz